



Living Lakes

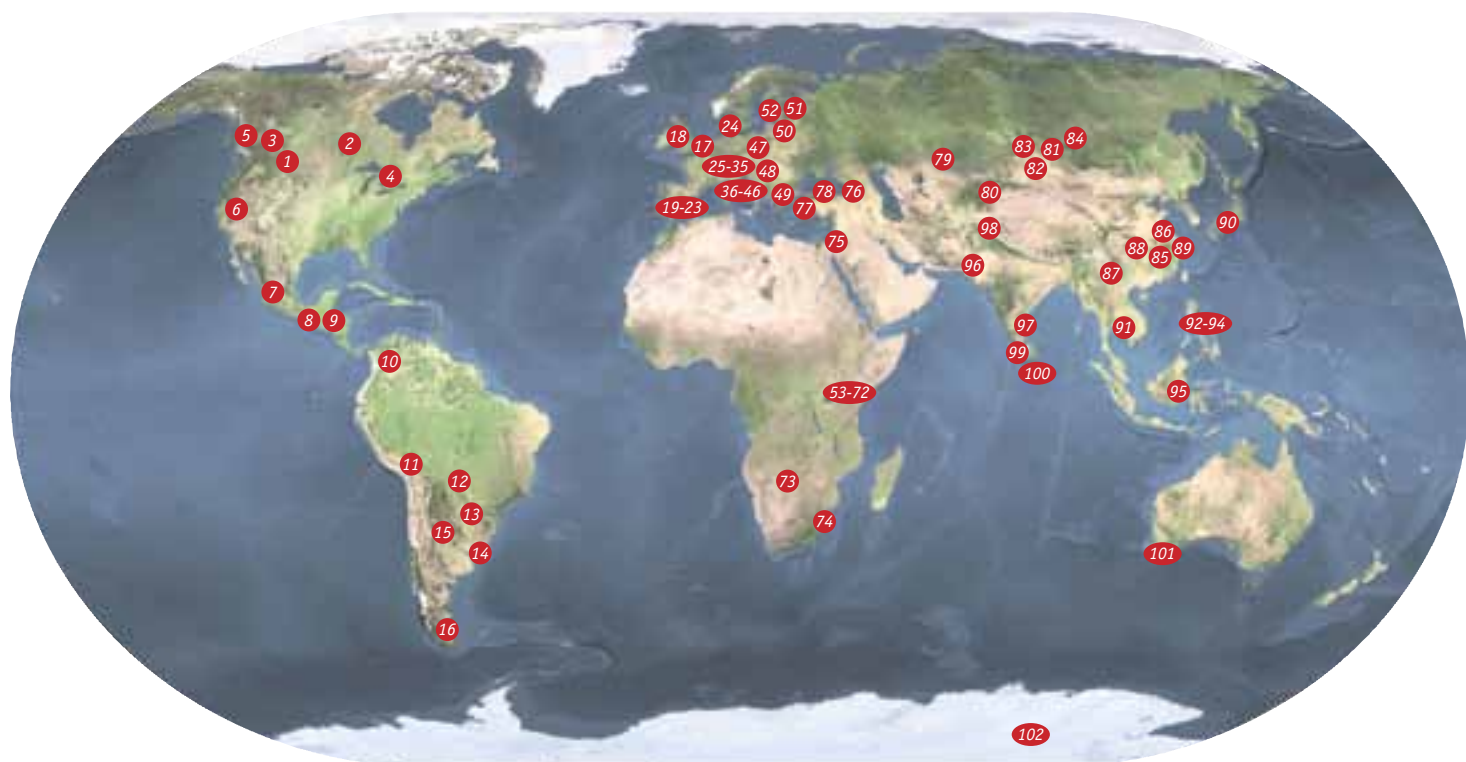
Goals 2012 - 2017
Achievements 2005 - 2011

Save the lakes of the world!



Living Lakes

Members



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*) Member of a national or multi-national Living Lakes network.



HEALTH



BIODIVERSITY



EDUCATION



WILDLIFE HABITAT

Living Lakes Vision

All lakes, wetlands, and freshwater bodies of the world should be healthy ecosystems, and where they are used by human kind, that use should be sustainable and not damaging to the environment.

Living Lakes Mission

Living Lakes is an international network and partnership whose mission is to enhance the protection, restoration and rehabilitation of lakes, wetlands, other freshwater bodies of the world, and their catchment areas.

Living Lakes Objectives

- Conserving biodiversity of lakes and lake regions as well as the valuable ecosystem services provided by lakes and wetlands
- Preservation of freshwater, saline water resources, and lake and wetland ecosystems
- Restoring degraded and disappearing wetland and lake ecosystems
- Improving the quality of life for the local communities
- Agreeing on a commitment towards a sustainable use and development of these ecosystems (i.e., through agriculture, fishery, tourism, settlement, and water use)
- Promoting the use of applied sciences and technologies towards the conservation of these ecosystems
- Supporting educational programmes and cooperation with local communities towards the conservation of the biodiversity of these ecosystems
- Disseminating information relevant to these ecosystems

Living Lakes International Network – Goals 2012–2017

- To extend the network continuously by representing 120–150 lakes and wetlands from all over the world and to improve the quality of networking
- To focus on the protection of ecosystem services of lakes and wetlands and to underline the importance of lakes as hotspots of biodiversity
- To support activities which underline the human right to a clean and healthy environment and to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation
- To develop effective and affordable model wastewater treatment systems and to undertake other measures to improve water quality of lakes
- To promote activities on climate mitigation and adaptation in lake regions



MONITORING

CONSERVATION

CLEAN WATER

SUSTAINABILITY

- To promote the UN Watercourses Convention with the aim to bring the Convention into force
- To support a global alliance for the protection of endangered mangrove habitats
- To initiate a minimum of ten projects on sustainable development of lake regions together with other development organisations
- To increase the number of joint projects among Living Lakes members
- To involve the business sector in strategies and projects for the protection and increase of biodiversity
- To establish a Living Lakes municipalities section in order to intensify the cooperation between local authorities and NGOs in lake regions
- To promote and support the work of international conventions relevant for the protection of lakes and wetlands, namely Ramsar Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity, and Convention on Migratory Species
- To represent the Living Lakes Network at international events relevant for the protection of lakes and wetlands

Living Lakes Tools

We aim to further develop the Living Lakes Network in the next five years by using a wide range of tools and methods. Among others, the most significant are model projects carried out in cooperation with the Living Lakes member organisations and international partners, regular Living Lakes conferences and member assemblies, our web pages and periodical publications providing a platform for international exchange and cooperation, diverse PR and media work at international and local levels, and many more.

