



Global
Nature
Fund

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



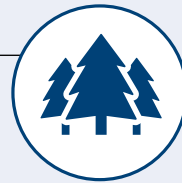
GLOBAL NATURE FUND
International Foundation for
Environment and Nature

3,817,000

**TREE SEEDLINGS**

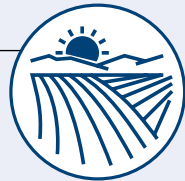
planted by GNF together with its project partners over the last 25 years.

64,046

**HECTARES OF FOREST**

were protected by GNF in 2022/23 in collaboration with various project partners.

330

**HECTARES**

in Germany have been improved through insect responsible measures implemented together with our partners.

9,168

**HOUSEHOLDS**

benefited from our development cooperation projects worldwide in 2022/23.

63,318

**EUROS**

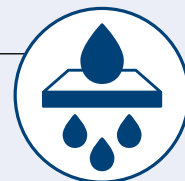
were raised by the "Drinking Cups for Drinking Water" project last season for projects in Africa.

10

**NATURE CONSERVATION FACILITIES**

in Germany were advised on accessibility for people with disabilities in 2023 and measures implemented.

20

**GREEN FILTER PLANTS**

were built by GNF together with its project partners worldwide.

9,100

**SCHOOL CHILDREN**

now enjoy access to clean drinking water and toilets through our work in 2022/23.

531,000

**EURO DONATED**

to GNF in 2022/23.



The commitment of GNF and other civil society actors to the environment and conservation is more important than ever.

Dear friends of the Global Nature Fund,

Almost all people strive for happiness and health. Making the right choices in our daily actions to achieve these goals is not easy in today's complex world. In particular, as our behaviour right now will inevitably affect the livelihoods of future generations. Fortunately, there are many scientific bodies that have long been concerned with the risks to the future, such as the German Advisory Council on the Environment (1972), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (1988), and the World Biodiversity Board IPBES (2015). Nearly all recognised environmental experts see life-threatening changes coming to us humans in the next decades and call for rapid action on climate change mitigation and habitat and species protection. The "Warning to Humanity by over 17,000 Scientists" (1992, 2019) also sees it this way.

At the last Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the International Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the 196 signatory states set again targets to finally halt the loss of biodiversity. Among other things, at least 30 percent of the world's land and marine areas are to be placed under effective protection by 2030. The EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 also concurs with these goals. But we do not have much time left until 2030!

Global Nature Fund (GNF) - the International Foundation for Environment and Nature - has been working for 25 years on identifying solutions to achieve these and other sustainability goals and to enable future generations to live a happy, healthy and dignified life. Whether lake or mangrove protection, sustainable fisheries, drinking water and green filters or biodiversity - the scope of our projects reflect the complexity of the challenges our society is facing. We will continue these successful activities in the future and further develop the Living Lakes network, for example. An important ally for Living Lakes is the newly founded European Living Lakes Association ELLA, which is set to steadily gain more new members.

We also seek a critical dialogue with commercial companies, e.g. to achieve improvements in the protection of biodiversity and to exclude deforestation risks in supply chains. The innovative business initiative "Food for Biodiversity", co-founded by GNF, provides an excellent platform to translate the solutions found in pilot projects into mainstream, commercial activities.

Time is pressing! Therefore, the commitment of GNF and other civil society actors for environment and nature conservation is more important than ever to finally get politics and industry to act fast and consistently. We hope that you will continue to stay connected to us and support us in this endeavor.

Udo Gattenlöhner
Executive Director

Marion Hammerl
President

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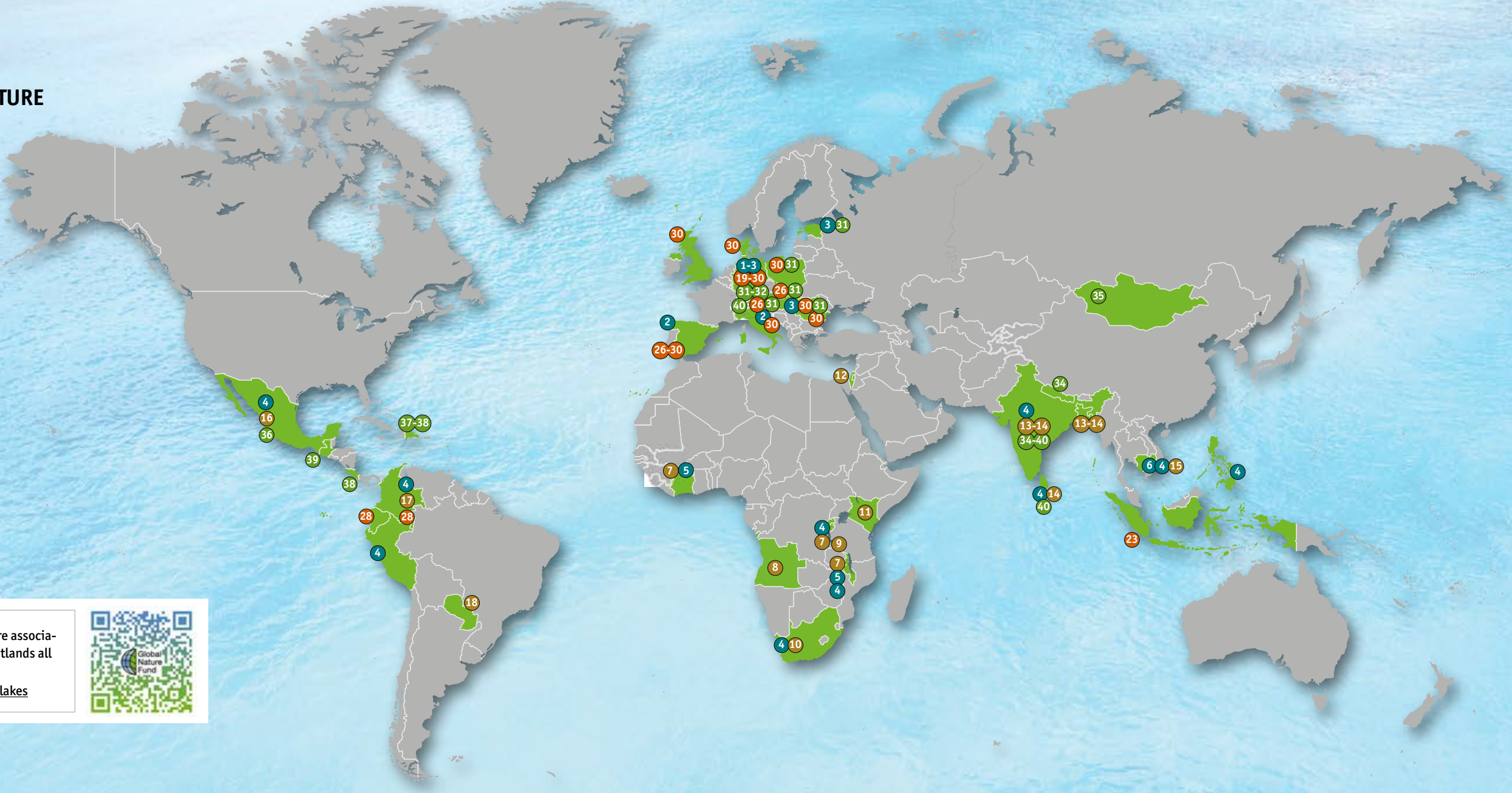
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OUR PROJECTS AND
INITIATIVES FOR NATURE
AND ENVIRONMENT
ACROSS THE GLOBE



In the Living Lakes network, we are associated with 113 partner lakes and wetlands all over the world. Learn more: www.globalnature.org/en/living-lakes



LIVING LAKES & WATER

- 1 Living Lakes Network Germany/ Germany
- 2 Lakes LIFE Blue/ Germany, Italy
- 3 European Living Lakes Association (ELLA)/ Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Spain
- 4 Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate Project - LLBCP/ South Africa, Ruanda, Malawi, India, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Cambodia, Mexico, Colombia, Peru

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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- 7 Drinking Water for Africa / Burundi, Ivory Coast, Malawi
- 8 Community Engagement in the Cubango-Okavango District/ Angola
- 9 Education and Drinking Water Supply in the Province of Mwaro/ Burundi
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- 14 Mangrove and Coastal Protection in South Asia/ Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka
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NATURE CONSERVATION

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Living Lakes & Water

The "Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate Project" is Global Nature Fund's largest and most complex project yet undertaken. More intensive, global cooperation in lake and wetland management is urgently needed, because water ecosystems are severely threatened and suffer more and more from climate change.