Living Lakes Individual Goals of the Members

Besides the common goals of Living Lakes as an international network, all Living Lakes members identified concrete goals to achieve during the next five years in order to improve the situation of “their” lakes and wetlands. These goals are based on the individual problems and challenges facing the lakes and lake regions and on the activities and capacities of the respective Living Lakes member organisations.

Living Lakes Municipalities

Municipalities in lake regions have a special responsibility for the protection of “their” lakes and wetlands. And they have a special interest because they are often directly affected by the degradation or destruction of lakes and their ecosystem services. Most of our Living Lakes members have been collaborating successfully with municipalities for many years. In order to underline the importance of municipalities in lake regions and to intensify the exchange and collaboration, we will establish an official Living Lakes municipalities section within the international network.

Living Lakes

Members America – North, Central & South





Columbia River Wetlands; Canada

The Columbia River Wetlands are situated in the Rocky Mountains rift valley where logging, mining, and tourism industries have left their marks. The area belongs to the most ecologically-rich regions in the world and is home to 100,000 large mammals, among them Grizzly and Black Bear, Wolf, Cougar, Wolverine, Elk, and many other fascinating species. In 2005, the Columbia Wetlands, in recognition of their global ecological significance, were designated as Canada's newest Ramsar Site, the first in over seven years and only the third in British Columbia.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Designation of the Columbia Wetlands as a Ramsar Site under the International Convention on Wetlands in 2005;
- Establishment of an effective community-based, multi-stakeholder stewardship initiative (called the Lake Windermere Project) dealing with the degradation and over-use of the watershed;
- Formation of the Pesticide Free Columbia Basin Coalition and adoption of bylaws banning the use of chemical pesticides for cosmetic purposes in the District of Invermere and the City of Kimberley;
- Implementation of the Windermere Lake Shoreline Management Guidelines for Fish and Wildlife with focus on wildlife values;
- Completion of the Riparian Area Restoration Project at Confluence Park;
- Enforcement of two important boating regulations for the Columbia Wetlands to become official law in Canada;
- Establishment of the Lake Windermere Sister Lake Partnership student exchange with Windermere in Cumbria, UK;
- Implementation of educational programmes for about 20,000 people.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Completion of the Shoreline Rehabilitation Project at Kinsmen Public Beach in Invermere, one of the most heavily-used pieces of shoreline at Lake Windermere;
- Documentation and mapping of aquatic invasive plants at heavily-used lakes in the Upper Columbia Basin, and implementation of eradication measures;
- Protection of Lot 48 along Columbia Lake's east shore by encouraging a change in the existing land use zoning as a rare opportunity to protect an entire low elevation lakeshore for wildlife habitat;
- Promotion of a Canada Wetlands Act creating federal legislation that protects wetland habitats;
- Enhancing sustainable development and friendly economics by promotion of modernisation of the legislation, expanded pesticide ban, as well as extension of the Riparian Areas Regulation;
- Launching Wildsight's educational "Classroom With Outdoors, Know Your Watershed" programme;
- Completion of the Lake Windermere Sister Lake Partnership student exchange with Windermere (UK) for two high school science students interested in water resources;
- Increasing the capacity of NGOs across Canada working on action-based water stewardship through the development of the Living Lakes Network Canada.



wildsight

Wildsight / East Kootenay Environmental Society

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Lake Winnipeg; Canada

Lake Winnipeg is the largest remnant of the giant prehistoric Lake Agassiz. The lake and its main rivers are highly regulated for hydro power production. Hydroelectric energy production, large commercial and traditional fishery, and agriculture are predominant economic activities. Additional landscape modifications such as wetland, forest and native vegetation loss, artificial drainage, and hard urban surfacing have exacerbated nutrient and contaminant loading to the lake. As a result, a shift in algal species composition caused toxic algal strains which imperil lake food web function as well as human health.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Implementation of various watershed research activities: the Village of Dunnottar sewage lagoon passive filtration system, analyses of Lake Winnipeg North Basin, Edie Creek Retention Basin Project for flood peak attenuation, etc.;
- Providing funding for Canadian Water Innovation Lab 2010 to develop new leaders with creative solutions to our complex water resource management problems;
- Organising and hosting Red Zone II, a free public forum in November 2010, in collaboration with IISD Lake Winnipeg Basin 2010 Summit;
- Environmental trips, demonstrations, seminars and public forums on environmental issues for students, adults, and community groups;
- Bringing together conservationists groups, decision makers, and local communities to promote cooperation for wetland development.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Strengthening cooperation with other NGOs at Lake Winnipeg and across Canada promoting standardised ecosystem monitoring procedures;
- Establishment of a Lake Chapala – Lake Winnipeg sister lake partnership;
- Rehabilitation of Lake Winnipeg shoreline marshes threatened by urban development;
- Establishment of an invasive species monitoring network;
- Improvement of upland water storage to attenuate flood peaks;
- Organising a consecutive annual “Red Zone” free public forums to seek out solutions to the problems faced by the Lake and its watershed;
- Work with Wildsight (Lake Windermere, Canada) to organise and develop the Living Lakes Network Canada;
- Advocacy for the health and sustainability of Lake Winnipeg with the government and the public.