Lake Titicaca in Peru, the largest freshwater lake in South America, is Threatened Lake of the Year 2023 and part of our Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate Project.

LIVING LAKES FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Alena Hayer

85 percent of the world's wetlands have already disappeared or been severely degraded. The destruction of wetlands is even more dramatic than it is for forest ecosystems. This loss not only threatens biodiversity, but also destroys an important carbon sink or transforms it into a climate-relevant carbon source. Against this backdrop, the Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate Project (LLBCP) aims to protect and restore lakes and wetlands, providing solutions that benefit both people and biodiversity.

Big consortium, big impact

Over the next five years, 14 organisations from 12 countries on four continents will work together to efficiently protect lakes and wetlands worldwide. The global project is funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection. The impacts of the diverse interventions are far-reaching, as demonstrated by key milestones: 48,000 ha of valuable ecosystems restored, 14,000 people trained, positive legislative changes achieved, and 100 young leaders extensively trained.

The LLBCP addresses stakeholders from agriculture, fisheries and lake management as well as political representatives, implements concrete measures and actively influences the political decision-making processes. "We aim to cover the entire spectrum of action, from implementing concrete projects and educational initiatives to training young leaders in the environmental field. By forging new alliances, promoting South-South dialogue and influencing legislation, we aim to protect and restore lakes and wetlands in the project countries," says Thomas Schaefer, project coordinator.



Focus on the next generation

An important focus is empowering the next generation. In cooperation with the Environmental Campus Birkenfeld, the LLBCP Academy provides training and hands-on work experience for young people. Regular seminars, workshops and field trips allow knowledge to be disseminated and best practices in lake management to be shared. Through expert collaboration, a new exchange platform, and international events, the LLBCP will forge alliances at local, regional, and global levels and strengthen lake conservation worldwide.



www.livinglakes.org

GNF programme manager Alena Hayer at Lake Madampe, Sri Lanka, during a project visit to the Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate Project.



Alena Hayer

is a geoecologist and geographer and supports GNF since 2021 as a programme manager in the areas of nature conservation and Living Lakes & Water.

LLBCP IN SRI LANKA: CONSERVATION IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Alena Hayer



A highlight of ecotourism: a birdwatching tour on Lake Madampe. The lake is home to 111 species of birds, which make up about 40 percent of Sri Lanka's native birdlife.

GNF has been working successfully with partners in Sri Lanka for over two decades. This cooperation will be continued and intensified within the framework of LLBCP. In Sri Lanka, the tourism sector was a central economic factor for many years – but due to the Corona pandemic, there was an abrupt halt to our work. Together with our partners Nagenahiru and EMACE Foundation, we want to use these changes for a new beginning and create structures and offers for sustainable tourism that benefits people and nature.

Visiting the island



Beekeeping training of the local women's association. The clay jars with a built-in predetermined breaking point are hung in the wild mangroves to attract bee colonies to produce mangrove honey.

My project visit to Sri Lanka took me first to the picturesque southwest, to the coastal town of Ambalangoda, known for its traditional demon masks, is the site of Lake Madampe, one of Sri Lanka's most biodiverse lakes. However, despite the highest national protection status, the wetland is massively threatened by illegal logging. The Nagenahiru Foundation has been working for decades to protect this valuable ecosystem. Among other things, it operates an environmental education centre at the lake, which functions as a base hub for educational work and provides a basis for concrete projects with local residents, students and political actors. In pilot projects, alternative income opportunities are developed for families at risk of poverty, e.g. women's co-operatives, organic farming and ecotourism.

We continue to Lake Bolgoda, which is close to the metropolis of Colombo. There, the EMACE Foundation repeatedly notes violations of legally protected buffer zones by hotel chains and other companies. In addition, commercial fishing and high nutrient levels caused by intensive agriculture exert considerable pressure on the ecosystem. The LLBCP project promotes compliance with existing laws and pushes policy makers to strictly enforce buffer zone regulations. Awareness campaigns help local people report illegal activities. Promoting alternative sustainable livelihoods, such as beekeeping, is another measure being adopted to minimise agricultural pressure on the lake.

My trip ended with a presentation of our activities at the German Embassy in Colombo. Mr. Malchow, the Permanent Representative of the Embassy, supports our work and expressed his intention to visit the projects personally. We look forward to receiving him and presenting the effective measures we are implementing in cooperation with EMACE and Nagenahiru.



www.globalnature.org/en/living-lakes-biodiversity-and-climate-project

A LAKE UNDER STRESS

Katja Weickmann

For the second time in eleven years, Lake Titicaca in the Andes has been awarded the title "Threatened Lake of the Year". Situated at an altitude of over 3,800 meters, the lake is of existential importance as a freshwater reservoir for the people of the Peruvian-Bolivian Andean highlands. In addition, the lake, which was once rich in fish, provides a livelihood for the people living along its shores. Particularly impressive is the traditional way of life of the indigenous Uru people, whose members live on self-woven artificial reed islands on the lake. They also weave their boats and houses from the reeds of the lake. However, the lake water quality has been deteriorating for years: almost 3,000 litres of untreated wastewater flow into the lake every second, as well as heavy metals and pesticides from agriculture. *"At Lake Titicaca, the importance of the water body for the people who live with and from it and its ecological exploitation are in a particularly vulnerable position"* says Dr. Thomas Schaefer, biologist and head of conservation at Global Nature Fund.



GNF employees at the Threatened Lake of 2023. The measures within the LLBCP project should help to improve the situation of Lake Titicaca.

www.globalnature.org/en/living-lakes/threatened-lake-2023

YOUNG NATURAL PARADISE: LAKE GEISELTALSEE IS "LIVING LAKE OF THE YEAR 2023"

Katja Weickmann

In the middle of a natural paradise between steep walls, bushes and grassland, Lake Geiseltalsee stretches out in the south of Saxony-Anhalt. 240 bird species can be found here, as well as numerous aquatic insect and fish species and eleven different varieties of stoneworts. Thirty years ago, the picture here was quite different: a huge hole, 80 meters deep, gaped in the ground – the sad legacy of decades of lignite mining. In 1993, however, open pit mining was finally stopped and flooding began in 2003. Today, the Geiseltalsee is Germany's largest artificial lake, covering 1,840 hectares.

With the designation as "Living Lake 2023", the Global Nature Fund (GNF) and the Living Lakes Network Germany honour the outstanding achievements in restoring the natural landscape with its great species richness and emphasise the need for close cooperation of all stakeholders at the lake to preserve the young ecosystem

for the long term. The campaign is supported by NABU, the cities of Mueheln and Braunsbedra, the representatives of the diving sport and the Saalekreis, who together want to preserve the lake for future generations.



www.globalnature.org/living-lake-2023



Katja Weickmann

holds a Master of Arts in European Studies and has been working as a programme manager for the Global Nature Fund since 2009.

REUNITED

Alena Hayer



GNF project team with the organising team of ALT in Peru.

An environmental protection association from Mongolia meets a Malawian lake protection organisation - and this at Lake Titicaca in Peru. This can only mean one thing: a Living Lakes Conference is taking place! After a three year break we were finally able to host the 16th Living Lakes Conference in December 2022. Among the guests were partners of the Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate Project (LLBCP), representatives of other Living Lakes partner organisations and international conventions for the protection of lakes and wetlands as well as political decision makers.

For the first time a Living Lakes Conference was hosted by a Latin American organisation. The conference was hosted by the Peruvian-Bolivian Authority for the Protection of Lake Titicaca (ALT). During the conference we were able to welcome new Living Lakes members from four countries on three continents. With TETEO from

Tanzania, ecoDevshilt from Mongolia, Fundacion Red de Nuevas Idea from Chile and ECOA from Brazil, the Living Lakes network has gained competent and highly motivated new members.

15 steps to successful lake protection

The focus of the conference was Lake Titicaca and its challenges - representative of the problems of many lakes suffer worldwide. In their presentations, the organisations addressed political decision-makers openly and directly in order to convince them to take effective measures to protect lakes and wetlands. Concrete solutions for Lake Titicaca and for lakes worldwide were presented and discussed. In addition to proven, participatory methods, innovative and nature-based measures also played an important role at the conference. Based on the collected insights, discussions and contributions, the participants adopted a resolution on the protection of lakes and wetlands with 15 action points.