Lake Winnipeg Foundation Inc.

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Mono Lake; USA

The Mono Lake and its surrounding catchment area form a unique region in California. Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), Jeffrey pines, volcanoes, Tufa Towers, Gulls, Grebes, Brine Shrimp, Alkali Fly, freshwater streams, and alkaline water characterise an incredible landscape nestled amidst the high peaks of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the Great Basin Desert. It is also one of the most productive ecosystems in California. A spectacular oasis in the dry Great Basin is at the same time a vital habitat for millions of migratory and nesting birds. Embracing 14 different ecological zones, over 1,000 plant species, and roughly 400 recorded vertebrate species within its watershed, Mono Lake and its surrounding basin encompass one of California's richest natural areas.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Restoration of four of the five tributaries to Mono Lake that once ran dry;
- Creation of a set of Development Principles for Mono Lake allowing participation in the evaluation of all public development projects and avoiding the implementation of two large building projects in ecologically inappropriate areas;
- Implementation of various environmental education programmes, widening of the Outdoor Experiences Programme for schools;
- Continuation and growth of the Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua festival;
- Extension of the Mono Lake Committee to 16,000 members.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Securing a viable restoration programme for the streams basing on the stream scientists' synthesis report;
- Revision of the California State Water Board Decision for Mono Lake in 2014 as a groundwork for all restoration activities in the area;
- Continuation of vigilance on development projects in the Mono Lake Basin by using the Development Principles;
- Public relations and encouraging environmentally friendly tourism activities through outreach work (Mono Lake Newsletter, Mono Lake Calender, Interpretive Programmes);
- Developing new strategies and tools for environmental education for youth; establishment of the Mono Basin Outdoor Education Centre.



Mono Lake Committee

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Lago de Chapala; Mexico

Lake Chapala is Mexico's largest fresh water lake and endangered by a high potential of conflicts over regional water resources due to their overexploitation and contamination. Lake Chapala's principal source is the Lerma River. Its water entering the lake is highly polluted with heavy metals and other toxic substances as a result of insufficient wastewater treatment by many industries as well as towns around the lake. Lake Chapala is very important for migratory birds from North America, such as the American White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*). In 2009, Lake Chapala was declared as a Ramsar Site.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Declaration of Chapala Lake as a Ramsar Site and elaboration of a draft management plan for the lake based on the analysis of studies and consultation of stakeholders and local population;
- Creation of a communication network around the lake and monthly press releases on lake issues;
- Implementation of the Rancho Chimalli, a communication project reaching over 500 people;
- Environmental cinema for over 100 children;
- More than 500 trees were "adopted" by local people to grow in their gardens;
- Environmental education activities with local youth; participation in and organisation of awareness raising events such as World Water Forum and "La Mesa de las Azucenas";
- Intense lobby activities to re-enforce the sound functioning of existing wastewater treatment plants of the municipalities around the lake, sanitation of the extremely contaminated river Santiago, and increase of water volume for Lake Chapala by reducing extraction of water for agriculture;
- Organisation of the 13th Living Lakes Conference in cooperation with the Global Nature Fund in 2010, with active participation of more than 200 environmentalists from all over the world;

- Elaboration and dissemination of the call-for-action Chapala Statement "Lake Management – Challenges in a Changing World".

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Implementation of the Ramsar management plan for Lake Chapala;
- Scientific analysis of the water quality and fish fauna in order to assess the state of the lake;
- Implementation of a sound and transparent monitoring system for water quality and regular communication of results to the local population;
- Lobbying towards regional and national governments for a secured minimum water volume for Lake Chapala (also during droughts) in order to maintain the functions of the ecosystem;
- Promotion of sustainable fisheries and tourism;
- Conducting awareness raising campaigns and establishment of a dialogue with decision makers from different provinces around the lake;
- Applying results of the Rancho Chimalli in additional communities and implementation of further pilot projects;
- Environmental education for local citizens, especially children.



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Lago Atitlán; Guatemala

Lake Atitlán lies in a crater created by an eruption of a great volcano approximately 85,000 years ago. As there is no existing outlet, the water level increased with the years. In spite of rich biodiversity, landscape and culture, the region belongs to the poorest in Guatemala. The population depends on subsistence farming, supplemented by incomes from tourism as Lake Atitlán is the second most visited tourist destination in Guatemala.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Establishment of a Regional Municipal Park System with 8,000 ha of protected municipal land;
- Establishment of 900 ha of community-based reforestation projects, with more than 2,000 beneficiaries in 19 municipalities;
- Establishment of two eco-tourism projects in municipal parks and support for a community-based tourism network in the Sololá Province;
- Support for the certification of 74 ha of organic coffee lands for eight small producer organisations representing some 350 families;
- Support for the establishment, implementation, and evaluation of the Regional Protected Area Ecological Monitoring Plan in Terrestrial and Aquatic Conservation Targets;
- Realisation of scientific research on biodiversity and water quality of lake Atitlán;
- Participation in the elaboration of an action plan for cyanobacteria emergencies;
- Coordination efforts to establish a monitoring system for water quality jointly managed by the national and regional authorities;
- Construction of 50 “biodigestores”, an innovative low cost individual wastewater treatment system, for local families in Panajachel;
- Environmental education campaign on water protection in houses, a better management of household waste, and elaboration of organic fertiliser.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Implementation of a research and monitoring programme for the hydrological system of Lake Atitlán;
- Monitoring and management of sedges (*scirpus californicus*), a rare threatened plant species at the lake;
- Promotion and implementation of new wastewater management strategies in close cooperation with local communities;
- Updating of the management plan for the nature reserve Cuenca del Lago Atitlán;
- Establishment of two new ecological parks in the watershed of the lake;
- Promotion and implementation of an educational programme on sustainable development in five municipalities at Lake Atitlán.



Asociación Vivamos Mejor Guatemala

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Laguna de Fúquene; Colombia

Laguna de Fúquene, a large shallow lagoon to the east of the Colombian Andes, is the water source for 200,000 people in the catchment area living mainly on dairy farming and agriculture as well as mining. In the last decades, the water inflow of the tributaries has declined considerably; the withdrawal of water for the irrigation of agricultural areas has multiplied and threatens the lake. Laguna de Fúquene was declared the Threatened Lake of the Year 2011.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Extension of the existing environmental education centre and realisation of educational activities for 2,000 children and six schools;
- Operation of a greenhouse and spreading of 15 native forest species for restoration activities;
- Creation of an association of fishermen and producers of handicraft made out of wetland vegetation and production of handicrafts and organic compost, source of income for 22 families;
- Development of a participative monitoring programme (fishing, water quality, birds, and use of aquatic vegetation), continuous activities since 2007;
- Formulation and implementation of a fishing management plan and creation and operation of the Fishing and Environmental Management Committee COPA;
- Elaboration of the vulnerability study on the impacts of climate change on Laguna de Fúquene;
- Creation and operation of a Regional Defence Committee for Laguna de Fúquene.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Environmental education at the local level and general public awareness raising reaching more than 1,000 people;
- Promotion of activities to increase the water quality of the lake through implementation of Green Filters and utilisation of constructed wetlands;
- Increasing public awareness about the results of the vulnerability study on the impacts of climate change on Laguna de Fúquene;
- Continuation of the participative monitoring programmes of the lake and biodiversity as well as enhancement of research for conservation activities in the basin;
- Strengthening activities of the Regional Committee for Defence of Laguna de Fúquene;
- Continuation of activities for poverty alleviation in local communities through sustainable resource management and development of productive alternative income sources;
- Implementation of a demonstration forest restoration programme and creation of an educative botanical garden.



Fundación Humedales

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Lake Titicaca; Bolivia and Peru

Lake Titicaca is the largest lake of South America and the world's highest lake navigable for large vessels, lying at 3,810 m above sea level in the Andes Mountains. The wetland is a permanent freshwater lake, with associated marshes and extensive areas of emergent aquatic vegetation. Organic and bacteriological contamination is caused by human activities, in particular urban waste and mining.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Development of an international cooperation alliance for nature conservation;
- Creation of the Living Lakes Network Latin America and the Caribbean in cooperation with the GNF;
- Implementation of the Landscape Conservation Programme, concepts for bio commerce and climate change adaptation;
- Development and implementation of comprehensive palm trees sustainable projects;
- Promotion of sustainable tourism through publishing a Tour Guide "Viaje al lago Titicaca" in Spanish and English; Publication of the La Paz 200 Years of Independence commemorative book;
- Publishing seven educational books and five educational games presented to more than 1,500 people in villages around Lake Titicaca;
- Realisation of an international conference on the impact of climate change on lakes in South and Central America;
- Reinforcement of cooperation and networking on sustainability topics between community members, schools, and decision makers.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Participation in the elaboration of a Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy for the City of La Paz;
- Implementation of at least one project focusing on climate change adaptation;

- Elaboration of long term cooperation programmes within the Living Lakes Network Latin America and the Caribbean;
- Scientific and practical research on restoration, biodiversity protection, and sustainable development as well as poverty alleviation;
- Development of new programmes for better resource management for national and international markets for cacao, light woods, and high altitude water ecosystems products such as totora plant (*Schoenoplectus californicus*);
- Promotion of sustainable tourism offers and local products at national and international levels;
- Promotion of low cost wastewater treatment systems such as Green Filters with floating macrophytes;
- Extension of the environmental education programme with games about sustainable tourism and lake protection to at least three communities at Lake Titicaca;
- Inclusion of two Bolivian wetlands into the Living Lakes Network to secure a larger conservancy coverage in the country.



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Pantanal Wetland; Brazil, Bolivia, and Paraguay

The largest wetland in the world and home to unique species such as jaguars, acelots, big parrots, and caimans. The biodiversity of the wetland is threatened by large scale deforestation, monocultures such as oil palm trees, cotton, and soy beans, intensive cattle ranching as well as gold and diamond mining. These are held responsible for important changes in the region, originally characterised by savannahs, tropical forests, rivers, swamps, and lakes. In 2000, the Pantanal National Park as well as some private nature reserves were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Ecotrópica, the Living Lakes partner in Brazil, owns four farms for nature conservation purposes, namely Acurizal, Penha, Dorochê, and Rumo ao Oeste with a total area of 60,000 ha.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Establishment of the Cuiabá – São Lourenço Biodiversity Corridor of 10,091,600 ha;
- Creation and implementation of the Contingency Plan for Prevention and Fire Fighting as an operational tool for the planning, scheduling, organising, and executing fire fighting activities;
- Environmental education activities for students but also study visits for politicians, businessmen, and decision makers to the Acurizal Reserve to make them aware of the necessity to preserve the nature;
- Monitoring of segments of the Paraguay and Cuiabá rivers; regular reserve monitoring as well as fauna study by means of camera traps in situ;
- Investigation on Hyacinth Macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*) populations and the possible presence of a remaining population of the Glaucous Macaw (*Anodorhynchus glaucus*) inside the buffer zone of the World Natural Heritage Site – Pantanal;
- Extensive research on the ecology of the Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) by the means of radio transmitters.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Further implementation and improvement of the Contingency Plan for Prevention and Fire Fighting;
- Expansion of environmental education programmes as well as environmental monitoring activities;
- Research on the consequences of global warming for the area as well as development of mitigation strategies;
- Elaboration of concepts for using thermal and photovoltaic solar energy to decrease the energy costs and to drastically reduce the fossil fuel use in the Reserves.