International hearing

Even the best conservation measures need political support to be effective. Conferences like this one provide an ideal platform to draw more attention to our dramatically threatened and diminishing wetlands. Contributions by the German Environment Minister Steffi Lemke (BMUV), Jochen Flasbarth (State Secretary of the BMZ), Prof. Nakamura (Vice President of ILEC), Rogelio Mayata, Foreign Minister of Bolivia as well as the Ambassador of Peru Ignacio Higuera show that the 16th Living Lakes Conference was heard internationally.



www.globalnature.org/bausteine.net/f/10011/LivingLakesConference2022ResolutionEN.pdf

German Environment Minister Steffi Lemke sent a video message to Peru.



BLUE LAKES - AVOIDING MICROPLASTIC INPUTS INTO LAKES

Udo Gattenlöhner

Plastic waste is an increasing problem worldwide; and this includes the pollution of water bodies. Plastics hardly degrade and remain in the environment for decades. Environmental influences change the material and cause it to break down into smaller and smaller particles. Eventually, the plastic particles end up in our lakes. Although the situation in lakes in Germany is not yet a cause for concern, timely action is important to prevent a deterioration of the ecological status and to avoid harmful effects of microplastics on fish and the human food chain.

Against this background, the Global Nature Fund (GNF) together with the Lake Constance Foundation and Italian partner organisations implemented the project "LIFE Blue Lakes". Water bodies fulfil important - also economically significant - functions, e.g. as settlement regions, tourist magnets or drinking water reservoirs. But they are also valuable habitats for important animals and plants. Fortunately, many municipalities and cities on German lakes are already committed to protecting their water bodies. Within the framework of LIFE Blue Lakes, a lakes paper for the reduction and avoidance of microplastics and plastic waste pollution was formulated together with riparian communities. The lakes paper contains a voluntary commitment of the municipalities with identified measures to better protect lakes and their tributaries. Companies from the tyre, outdoor textile and cosmetics sectors were involved to actively contribute to solutions for avoiding microplastics by plastic and microplastic pollution is not only restricted to German lakes. The lakes paper developed within the framework of LIFE Blue Lakes also serves as a template for other lake regions worldwide. Udo Gattenlöhner, Executive Director of GNF, describes the situation as follows: "In Germany we know the pollution relatively well and have good technical knowledge of how to detect and avoid microplastics. In many other lake regions of the world, the conditions are much worse. The insidious thing about microplastics is their invisibility. This is where the lakes paper helps to create greater awareness for the issue." It is one of the reasons why GNF founded the European Lake Association



"ELLA", which will deal intensively with the topic of lake pollution on a European level in the future.

The lakes paper and other publications on the topic of microplastics are available for free **download** on the website of the Global Nature Fund.



www.globalnature.org/en/microplastic-in-lakes

GNF partner organisation Legambiente taking samples at Lake Garda. Microplastics were found in all tested waters.



Two German and three Italian lakes are involved in the "Blue Lakes" project.



Udo Gattenlöhner

is an agricultural scientist and has been working with the GNF since 1999 and since 2001 as Executive Director. He coordinates various projects for sustainable development in the Global South.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

With our partner organisations in developing countries, we find solutions for the complex challenges of our time - with the aim of protecting nature and giving local people the opportunity to have a say in their future and that of our planet.

Freshly arrived crop tree seedlings in Jambhali village are ready for planting by residents during the monsoon season.

TOGETHER FOR A SUSTAINABLE AND JUST FUTURE

Udo Gattenlöhner

Almost all serious scientists agree that man-made problems, above all climate change and the loss of biodiversity, threaten our humanity and future generations on a completely new scale. Land use change, especially in countries of the global South, poses the greatest threat to the habitats of many animal and plant species. The already massively noticeable negative impacts of man-made climate change are additionally contributing to the loss of biodiversity and the mass extinction of entire species. Our wildlife populations have declined by an average of 69 percent worldwide over the past 50 years, with freshwater species experiencing the greatest decline of 83 percent (Living Planet Report 2022).

Many Global Nature Fund (GNF) projects with partner organisations in developing countries are working on solutions to address these complex, interlinked challenges. Over the past 25 years, we have focused on protecting water bodies, conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable land use. GNF's projects are designed to foster cooperation between governments, businesses and civil society to jointly shape a sustainable and equitable future - for all people. One goal is to raise awareness of environmental issues and encourage people to adopt environmentally friendly behaviours.

We must not forget that there are many people whose essential basic needs are not covered and the majority of whom do not live in a free, democratic environment (CIVICUS Report 2023). Against this background, our measures also aim to ensure that the needs and interests of disadvantaged population groups in developing countries in particular are taken into account, that these people are heard and given opportunities to have a say in deciding on their future and that of our planet.



Our forest restoration programme in the Indian Western Ghats or the approaches to sustainable yerba mate cultivation in Paraguay show how this can be put into practice.

GNF Executive Director
Udo Gattenlöhner (2nd from left)
during a project visit in Angola.

UNITED FOR THE PROTECTION
OF THE MBARACAYÚ FOREST RESERVE

Katharina Gehrig



GNF programme manager Katharina Gehrig (centre) together with a mate producer and a tourist guide tasting locally produced yerba mate.

The country of Paraguay is located between the large states of Brazil and Argentina in South America. It is much smaller, less tourist focussed and therefore often overlooked. Like its neighbouring countries, Paraguay has a massive problem with deforestation. Paraguay has lost more than 85 percent of its forest area in the last 60 years, mainly due to the expansion of agricultural and livestock farms. Trees are processed into charcoal and cleared areas then used for cattle breeding and soya cultivation. This has consequences for the environment, the economy and - not least - the people. The loss of vast areas of forest affects the so-called ecosystem services and directly worsens the quality of life of many rural and indigenous communities that depend on these natural resources.

Establish protected zones:
The Mbaracayú Forest Reserve

In order to save the remaining forest, protected zones are needed in which logging is prohibited. Such a forest reserve, the Mbaracayú Nature Reserve, is part of a joint forest protection project of the GNF and its partner organisation Fundación Moisés Bertoni. Mbaracayú is the largest remaining piece of forest in the upper Paraná Atlantic Forest and was declared Paraguay's first biosphere reserve by UNESCO in 2000. The 64,400-hectare natural paradise is one of the most ecologically diverse areas in the country, with valuable flora, fauna and

various indigenous communities such as the Aché or Guaraní. Several animal species that are threatened with extinction in other regions are still found in the reserve, including jaguar, tapir, anteater, honey bear and the bellbird; an iconic bird of the region.

Drinking tea to protect biodiversity

Together with the Fundación Moises Bertoni, GNF is promoting an integrated, sustainable model for the production of yerba mate in and around the protected area. Mate is a tea-like infusion drink made from the chopped and dried leaves of the yerba mate bushes. Mate is very popular and widespread as a drink in Paraguay, Argentina and Uruguay. An innovative agroforestry method for the production of mate ("yerba mate bajo monte") offers the local population new opportunities to generate sustainable income in harmony with forest conservation. So far, 52 hectares of degenerated land have already been reforested with yerba mate plants and small farmers have been trained in the use of the sustainable production method. The new model promotes the conservation of the remaining Atlantic rainforest of Alto Paraná and creates ideal conditions for social and sustainable value creation and utilisation of the tourism and ecological potential of the Mbaracayú Biosphere Reserve.

Preservation of the traditional
Yerba-Mate culture

Yerba mate also has a high socio-cultural value: the consumption and thus the production of yerba is historically rooted in the identity of the Paraguayans. The indigenous communities consider it a sacred plant. The cold form of mate, tereré, is also part of Paraguayan culture and has a high symbolic value, as information is shared and personal experiences exchanged when drinking tereré together.

In order to preserve this cultural asset, which is so important for Paraguay, and at the same time to preserve the forest and biodiversity, it is also important to promote awareness of this among the population. For this purpose, the Fundación Moises Bertoni has created new



tourist trails and offers guided tours with local guides to inform visitors about the sustainable cultivation, processing and tradition of yerba mate. This popular tourism offer contributes to improving the incomes of rural communities and reaches many people in the surrounding communities. At the Mbaracayú Education Centre, young people learn how yerba mate cultivation and forest conservation can go hand in hand.

I was able to get to know the intact and fascinating ecosystems of the Mbaracayú Reserve on my last trip in May 2023. I was particularly fascinated that the intensive monitoring within the framework of the project contributed to the regular sightings of jaguars and the discovery and identification of numerous new bird, butterfly and plant species that are unique to Paraguay.