ECOTROPICA Brazil

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Lagunita Complex; Paraguay

The complex comprises 29 lagoons and is situated in the Mbaracayu Forest Biosphere Reserve (MFBR) in the east of Paraguay. In the year 2000, the area was declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The MFBR is one of the places in Paraguay with a big range of biodiversity threatened by soil erosion, improper use of agrochemicals, poaching, as well as hunting. Tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*), Marsh Seedeater (*Sporophila palustris*), Dark-throated Seedeater (*Sporophila ruficollis*), Chestnut Seedeater (*Sporophila cinnamomea*), Broad-snouted Caiman (*Caiman latirostris*), and Southern Toad-headed Turtle (*Mesoclemys vanderhaegei*) are threatened and rare species living in the region. The area is privately owned by the non-governmental organisation Fundación Moisés Bertoni (FMB) and is one of the largest remaining tracts of privately owned dense humid sub-tropical forests in South America.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Research activities emphasising on wildlife monitoring;
- Protection of the Lagunita Complex through anti-poaching patrols;
- Development and implementation of small-scale eco-tourism activities consisting of guided tours of the Lagunita Complex and adjacent forest trails;
- Study to identify markets for traditional and organic agricultural products such as wild mate tea and sesame;
- Training on sustainable agriculture and forest management for over 500 young indigenous women.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Scientific studies focusing on the ecology and hydrology of the Lagunita Complex, biodiversity surveys, and long-term water quality monitoring;
- Elaboration of a long-term management plan for Lagunita Complex comprising studies on tourism-carrying capacity, water level maintenance, aggressive aquatic plant removal, and prescribed burnings;
- Development of a sustainable eco-tourism programme focusing on local participation, training for local guides, and training for guide-guest-relation;
- Extension of the training programme on sustainable agriculture and forest management for young indigenous women;
- Commercialisation of traditional and organic agricultural products from the Biosphere Reserve.



Fundación Moisés Bertoni (FMB)

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Laguna de Rocha; Uruguay

Laguna de Rocha is a shallow lagoon separated by a sand bar from the Atlantic Ocean. It is a part of the Biosphere Reserves designated by Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) of UNESCO. Laguna de Rocha is known for its richness of fish, crab, shrimp, and molluscs attractive both for fishermen and numerous birds. Through natural waves but also through artificial dam failures, the water of Laguna de Rocha mingles temporarily with the salt water of the Atlantic Ocean. As a result, the amount of the salt concentration in the lagoon water influences the biological conditions as well as the physical and chemical parameters of the lagoon.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Elaboration of a management activities plan for the entry of Laguna de Rocha to the National System of Nature Conservation Areas S.N.A.P.;
- Preparation of the entry proposal for the lagoon to become a Ramsar Site;
- Implementation of a project for education and park ranger outfitting;
- Patrolling activities in the area, visitors' information and cleaning of the beaches in the lake's ocean sandbar;
- Environmental education programmes for local schools, farmers, land owners and fishing communities.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Active participation in the elaboration and implementation of a management plan for the newly created protected area;
- Cooperation with the local university and scientists in field work and research and development of a monitoring system;
- Strengthening the areas of environmental education and raising awareness of the lake's ecosystem fragility through the Federparchi Project;
- Focus on real estate development pressure in the area and establishment of a buffer zone;
- Networking with other NGOs and Protected Areas at national and international levels.





Mar Chiquita; Argentina

Mar Chiquita is Argentina's biggest lake and the world's fifth largest steppe lake. The latter is only valid when the water level is high. The salt content fluctuates a lot depending on the changes in water level. These extreme conditions protect the lake from overpopulation and overuse. The most popular nester is the Chilean Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*), indigenous to South America. Despite its local and international importance, i.e. as a Ramsar Site, Mar Chiquita lacks a management plan. Living Lakes partners on site are permanently working on its introduction.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Establishment of a "Mar Chiquita" field station in Miramar;
- Intensive promotion of the need for a lake management plan;
- Production of a compendium of legislation regarding water management in Mar Chiquita;
- Technical support of municipalities in sustainable development projects;
- Baseline research on the lake and wetlands areas;
- Support of the development of the local NGO Fundación Mar;
- Organisation of the 11th Meeting of the International Society of Salt Lake Research in Miramar in 2011;
- Extensive outreach campaigns for the protection of wetlands and publication of a book summarising the importance of the protected area.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Continuation of the development of a blue print for the management plan for the Mar Chiquita Ramsar Site including a series of public meetings;
- Assessment of deforestation and selection of candidate areas for conservation;
- Complementing the Mar Chiquita book with a teacher's manual and lab kits for high and primary schools;
- Expanding of the outreach activities to a larger regional scale including other key towns in the area.



Centro de Zoología Aplicada Argentina

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Río Gallegos; Argentina

This river in Southern Patagonia is a site of great international importance along the migration route and critical for shorebird conservation. A part of the estuary is surrounded by extensive salt marsh vegetation forming a dynamic system working as a buffer zone and accumulating sediment, which generates an indispensable supply for thousands of birds. The estuary gives shelter and sustenance to a significant proportion of the world's population of species such as Magellanic Plover (*Pluvianellus socialis*), Hooded Grebe (*Podiceps gallardoi*), an endangered endemic found almost exclusively in Santa Cruz, and Magellanic Oystercatcher (*Haematopus leucopodus*), all of them endemic to Southern Patagonia.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Opening of the Coastal Urban Reserve to the public in 2008 and agreement with the local municipality on its common management;
- Publishing the first Field Guide of the Nature of the Coastal Urban Reserve;
- Conducting an extensive study on the Hooded Grebe status of conservation with the help of 13 volunteers and development of an action plan for its protection;
- Implementation of an informal environmental education programme, implemented in all 30 primary schools and kindergartens in the Río Gallegos town;
- Development of the RARE PRIDE Campaign to train citizens on waste classification and its proper disposal;
- 4,000 children informed during theatre performance and 2,000 people during public events and training courses;

- Organisation of trans-boundary meetings on environmental issues with Argentinean and Chilean decision makers; work with local communities, municipalities and local population;
- Restoration and protection of the river's ecosystem by implementing weekly cleaning actions, fences, and new information signs.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Raising awareness through the implementation of environmental education activities, biodiversity conservation, and public issues;
- Establishment of an information centre for local people and tourists;
- Generation and implementation of conservation projects for Patagonia: Natural Urban Reserve Network; Hooded Grebe and its environment study; Support of the Coastal Urban Reserve;
- Implementation of a volunteering programme with at least 20 volunteers;
- Development of a sustainable tourist project for El Chaltén – a popular touristic area in the Los Glaciares National Park.



Asociación Ambiente Sur

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Living Lakes

Members Europe





Norfolk & Suffolk Broads; Great Britain

The Norfolk & Suffolk Broads is the largest protected wetland of Great Britain and offers a habitat for a wealth of wildlife, especially birds and plants. The Broads contain a total of seven rivers and 63 lakes. The landscape is characterised by fens, reed, and forests. The potential to enhance wildlife areas in the Broads is huge but so are the challenges to this special area. Much of Norfolk is now a landscape dominated by intensive agriculture. The area of wildlife habitat needs to be greatly increased and re-connected if it is to survive in a human dominated landscape and be given a chance to adapt to climate change. The creation of ecological networks is, therefore, a necessity.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Development and implementation of the adaptive Broads Lake Restoration Strategy;
- Development and implementation of a Broads-wide biodiversity action plan;
- Designation of the How Hill Nature Reserve, owned by the Broads Authority, a National Nature Reserve;
- Vigorous promotion of sustainable boating, leading the way with own solar powered and electric boat trips;
- Environmental education and awareness raising campaigns for youth and adults; establishment of visitor centres accessible for people with disabilities;
- Benefits from a large group of some 250 volunteers for a total of at least 5,000 days.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Development of a long-term vision (50–100 years) for the Broads in order to be able to respond to climate change and sea level rise;
- Implementation of an integrated approach (0–20 years) to the management of the Broads landscape;
- Development of an integrated strategy for sustainable tourism through the Broads Tourism Forum partnership;
- Implementation of actions to reduce the Broads Authority's carbon footprint;
- Targeting agro-environmental support schemes to meet landscape and biodiversity objectives for the Broads; proactive work with farmers to develop and promote methods of integrating such support;
- Seeking to deliver principles of the governmental "Learning Outside the Classroom" initiative;
- Cooperation with local communities to develop their understanding of Broads management issues and enable them to play an active role at the local level; helping people live sustainably through good practice and innovative solutions to flood risk and carbon reduction.



The Broads Authority

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Norfolk Wildlife Trust

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Lake District; Great Britain

The Lake District is unique in England for its abundant freshwater habitats such as mires, upland heath, lakeshore wetlands, estuary, coastal heath, and dunes. The National Park is extremely accessible. As a consequence, many habitats and species remain threatened by the pressure for development and the sheer number of residents and visitors. Other problems are intensive farming, aqua culture, and non-native plants. The Lake District National Park Authority, Living Lakes partner in the Lake District, concentrates on giving information through visitor centres, developing and maintaining access to land and water, encouraging responsible use of the countryside, organising and supporting events to celebrate the National Park, and working to maintain flora and fauna. It has been cooperating actively with further stakeholders within the Bassenthwaite Lake Restoration Programme.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Establishment of the Bassenthwaite Lake Restoration Programme, a partnership based approach addressing environmental lake issues;
- Installation of two sewage treatment facilities and nutrient management plans to reduce nutrient inputs from businesses and farms;
- Advising of approximately 30 tourism businesses on the management of septic tanks to reduce diffuse nutrient inputs;
- Restoration of two major footpaths to prevent the erosion of sediment;
- Volunteer-led maintenance scheme established and nine volunteer training events delivered;
- Development of nutrient management plans for 28 farms around Bassenthwaite: soil analysis and nutrient budgeting have resulted in a 40 % reduction in phosphate application in the Newlands Valley;
- Organisation of numerous volunteer days for practical conservation work and tree planting;
- Active cooperation with local communities and their involvement in nature conservation issues.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Continuous development of the Bassenthwaite Lake Restoration Partnership as well as simultaneous improvement and securing their quality and bio-integrity for other lakes within the catchment area;
- Empowering the community to take responsibility for the long-term protection of the Bassenthwaite Lake catchment area;
- Promotion of environmentally sound business practices and long term community involvement and ownership;
- Awareness raising activities and promotion of sustainable tourism practices;
- Development of long-term programmes of action for the restoration of the lakes and their catchment areas; approaching, at most returning the Bassenthwaite Lake condition to that which prevailed in the 1940s and 50s:
 - Reduction of phosphorus in the lake from a level of about 25-30 µg/litre total phosphorus (winter average), to a level of about 20 µg/litre total phosphorus (winter average) by the year 2022
 - Reduction of sediment entering the lake so that its accumulation in the lake is reduced by about half its present rate
 - Restoration of the endemic population of Vendace in Bassenthwaite Lake and its protection in Derwent Water; restoration of other populations of species of national and international importance by the year 2022.