Two schoolgirls from the Mbaracayú Education Centre in their mate nursery in the Mbaracayú Conservation Area.

www.globalnature.org/en/themes-projects/sustainable-development/paraguay-mbaracay-forest-reserve



Katharina Gehrig is a geographer with a Master's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies and has been working as a programme manager in Sustainable Development & Development Cooperation for the Global Nature Fund since 2022.

REFORESTATION OF A BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Thies Geertz



In Jambhali village, 5000 crop trees were planted on degraded forest land in 2022 together with the local community.

The Western Ghats are a mountain range stretching north-south for over 1,600 km in India, separating the central highlands of the Indian subcontinent from the ocean. Every year in June, when the monsoon moves up from the sea, the humid air masses hit the land and produce heavy rainfall on the mountain slopes of the Western Ghats. This abundant rainfall has given rise to a lush and biodiverse rainforest. The Western Ghats are one of the world's most important biodiversity hotspots.

Due to the pressure of more and more new settlements, the rainforest had to gradually give way to farmland and cattle pastures - with fatal consequences for the people living in the mountain region. The forest is not only a gigantic water reservoir for agriculture, but also supplies cities with millions of inhabitants like Pune and Bangalore with water. Due to deforestation and global climate change, droughts in the region are already becoming more and more

pronounced, so that the livelihoods of millions of people are now at risk.

Planting 55,000 trees together

To counteract the rapid deforestation, Global Nature Fund (GNF) is implementing a reforestation project together with Terre Policy Centre and Shashwat Trust in the northern part of the Western Ghats. In the project, the local communities are closely involved in the measures to jointly create economic opportunities through the processing of the products harvested in the forest. These are primarily medicinal plants such as hirda, which are used in Ayurvedic medicine and for which there is great demand.

In 2022, a central nursery with a production capacity of 100,000 tree seedlings could be established on site. This and other smaller nurseries are run by local women's groups. After start-up financing, the women's groups can now earn an income from the tree nurseries as well as from processing the hirda fruits. Together, 23,000 trees have already been planted on degraded land in 2022. By the end of 2023, there will be over 55,000 trees.



www.globalnature.org/en/westghats-india

The biologist Thies Geertz is working as a programme manager at GNF on the concept of integrated community development in various countries where the consequences of climate change are already being felt.



Thies Geertz

INTERVIEW

Indigenous communities are indispensable to make a forest conservation project sustainable.



Gudrun Riebel, is an expert advisor for projects in the field of international climate and environmental protection at Bengo. Bengo advises non-governmental organisations interested in receiving funding from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development on all aspects of development policy project work in developing countries.

mental organisations interested in receiving funding from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development on all aspects of development policy project work in developing countries.

The topics of forest conservation and reforestation have received enormous attention worldwide in recent years. What relevance do you see in these issues in the global South?

Forest protection and reforestation are essential, not only to stop climate change through the associated CO2 sequestration, but also to secure the resources and livelihoods of the people living in and directly from them, especially in the Global South. The latter is at above-average risk from climate change. This means that overexploitation of the forest as a resource can both increase with the consequences of climate change and endanger the existence of the local population.

Among other things, you are in charge of the forest conservation project of the Global Nature Fund (GNF) in the Western Ghats in India. How do you assess the importance of involving local (indigenous) communities for the sustainability of such forest conservation projects?

Forest areas in the Global South are predominantly inhabited by indigenous communities, as is the case in the GNF's forest conservation project in the Westghats in India. They traditionally live in harmony with the forest, know about the sensitivity of the ecosystem and the complex region-specific interplay between animal and plant life. For this reason, indigenous communities can judge very well how much encroachment their forest can tolerate and deal with these resources in a correspondingly sensitive

way, provided they have the economic and political framework conditions to do so and can live their own culture. At the same time, they have a very high degree of self-motivation to protect their livelihood, the forest. Thus, indigenous communities are indispensable for making a forest conservation project sustainable.

What role do civil society actors like the GNF play in development cooperation?

A central development policy objective of the funding titles of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) for private German organisations is the strengthening of civil society structures in the Global South. In partnership at eye level, sustainable social changes are to be initiated from civil society. The GNF is a very competent civil society actor in this regard, especially when it comes to its thematic areas such as biodiversity and climate protection, and relies heavily on the competencies of local civil society actors. These complementary resources create synergies and strengthens the initiatives taken by the civil society actors in the global South in their efforts to advocate for the concerns of the local population in a particularly effective way.



Lata is the leader of the local self-help group that runs a commercial tree nursery. Here, 20,000 seedlings grow, which are used for reforestation measures or sold for profit.

BUSINESS & BIODIVERSITY

Companies are highly dependent on biodiversity, for example on natural raw materials or water for production - at the same time they also contribute to the loss of biodiversity. For more than 15 years, the Global Nature Fund has supported companies in their transformation towards biodiversity management and the implementation of measures to protect nature.



Highlight in May 2023:
The association Food for Biodiversity e.V. invited to the national conference "Biodiversity in the Food Sector". At the conference, 100 stakeholders from the food sector discussed what contribution the industry can make to better protect and promote biodiversity.

BUSINESS & BIODIVERSITY

OUR TOPICS» Forest investment » Fair Rubber » Deforestation-free supply chains » Biodiversity management & strategy » Food for Biodiversity » Biodiversity-oriented premises » Standards & certifications » Insect-Responsible Sourcing Agriculture » Sustainable textiles

Stefan Hörmann & Louisa Lösing

What we do

In the project "Unternehmen biologische Vielfalt" (UBi), funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMUV) and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), we and a broad consortium of partners present solutions for businesses to assess, avoid and reduce their biodiversity impacts. In particular, we develop biodiversity recommendations for companies and the financial sector, analyse standards and labels, and contribute with our knowledge to a variety of events.

Cooperative agreements have already been concluded with ten companies from the textile, DIY and food sector. We analyse individual companies biodiversity impacts and risks within the framework of "Biodiversity Checks". The aim is to provide companies with Biodiversity Action Plans for biodiversity protection.

With round table talks on biodiversity criteria in the standards and labels of the fashion industry and plant production, we have opened the discussion on what effective biodiversity criteria look like for production and sourcing. The interest is great: with about 25 relevant participants per round-table, we have so far succeeded in bringing together the most important actors on this topic.

With about 25 events in one year and about 1,000 participants, we have been able to inform and motivate companies with regards to biodiversity actions.

We closely collaborate with our partner organisations in the project: Lake Constance Foundation, German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DIHK) Service GmbH, Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP) and Biodiversity in Good Company.



www.globalnature.org/en/themes---projects/business---biodiversity/unternehmen-biologische-vielfalt---ubi



Stefan Hörmann

is an administration scientist and leads the Business & Biodiversity department at the GNF, as well as our office in Bonn. He has been working with the GNF for the protection of biodiversity for more than 20 years now.

INTERVIEW

Ten years of cooperation with SEKISUI



SEKISUI is a global company with around 27,000 employees worldwide. In Europe, SEKISUI consists of one regional headquarters and eight companies - all specialised in innovative high-performance plastic solutions. Lena Tiedeken has worked at SEKISUI since 2009. Since 2015, she has been responsible for Corporate Communications at the European headquarters in Roermond, the Netherlands. Sustainability plays an important role in corporate communications, but Lena Tiedeken also deals with the topic in all its facets in her private life.

What is the importance of the cooperation with the GNF?

Our cooperation with the GNF started in 2012 to further expand and professionalise our commitment to environmental protection. Through projects and measures, we wanted to advance environmental protection measures in European companies. The implementation of biodiversity checks was also part of this from the beginning. This was, and still is, often about solving the requirements from the Japanese headquarters in a European way. To have an independent partner who critically questions things and convinces with knowledge - that describes the cooperation with the GNF team very well for me. It is not only the joint work on certain projects, but also the regular dialogue beyond the horizon that distinguishes this partnership for me.

You have accompanied the partnership between SEKISUI and GNF from the beginning. What do you remember most about these ten years?

One of my highlights was definitely the European Eco Summit 2015, which was hosted for the children of SEKISUI employees from all over Europe at Lake Constance, the location of the GNF. The aim of the event was to create awareness of environmental issues through a mix of active learning and experiences in nature, in line with our corporate values. Even today, I hear from colleagues that their children talk about the experience and that it had a positive impact on them. The same is true for me!

Why is SEKISUI committed to preserving biodiversity?