Lake District National Park Authority

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La Nava, La Mancha and Albufera; Spain

Three important complexes of wetlands representing various valuable habitat types are situated in central, north-west, and southern parts of Spain. Once partially or totally destroyed, today the lakes represent excellent examples of restored wetlands. The important fresh water and saline ecosystems are now home to various exceptional species. In spite of their uniqueness, the catchment areas suffer increasingly from pollution from agriculture and human activities. Besides conducting public awareness campaigns, the Living Lakes partner organisation Fundación Global Nature (FGN) pays special attention to international cooperation projects. FGN has been working successfully on the transfer of Green Filter technologies to partner lakes in Asia and Latin America.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Increasing the flooded area of the wetlands La Nava (425 ha), Boada (62 ha), Pedraza (96 ha), and Canal de Castilla associated wetlands (35 ha);
- Implementation of a programme for improving water quality, natural vegetation and reforestation activities;
- Improving the role of wetlands as breeding sites for rare and endangered species, mainly waterfowls and amphibians;
- Creation of new buffer areas by purchasing land and other forms of land stewardship in Tierra de Campos wetlands (28 ha) and La Mancha wetlands (38 ha);
- Implementation of a management plan and an agro-environmental plan as well as inclusion of wetlands in national and international protection programmes;
- Implementation of activities related to socio-economic and rural development;
- Continuous monitoring of migratory species and creation of a new bird monitoring station;
- Promotion of sustainable agricultural practices such as land stewardship in surfaces around wetlands;

promotion of dry alfalfa (forage crop) in Tierra de Campos wetlands (149 ha) and La Mancha wetlands (128 ha);

- Implementation of the results of the LIFE-project “Sustainable Management of Wetlands and Shallow Lakes” in the wetlands of La Nava and Boada;
- Promotion and dissemination of natural and cultural values associated with wetlands through infrastructure and public use activities.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Wetland restoration measures in Palencia, La Mancha and Extremadura, i.e. creation of new small wetlands and buffer areas (about 260 ha);
- Promotion and extension of the Green Filter system at the Albufera wetland;
- Promotion of sustainable agricultural practices around wetlands;
- Marketing support for regional products such as honey and olive oil from protected areas;
- Biodiversity monitoring and land stewardship to increasingly involve private landowners;
- Implementation of the EU-Business & Biodiversity Campaign in Spain;
- Development and realisation of new cooperation projects to promote Fair Trade, Climate Change REDD mechanisms, Green Filters, and Ecotourism and strengthen the role of environmental NGOs;
- Improved management of restored wetlands.



Fundación Global Nature España

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Delta del Llobregat; Spain

The Llobregat Delta is the second largest delta in Catalonia near Barcelona. 14 different eco-systems lie in the Llobregat Delta, among them beach, pine forests, marshland, coastal lagoons, farmland, the River Llobregat, and the Mediterranean Sea. Over 22 species of orchids have been found in the humid meadows and in the pine groves. Since 1999, the delta is considered as a Global Important Bird Area (GIBA). Some tiny parts of the delta are Natura2000 and SPA areas. Nowadays, the Llobregat Delta is one of the richest agricultural zones in the Mediterranean. Besides natural spaces there are farming, urban, industrial and service zones, railway and road networks, and the port and the airport of Barcelona. The loss of habitat by infrastructures, water pollution caused by agriculture, livestock, and industries as well as over-exploitation of groundwater are only a few examples of main threats.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Breakup of several macro construction and leisure projects, e.g. Barca-Parc and Eurovegas within the Delta;
- Increased number of visitors within the protected areas: 53,964 (2008), 99,933 (2009), and 130,675 (2011);
- Cooperation with the local peasantry for enhancing the natural, agricultural and social values of the Parc Agrari and the Delta;
- Enlargement of the Important Bird Area (IBA) 140; continuous bird monitoring within the area, its surroundings, and along the Llobregat River;
- Including the pine forest (Pineda de Camins del Prat) into the European list of Sites of Community Importance (SCIs);
- Raising awareness among the population in Spain and worldwide through press, TV campaigns, information stands, and itinerant exhibitions; conduction of the Day of Wetlands, Birds, and Biodiversity;

- Continuous update of the blog “S.O.S. Delta del Llobregat”, monthly internet editions of the platform’s magazine as well as monthly bird monitoring publications; annual bird census marathons;
- Start of a campaign to declare Llobregat Delta a Ramsar Site and a Special Protection Area for birds (SPA).

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Implementation of an amphibians project for the recovery, setting-up, and interconnection of water spots for amphibians within the Parc Agrari and the Delta of Llobregat;
- Strengthening cooperation with the peasantry;
- Establishing cooperation with the platform Llobregat Sostenible carrying out activities along the Llobregat River in 2013-2014;
- Designation of the Delta as a Ramsar Site, its declaration as a SPA-area and a Parc Natural (nation-wide second highest protection status);
- Implementation of the “Land Bank” programme offering young people accessibility to farmland;
- Continuation of awareness raising activities as well as bird monitoring;
- Starting a campaign against high bird mortality at the Terminal 1 of the Barcelona airport;
- Mounting of nest boxes along the IBA Llobregat River.



SEO Birdlife Barcelona

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Kolindsund Wetlands; Denmark

The Kolindsund Wetlands is a part of a sound (Djursland), located in the middle of Jutland in Denmark and embedded in an agricultural area. Djursland is situated along one of three important migratory routes along the coasts of Denmark. It is filled with moors, meadows, small lakes, and ponds. Kolindsund is a sub-sea level area. At the moment, the site has no protection status. The lakes are completely drained and kept dry at extensive pumping costs. The objective of the organisation Kolindsunds Venner (Friends of Kolindsund) is the restoration of reed swamps and the reestablishment of the lake. The Living Lakes partner works hard to restore the lake by 2020–2024.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Putting the restoration of lake Kolindsund on the ballot as a major election theme in the municipal elections in 2005 and 2009 and affecting municipalities to organise a commission to investigate the possibilities for the area defined as Kolindsund in November 2008;
- Widening of the Kolindsunds Venner network state and non-state actors to mayors as well as local party organisations; involvement of both Global Nature Fund and Living Lakes expertise;
- Strong lobby on decision makers level (Danish Parliament);
- Outreach work in order to secure necessary funds for the joint municipal commission in order to start up the second phase of the campaign aiming at the reestablishment of the lake.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Development of a joint venture with the Aarhus School of Architecture on “Water Urbanism” to make Lake Kolindsund and its surroundings the Danish case study for lectures in the spring semester of 2012;
- Raising funds to secure the continuation of the work of the municipal commission to ensure a favourable outcome of the municipalities’ decisions regarding Lake Kolindsund before and after elections in autumn 2013;
- Securing the majority for the complete restoration of Lake Kolindsund in the Danish Parliament before autumn 2013;
- Conducting an information campaign for farmers;
- Comprehensive analysis of wetlands restoration, and buying out farms in spring 2014;
- Starting to work on the infrastructure and the implementation of the restoration measures in autumn 2014.