Simply put: If we don't manage to preserve biodiversity, we cannot continue as a company. At SEKISUI, we are aware of this fact. Even though our products support a more sustainable way of life, we are still dependent on natural resources. As a responsible company, our goal must therefore be not only to reduce the use of natural capital, but also to restore it.



GNF implemented biodiversity checks at all European Sekisui sites and supports biodiversity conservation measures.

AGRICULTURE, FOOD PRODUCTION & BIODIVERSITY

Oliver Peters & Ralph Dejas

In the last 50 years, global biodiversity has declined by 70 percent, insects have declined by 80 percent in the last 30 years, bird populations have shrunk by a third and a million plant and animal species are threatened with extinction. Our food system is the main cause of the loss of "life on land" - but agriculture can also make a significant positive contribution to biodiversity conservation.

What we do

Food for Biodiversity

Founded in 2021, the association "Food for Biodiversity e.V." currently brings together 27 stakeholders from the food industry, food trade and processors, standards, NGOs and science. As coordinator of the association, the GNF creates a network of different actors, an exchange platform for good practice and motivation for the members to engage themselves even more intensively for a more biodiversity-friendly food industry.

An effective practical tool and the core of the association is the "Basic Set of Biodiversity Criteria for the Food Sector" for European zones and tropical and subtropical growing regions. The basic set describes indicators and measures to increase the potential for biodiversity on farms. The participating companies have committed themselves to implementing the requirements of the basic set in concrete projects. The GNF as well as other environmental organisations, provide expert support to the farms during the implementation phase. The goal of the Basis-Set is to demonstrate through practical experience how biodiversity measures in agriculture can be implemented and rewarded on a large scale.

One of the pilot projects in Germany deals with wheat cultivation. Here, the GNF supports farms to develop suitable biodiversity measures for their land. This is not a single measure but a portfolio of different measures with different focuses. For example, the creation of fallow land creates refuge areas for animals and insects near wheat fields. On the other hand, wheat is sown on the cultivated areas with greater row spacing so that plant seeds



such as corn poppy, cornflower or camomile that are present in the soil can germinate and grow better. Altogether, biodiversity measures have already been implemented on more than 60 hectares as part of the project.

GNF programme manager Ralph Dejas (2nd from left) with the board of the Food for Biodiversity Association and two speakers (far left and far right) at the conference "Biodiversity in the Food Sector".



www.food-biodiversity.de/en



Ralph Dejas

holds a degree in geography and works as a programme manager in the area of sustainable development for the GNF. He also coordinates the work of the Food for Biodiversity Association in the area of Business & Biodiversity.



Oliver Peters

is an agricultural scientist and holds a degree in Environmental Protection and Agricultural Food Production (M.Sc.). He works in the field of business and biodiversity as a programme manager for the Global Nature Fund.



www.globalnature.org/en/insect-responsible-sourcing-regions

Jenja Kronenbitter

Insect-Responsible Sourcing Regions

The EU-LIFE project "Insect-Responsible Sourcing Regions" celebrated its half-time at the end of 2022. Several pilot farms were successfully established in the three project regions Bliesgau, Südpfalz and Wendland. The 2023

season saw the start of the implementation of various insect-promoting measures on arable production areas. With the support of the GNF agricultural team, the pilot farms are testing different seed mixtures, undersowing and a concept of beneficial insect strips. On the strips, plant species are sown that are particularly attractive to beneficial insects such as ladybirds and lacewings and provide them with a forage base. As soon as a pest infestation occurs in the arable crop adjacent to the beneficial strips, the beneficial insects are already on site and can keep the damage threshold low - so low that, ideally, no chemical plant protection is necessary in the arable crop.

Jenja Kronenbitter

holds a degree in biology with a focus on agroecology and near-natural communal green spaces and has been working as a programme manager for the Global Nature Fund since 2022.



INTERNATIONAL SUPPLY CHAINS & BIODIVERSITY

Louisa Lösing

International supply chains play a crucial role in the provision of goods and services on a global scale. The production of certain raw materials, particularly those derived from agriculture, mining or the timber industry, often lead to environmental degradation and the degradation of ecosystems.

Through responsible sourcing and production, companies can help minimise impacts on the environment and promote the protection of biodiversity. GNF supports companies and producers through tools and knowledge dissemination on biodiversity-friendly measures along the entire supply chain.

What we do

On behalf of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), we inform and sensitise companies about biodiversity risks and the improvement of biodiversity in coffee, cocoa, banana and palm oil supply chains with the measure "Biodiversity in Global Agricultural Supply Chains".

Louisa Lösing

is a political scientist with degrees in European Studies and Global Environmental Governance. She works in the field of Business & Biodiversity as a programme manager for the Global Nature Fund.



One focus of our work is on the rubber supply chain. Through the association Fair Rubber e.V., we contribute to improving the working and living conditions of rubber tappers and support the environmentally friendly production of natural rubber.



www.globalnature.org/en/themes---projects/business---biodiversity/biodiversity-in-global-agricultural-supply-chains

(left)

www.fairrubber.org

(right)



DEFORESTATION-FREE SUPPLY CHAINS

Steffen Kemper & Lea Strub

In June 2023, the EU Regulation on Deforestation-Free Supply Chains came into force. The new regulation offers an opportunity to effectively combat deforestation. However, for companies, especially those that have not dealt with the issue much so far or only have limited capacities, it initially represents a challenge above all. The GNF therefore offers companies in Germany support within its elan! project to close information gaps, detect risks and initiate countermeasures.

Together with the tropical forest foundation Oro-Verde, the GNF has developed an online portal that summarises information on the EU regulation in an understandable way and provides insights into risk raw materials and risk regions. Furthermore, approaches to realistic solutions are offered.

elan! programme manager Steffen Kemper emphasises: "We are particularly proud of our analysis of the various tools available. We took a closer look at nine different tools that can help companies trace supply chains and uncover deforestation risks. The resulting tool profiles are a core content of the portal. And because the tool analysis is so popular, we published it in the form of a separate publication even before the portal launch." elan! colleague Lea Strub adds: "The publication comprises around 50 pages and, in addition to the fact sheets, contains extensive background information as well as three practical examples that explain the practical application of the tools."

The elan! project is receiving a lot of attention due to current political developments at EU level. Through presentations at various events, the project partners reached more than 500 people in 2022. Through websites, newsletters and social media, a total of 30,000 people were reached.

Since May 2023, the GNF has been a member of the Donau Soja association, which advocates for a sustainable and GMO-free protein and soy supply in Europe. This is another way to effectively eliminate deforestation in supply chains: instead of imported soy, which can be associated with unsustainable farming methods, deforestation and - due to the long transport routes - high CO2 emissions, available domestic alternatives

are used. However, this is exactly where a challenge lies: so far, the soy produced in Europe is still far from sufficient to cover the needs of the feed industry and animal husbandry. The GNF supports the efforts of Donau Soja to strengthen protein crop cultivation in Europe and supports the association in taking greater account of biodiversity aspects in production and processing.



www.globalnature.org/en/deforestation-free-supply-chains



Ein Holzlagerplatz
in Guatemala



Steffen Kemper

is an agricultural scientist (M.Sc.) and has worked for the GNF since 2021 as a programme manager in the area of business & biodiversity.



Lea Strub

is an economist and ethnologist with a master's degree in development economics. She works as a programme manager in the area of sustainable supply chains for the Global Nature Fund.

NATURE CONSERVATION

Visible from space:

80 hectares of new mangrove forest in the Dominican Republic. Together with our funding partners, we look forward to continuing the successful projects from the Caribbeans to Mongolia.

The Lower (Bajo) Yuna in the Dominican Republic flows through wild mangrove forests into the Caribbean Sea. For biodiversity and climate protection, 100 ha of mangroves were restored here.

BRINGING BIODIVERSITY TO THE PEOPLE

Dr. Thomas Schaefer

Biodiversity or biological diversity - a few years ago a foreign word to most people in Germany. One reason why we Germans are strangers to these terms is that they sound so scientific and evoke little emotion. Nevertheless, current studies show that the greater part of the population in Germany now knows all these terms and also knows what is behind them.

With the project "Inspiring for Biodiversity", funded by the EU Erasmus programme, we have made a Europe-wide contribution to ensuring that biodiversity is better understood by people in Europe. Together with our partners in Estonia, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Austria, we have developed 30 educational compilations that are now available to promoters in nature conservation institutions, but also to businesses.

Educational materials for Europe

The ETNA team from Wroclaw focused on nature lovers. For example, they wrote a handout on how everyone who keeps cats can ensure that their pets do not cause carnage among the birdlife in the surrounding gardens. The Global 2000 team from Austria developed six advisory compilations to make people aware of how their consumption affects biodiversity and what they can do about it. The same approach was taken by our colleagues from Ekopolis in Slovakia. They provide a lot of information and advice on how people can create more diversity in gardens, parks and public spaces. The LBDCA staff from Hungary chose a more specific target group. Focusing on the tourist region of Lake Balaton, they have developed material to inform recreation-seekers on how to protect biodiversity at Lake Balaton itself, but also in their own homes. A more complex concept was chosen by our partners from PEIPSI in Estonia. Here, the aim was to better highlight the ecosystem services of biodiversity and to make people aware of their dependence on it.

During the development of the project, we realised more than ever, how important this work is and how good it is that we keep approaching the issue from different angles.



All documentation was tested with focus groups and feedback integrated into the final version. These are now available for all to download and use at www.globalnature.org/en/inspiring-for-biodiversity.



www.globalnature.org/en/inspiring-for-biodiversity

Project meeting in Hungary: eleven participants from five European countries explore the barrier-free nature trail on Diás Island together.



Dr. Thomas Schaefer

is a biologist, sustainability manager and has been actively involved in nature conservation for 37 years. As the head of the Living Lakes & Water and Nature Conservation departments at the GNF, he is particularly committed to Living Lakes in Germany and worldwide.

MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY IN TROPICAL SUPPLY CHAINS IS POSSIBLE

Dr. Thomas Schaefer



A biodiversity-friendly pineapple plantation in Los Malecu in northern Costa Rica

After four years of "Del Campo al Plato" (CAP) for the integration of biodiversity in tropical fruit supply chains, the project ends on a positive note. Success factors included efficient criteria in food standards and practical methods for effective measures in agriculture. The landscape approach across individual products is forward-looking. Raising consumer awareness and fairer pricing remain a challenge for future projects.

For about four and a half years, we worked with the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Lake Constance Foundation to develop and test effective approaches for integrating biodiversity measures on plantations and through supply chains, using bananas and pineapples from Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic as examples.

Efficient biodiversity criteria in existing sustainability standards of the food industry have turned out to be the most successful measure. Standards such as Rainforest Alliance, Fairtrade and Sustainably Grown in conventional

farming, Naturland and Demeter in organic farming, now have comprehensive criteria that effectively address biodiversity protection. Crucially, it is not only certified products from Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic that benefit from the better criteria, but also from all countries of origin in Central America, West Africa and East Asian countries, as well as other certified products. With up to 90 per cent of bananas certified and probably over 50 per cent pineapples certified in Germany, we have achieved a real mainstreaming of biodiversity. This is a great success, which is also due to the critical demand of many consumers for better produced tropical fruits. Pilot farms have tested the new criteria and other innovative measures.

Equally successful and ratified in its implementation is the Biodiversity Check Agrícola (BCA), which has so far been carried out on more than 150 farms that are now implementing a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). Around 45,000 ha of land - roughly the amount needed to grow the bananas and pineapples consumed in Germany

- are gradually being developed or managed in a more biodiversity-friendly way in both target countries. It has been shown that the BCA, for which the Global Nature Fund (GNF) had developed the basics, is a pragmatic and practical method to achieve more for biodiversity for large plantations as well as for smallholder cooperatives.

A competition for ideas for new approaches in banana cultivation proved to be particularly interesting for productive farms. A total of 40 farms and cooperatives were awarded prizes for their ideas in six competitions. These included keeping chickens in cultivation, which is similar to a kind of agroforestry, but also technical projects such as the use of drones to improve the application of pesticides. The winning farms received a prize of up to 15,000 euros in the form of technical support. The landscape approach that Campo al Plato is pursuing with two biotope networking structures in the intensive cultivation areas in Costa Rica, one in the Dominican Republic and some individual measures in the Dominican Republic is also promising. Companies along the banana and pineapple value chain have selected many of the measures planned in the project for promotion. The measures are implemented by employees of the producer companies and cooperatives and guided by non-governmental organisations.

The project was able to mobilise a total of around 1.75 million euros from companies along the supply chain with the measures mentioned. This shows the great willingness of producers, companies and consumers to stop the loss of biodiversity.

Unfortunately, the project was unable to determine how much more consumers in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Sweden and Denmark voluntarily spent on better-produced fruit. In these countries, a communication campaign was carried out with the support of Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance as well as some partners from the food retail sector. "Biodiversity bears fruit" was one of the slogans we used to draw attention to the two most common certifications. We reached around one million people through social media.



In the future, we would like to see a solution for pricing in food retail. Surveys confirm the growing willingness of customers to contribute to the additional costs of sustainable production. In the conventional market segment, this willingness is not yet sufficiently used by food retailers to enable adequate prices for producers.

In the biotope networking corridors, our partner organisation Azuabana is implementing the first measures.



www.delcampoalplato.com/en/home-engl

NATURE WITHOUT BARRIERS!

Katja Weickmann



In the so-called "Holstein Switzerland" region in Germany, the canoe tour "In the realm of otters and kingfishers" with a fish sandwich picnic for nature lovers is being redesigned.

It is a sunny day at the end of May. Dr. Kai Pagenkopf is accompanying the three-member team of the Westhavelland Nature Park Centre on a very special tour of their own centre, with NABU Westhavelland along for the ride. The staff are learning to see, hear and understand their area in an inclusive way. Kai is a geographer, landscape ecologist and consultant for inclusive nature tourism, and the Nature Park Westhavelland is one of the eight winners in the competition "Experience nature free of barriers".

The Global Nature Fund (GNF) has been working on the topic of barrier-free nature experience for several years. There is still potential here, especially in nature conservation and environmental education institutions as well as in public guided tours, as the topic is still little established. There are many reasons for this, such as a lack of training opportunities for environmental education providers. Accordingly, measures for barrier-free nature experience in many nature conservation institutions in Germany remain the exception.

The first step counts

According to our experience of the last ten years, the first step is crucial in identifying possible adaptations and measures. This first step is to be supported in the "Nature without Barriers!" project. The project, funded by the German Postcode Lottery, the HAKA Foundation and the Deutsche Umwelthilfe, has two main goals: conceptualisation and implementation

of accessibility and nature experience in the relevant education systems in Germany as well as the inclusion of corresponding measures by nature conservation institutions.

Together, the GNF, the German confederation National Natural Landscapes, the labelling system "Tourism for All" and the consulting office Dr. Kai Pagenkopf conducted a needs analysis. Curriculum ideas for different further education formats in the field of nature experience were collected and presented to different education providers in Germany. As part of a nationwide competition "Experience nature free of barriers", professional consultations for inclusive nature experience took place at eight winning locations, and the first measures will be implemented with the prize money until the end of 2023.

Tactile and audible exhibition models for all

The consultation in Westhavelland was fun: a great team that had already thought about many things. Together with Kai, the workshop participants have developed ideas for tactile and audible exhibition modules that all visitors will enjoy. When the educational module of the project is ready, there will be appropriate training for the guides. This will provide a good basis for a 'nature experience' for everyone in the Westhavelland Nature Park Centre.



www.globalnature.org/en/nature-without-barriers

A NEW MANGROVE FOREST FOR THE CARIBBEAN

David Marchetti

It is clearly visible from space: 109 hectares of mangrove forest, newly created as part of our mangrove project in the north-east of the Dominican Republic. Since 2019, we have been committed to sustainable tourism in the Caribbean in conjunction with the reforestation of the mangroves, which are so valuable for the ecosystem and climate. The result: after only a short time, a high, dense mangrove forest has developed, through which there is limited access for us humans. Instead, there is once again a habitat for countless bird species and, above all, for the nursery of the rich fauna of the Caribbean Sea. Even the remote sensing experts who, for the first time, monitored the progress of our work were surprised at the speed of this restoration. This was accompanied by a new management plan for the Bajo Yuna National Park, which was developed for the first time inclusive of stakeholders. This was seen as a great success for all involved and confirmation for the great team-work between our partners from CEBSE on site, the GNF and the TUI Care Foundation. They not only support us financially but also provided communication and advice. The project is also grateful to the agency bengo, which has supported the project so benevolently for the BMZ.

Alternative sources of income as the key to success

Another important success has been the generation of alternative income for the people in the small town of Sanchez, which borders directly on the national park, such as canoe trips, hikes through the accessible areas of the mangroves and bird watching. Women from fishing families have set up a cooperative to process their husbands' catch and increase their value. They received specific advice from the TUI Care Foundation and now produce traditional housewife-style fish croquettes that are sold in the surrounding tourist hotspots.

Reforestation enters the next phase

The project is now entering its second phase and over the next four years, activities in the national park will be expanded with the next key sites being reforested. The fish croquette model will be applied to other products. Together with the

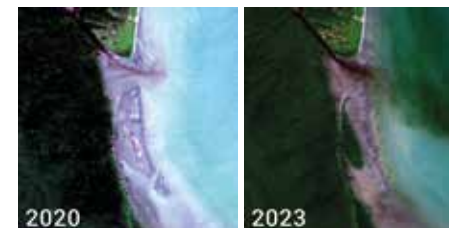


TUI Care Foundation, additional products will be targeted, such as honey and jams based on raw materials from the Bajo Yuna National Park and produced by local people - a sustainable souvenir from the holiday. We are looking forward to four more years of successful cooperation in this great team.

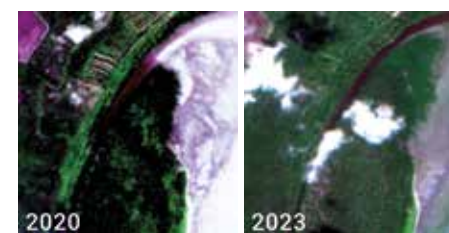


www.globalnature.org/en/lower-yuna-national-park

Mangroves are all-rounders: they protect the coastal region from flooding, provide a habitat for many species of fish and birds and absorb five times more CO₂ than terrestrial rainforests.



Clear growth of (planted) black and white mangroves off the coast.



Clear cover of (planted) red mangroves off the coast.



David Marchetti

joined GNF in 2019 and contributes as a programme manager in the areas of nature conservation and Living Lakes & Water.

THE NAME SAYS IT ALL



Michael Bauer, member of the Founders Committee.

The GNF was founded in 1998 and you have been a co-founder from the very beginning. How did the idea to found the GNF come up in the first place?

Prof. Gerhard Thielcke was the driving force. He not only co-founded the GNF, but before that he also co-founded the Lake Constance Foundation and Euronatur in addition to the BUND in Baden-Württemberg - two foundations that work more regionally or limited to Europe. Then he had the idea that we could also help other nature conservation organisations through our experiences with the protection of Lake Constance. This gave rise to the idea of a worldwide Living Lakes Network. So in the beginning the Global Nature Fund was founded to coordinate the Living Lakes Network.

What are the benefits of the Living Lakes Network?

The goal was to pass on our knowledge about lake management worldwide - but also to learn ourselves. A network is not a one-way street, but a living organisational form of information exchange between all participants. Such a global lake network of environmental associations did not exist before - and even today it is unique worldwide.

The Global Nature Fund celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. A good occasion to take a look back at our history together with our long-time companion Michael Bauer, member of the Founders Committee.

What was the mood in 1998 with regard to the situation of the environment and nature?

The problem for us at that time was actually no longer Lake Constance. Many problems had been solved here. A priority issue at that time was forest dieback. Nevertheless, the topic of species extinction was not yet so obvious to the public, although there was of course the red list and it was known that the number of animals and plants was declining sharply. But back then it was not as dramatic as it is today.

Are there any projects or events that stand out for you in the 25-year history of the GNF?

One change is that the GNF's field of work, which was originally strongly related to lake protection, has become much broader. Water issues are still an essential part of the GNF's work. However, more and more projects are emerging that focus on helping people - especially disadvantaged population groups. Good examples of this are the green filter or the mangrove projects - the renaturation of the coastal areas in the tsunami regions. I particularly like the fact that the name GNF is, so to speak, the programme, since we are doing something for nature - but also for people - globally.

What do you wish the Global Nature Fund for the next 25 years?

Quite simple: All the best and to achieve just as great and successful a development as before.

There is certainly enough to do.

We are not - unfortunately, one might say - running out of issues. On the contrary, I think the role of civil society will become even more important in the future.

The interview was conducted by Eva Schellenbeck.

Eva Schellenbeck

has been working as Communications and Marketing Manager at Global Nature Fund since 2022. As a trained journalist, she has been dealing with sustainability issues professionally and privately for many years.



25 GLOBAL NATURE FUND – OUR MILESTONES

1998 On April 29th, the Global Nature Fund (GNF) is recognised as a non-profit foundation.

On June 11, the official foundation of the network "Living Lakes/Lebendige Seen" follows in Los Angeles by the GNF.



1999 The first Living Lakes Conference takes place at Lake Constance. The GNF takes over the coordination and organisation of the Living Lakes network.

2000 GNF presents a solar boat for the use of renewable energies in the tourism sector at the world exhibition EXPO in Hannover.



2004 The first nomination "Threatened Lake of the Year" falls on Lake Chapala in Mexico.

2005 GNF receives the UN award for the "Decade of Education and Sustainable Development" for the first time.

2006 Start of the first mangrove reforestation project in the tsunami region in Sri Lanka.



2007 GNF joins the Climate Alliance Germany.

The Living Lakes Network comprises 50 members.

2008 In September the 10th anniversary of the Living Lakes Network is celebrated at the 12th LL Conference in Italy.

2010 On January 1st, 2010 the European "Business & Biodiversity" campaign is launched.

2011 The first "Living Lake of the Year" is Lake Plauer, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

2012 GNF President Marion Hammerl receives the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany in Bellevue Palace.



The Living Lakes Network has grown to 102 members.

2016 Presentation of the UN Decade Award to the "Living Lakes Network Germany" project by Winfried Kretschmann, Minister President of Baden-Württemberg, during the Nature Conservation Days in Radolfzell.



2021 Founding of the "Food for Biodiversity" association coordinated by GNF with the aim of stopping the loss of species and habitats along the food supply chain.

2022 Foundation of the European Living Lakes Association - ELLA e.V., coordinated by GNF, as a European umbrella organisation for the protection of lakes and wetlands.

The 16th Living Lakes Conference takes place at Lake Titicaca in Peru with 150 participants from all over the world. The Living Lakes network now comprises 115 members.



FUNDRAISING

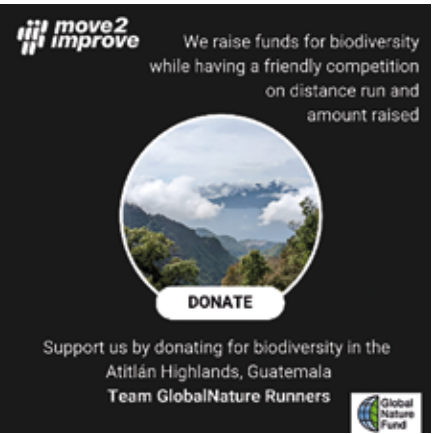
Manuela Uhde & Rebecca Mahler

Every year, we successfully implement many projects all over the world with local partner organisations. This work is only possible with the appropriate financial resources. As a non-profit foundation, we receive project funding from the public and private sectors, from other foundations and from individual donors. Without the support from all these sources, our project work would not be possible. Therefore, in addition to grant applications, donations and fundraising activities are of great importance to the Global Nature Fund. In the 2022/2023 business year, we were able to collect a total of 857,033 euros in donations - from companies, foundations and individual donors, gaining some new fundraising partners: move2improve supported us in a fundraising run, the Kraftbier-Manufaktur HOPE is currently sponsoring us with part of the profit from the sale of its beer, and the Sparkasse Bodensee-Hegau regularly supports us through donation-doubling campaigns. Whether it is a federal ministry, a company, a foundation or a private individual - we would like to thank all our supporters for what they make possible and for the trust they place in our work.

Transparency

As a foundation that carries out its projects with representatives of civil society, transparency is very important to us. We therefore use our annual report to provide detailed information on the development of our project work and finances. Since

the establishment of our foundation, we have committed ourselves to a voluntary audit of the annual financial statement by an independent auditor; we prepare a profit and loss statement and a balance sheet according to the German Commercial Code and foundation law. The preservation of the foundation's assets and the use of the foundation's funds in accordance with the statutes are essential criteria. All audit results are documented in the audit report and disclosed to our supervisory authorities. We bear the seal of Transparent Civil Society (ITZ) and comply with our publication obligations of the initiative. The activity report and statutes are available on our website and our current donors receive the annual activity report by post. At any time, you can view the relevant documents via download or contact us directly.



Two of our new fundraising activities: The move2improve fundraising run and the newsletter on a fund-raising doubling campaign by Sparkasse Bodensee-Hegau.



Manuela Uhde
is an administrative scientist and specialist in environmental protection and landscape conservation. She has helped shape the foundation since its beginnings in 1998 and heads the Finance & Administration Department.



Rebecca Mahler
is an industrial engineer with a focus on marketing and sales and has been supporting the Global Nature Fund in the areas of marketing and fundraising as Communications and Marketing Manager since 2022.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS AND COOPERATION PARTNERS:

Public Funds – Germany



European Union



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Foundations / Associations



Business Cooperations



Standards



As always, we have worked with a variety of project partners around the world in a spirit of trust to achieve our goals for international nature conservation and environmental protection.
► Learn more about our partners here:
www.globalnature.org/en/cooperations/project-partners-2022-2023

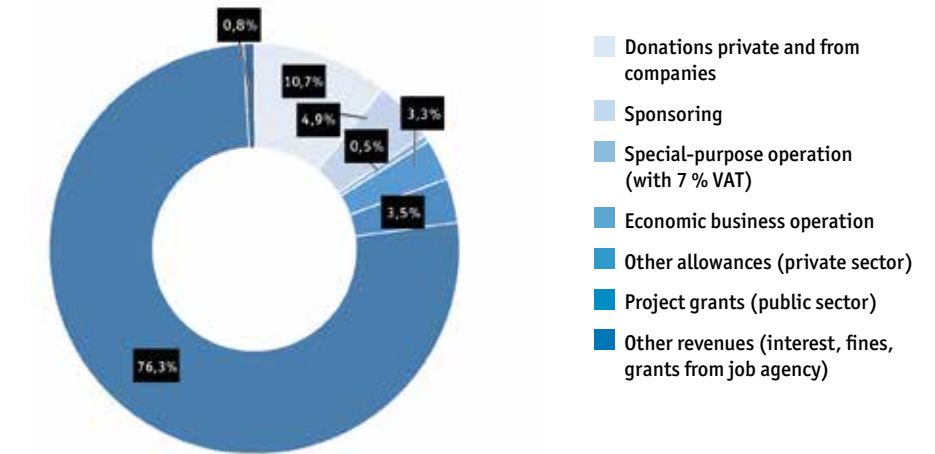


PRESENTING THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

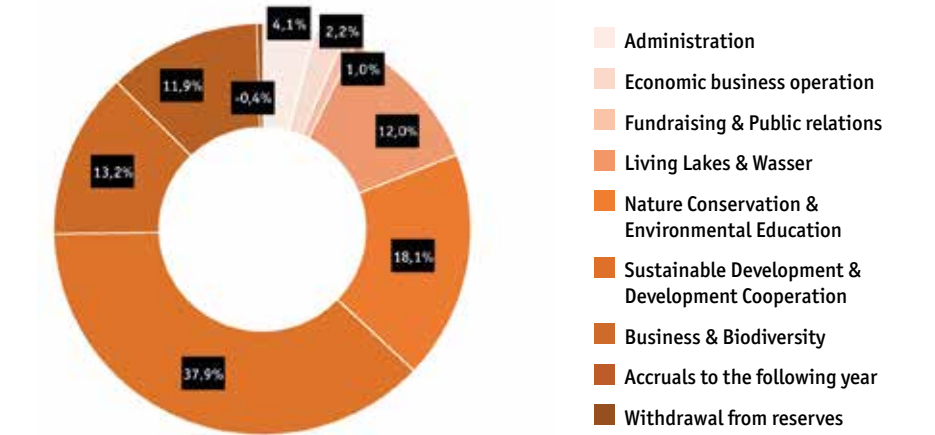
Explanatory note on the fiscal year

For the 2022 financial year, the Global Nature Fund received a full detailed certificate from the independent auditing company Koch & Eicken GmbH. The audit results are presented in the audit report of the annual financial statements as of September 19, 2023 and in the explanatory report.

The total assets as of December 31, 2022 amounted to EUR 10,580,948.62 (previous year: EUR 6,528,580.43). The income in the profit-and-loss-account amounted to EUR 5,483,490.98. This results in a surplus of 626,191.36 euros (previous year 378,921.85 euros). After calculating the necessary accruals of EUR 651,313.17 (previous year: EUR 157,749.39), a withdrawal from reserves of EUR 25,121.81 results. (previous year allocation to reserves of 221,172.46 euros). The free reserves as at December 31, 2022 therefore amount to EUR 571,275.42 (previous year: EUR 596,010.29). The foundation capital remains at 437,638.04 euros.



Budget 2022 - Revenues in EURO		
	Euro	Percent
Donations private and from companies	588.773,03	10,7%
Sponsoring	268.300,00	4,9%
Special-purpose operation (with 7 % VAT)	24.487,21	0,5%
Economic business operation	182.351,89	3,3%
Other allowances (private sector)	190.708,70	3,5%
Project grants (public sector)	4.186.275,97	76,3%
Other revenues (interest, fines, grants from job agency)	42.594,18	0,8%
Total	5.483.490,98	100,0%



Budget 2022 - Expenses in EURO		
	Euro	Percent
Administration	226.942,04	4,1%
Economic business operation	118.030,50	2,2%
Fundraising & Public relations	54.635,80	1,0%
Living Lakes & Water	658.199,16	12,0%
Nature Conservation & Environmental Education	994.731,65	18,1%
Sustainable Development & Development Cooperation	2.080.005,28	37,9%
Business & Biodiversity	724.755,19	13,2%
Accruals to the following year	651.313,17	11,9%
Withdrawal from reserves	-25.121,81	-0,4%
Total	5.483.490,98	100,0%

BALANCE SHEET 2022

ASSETS			31.12.2022	previous year
A. FIXED ASSETS				
I. Tangible Assets				
Operating and Office Equipment			7,14 €	394,08 €
II. Financial Assets				
Financial investments			306,78 €	306,78 €
B. CURRENT ASSETS				
I. Stocks				
Ongoing projects			7.152.536,58 €	4.599.506,94 €
II. Receivables and other assets				
- Receivables from deliveries and services			69.369,43 €	112.376,09 €
- Other receivables and assets			186.333,33 €	70.136,87 €
			255.702,76 €	182.512,96 €
III. Cash on hand and bank balances				
Cash on hand			582,53 €	98,45 €
Sight deposits			1.166.290,29 €	1.282.774,22 €
Time deposits			1.993.565,51 €	453.433,93 €
			3.160.438,33 €	1.736.306,60 €
C. ACCRUED ITEMS				
			11.957,03 €	9.553,07 €
TOTAL of ASSETS			10.580.948,62 €	6.528.580,43 €

Marion Hammerl

President

Radolfzell, 16th September 2023

LIABILITIES			31.12.2022	previous year
A. EQUITY CAPITAL				
I. Foundation Capital				
Endowment Capital			86.919,62 €	86.919,62 €
Increase in Endowment Capital			350.718,42 €	350.718,42 €
			437.638,04 €	437.638,04 €
II. Reserves				
Free Reserves				
Balance carried forward on 01.01.2022			596.010,29 €	373.456,61 €
Withdrawal/Allocation to reserves			-25.121,81 €	221.172,46 €
Dissolution of long-term reserve			386,94 €	1.381,22 €
Balance 31.12.2022			571.275,42 €	596.010,29 €
B. NOT YET CONSUMED DONATIONS AND ALLOWANCES				
- Not yet used donations and allowances			0,00 €	0,00 €
- Long-term donations and allowances			7,14 €	394,08 €
			7,14 €	394,08 €
C. PROVISIONS				
- Provisions for tax liabilities			24.275,00 €	2.101,00 €
- Other Provisions			52.288,25 €	38.555,01 €
			76.563,25 €	40.656,01 €
D. LIABILITIES				
- Advance payments received on projects			8.411.016,24 €	5.300.360,18 €
- Liabilities from deliveries and services			88.906,64 €	17.844,03 €
- Liabilities from donations and grants not yet consumed for the intended purpose			148.109,38 €	54.422,63 €
- Other liabilities			847.432,51 €	81.255,17 €
			9.495.464,77 €	5.453.882,01 €
E. ACCRUED ITEMS				
			0,00 €	0,00 €
TOTAL of LIABILITIES			10.580.948,62 €	6.528.580,43 €

STRONG TOGETHER FOR NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT: WE ARE THE TEAM OF THE GLOBAL NATURE FUND

Sustainable Development



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Executive Director and Head of Sustainable Development as well as Communication & Marketing
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Head of Living Lakes & Nature Conservation
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