Kolindsunds Venner – Friends of Kolindsund

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Lake Constance; Germany, Switzerland, and Austria

The lake is famous for its natural landscape with rich biological diversity as well as outstanding practices in lake management and nature conservation issues in spite of intensive human activities. Lake Constance is a natural drinking water reservoir for over 4.5 million people.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Increase of organic food production by approximately 8 % in the Lake Constance region, growing demand of organic food by canteens, hospital kitchens, and restaurants;
- Successful introduction of a trade mark for regional and environment friendly food "Good produce from the Lake" and establishment of four consulting centres for cooks;
- Participation of more than 280 camping sites in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland in the ECOCAMPING initiative, a campaign originally created at Lake Constance;
- An increasing number of sustainable tourism initiatives;
- Certification of the City of Überlingen by Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) for land use planning as the first municipality in Europe;
- Transfer of the integrated management for local authorities from Lake Constance to other municipalities in Europe.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Restoration and protection of 60 ha riparian forest;
- Implementation of a regional Business and Biodiversity Initiative with active participation of at least 20 small and medium sized companies;
- Ensuring biodiversity and pollination by bees and insect friendly measures on a minimum of 400 ha land in the framework of the campaign "Flowering landscapes in the Lake Constance region";
- Implementation of measures for the protection of biodiversity on at least 100 fruit farms;
- Implementation of 15 bio-energy villages using 100 % energy from renewable sources;
- Keeping the international Lake Constance region GMO free;
- Development of a strategy for energy efficiency and carbon sink performance for agriculture and its implementation in at least 25 farms at Lake Constance.



Lake Constance Foundation

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Lake Trasimeno; Italy

The largest lake on the Italian peninsula is Italy's fourth largest lake. No major river flows directly into or out of Lake Trasimeno and the water level fluctuates significantly according to rainfall levels and the seasonal demands from the towns, villages, and farms near the shore. In the past, several attempts were made to get the fluctuating water levels under control. The draining of the lake was a frequently discussed topic in order to fight malaria and to gain new farmland. In 1898, a subterranean channel to the Caina torrent was built to protect the shore from inundations. In the traditional cultural landscapes corn, maize, and tobacco are cultivated. A lot of marsh plants such as White Water Lily, Common Marsh-bedstraw, Yellow Iris, Star Duckweed, and Spiny Naiad as well as Lakeshore Bulrush are found in the area. Many migratory birds rest there.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Realisation of the plan for sustainable energy use in the region as well as conducting energy saving actions in schools;
- Project to promote the implementation of ISO and EMAS environmental management systems;
- Participation in the EU CHAMP project for the elaboration of a sustainability management plan for the Trasimeno area;
- Implementation of the SlowTour project on sustainable tourism development in lake regions with participation of the European Living Lakes partners and the GNF; realisation of various studies on sustainable transport and sustainable tourism offers in the lake region;
- Implementation and maintenance of phenological gardens for monitoring as an informational base for stimulation of the interrelation climate-plants;
- Launching a project on beekeeping as an important measure for biodiversity conservation;
- Launching the creation of the Living Lakes Network Italy and its coordination till 2011;

- Promotion of the use of renewable energy sources for transportation and acquisition of one solar boat for the transportation of visitors;
- Environmental education activities for both local people and visitors to raise awareness for important lake issues;
- Hosting the 12th Living Lakes Conference dedicated to the topic "Linking Cultural Landscape Values to Lake Protection".

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Promotion of the Living Lakes Network Italy;
- Promoting the designation of Lake Trasimeno as a Ramsar Site;
- Setting up baselines for scientific research and environmental education;
- Conducting socio-economic assessment surveys on sustainable fishing, reforestation, wildlife, and protected areas with participation of local residents and fishermen;
- Development of eco-tourism in the region based on the results of the SlowTour project with strong participation of local people;
- Promotion of sustainable land use around the lake.



Provincia di Perugia

Provincia di Perugia

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Milicz Ponds; Poland

The Milicz Ponds were created in the 12th century by monks as carp ponds. Nowadays, more than 100 ponds represent the world's largest concatenation of ponds as the area spreads over 70 square kilometres. Many of the Milicz Ponds can hardly be distinguished from natural water bodies. 13 amphibian species, 250 bird species, of which 170 are local breeding birds, and 44 different mammals live there. In autumn, up to 16,000 Bean Geese pluck grass and weeds from the meadows. This paradise is threatened by the conversion of meadows to farmland and other intensive uses. Therefore, land purchase is an important conservation instrument in the area. Besides the Living Lakes partner organisation pro Natura, the Environmental Association Etna has been actively working in the area and will become a Living Lakes partner in 2012.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Active participation in the Partnership for the Barycz Valley (a LEADER Local Action Group);
- Protection and restoration of rare bird habitats in the Milicz Ponds nature reserve: over 30 ha of habitats improved, 300 nests of water birds saved from destruction by reed cutting;
- Improvement of almost 20 ha of valuable habitats during an international work camp in 2009;
- Organisation of international exchange in the field of environmental education and creation of the get grEEN – Environmental Education Network;
- Support of a Serbian action group on the Tamish river in preparation of the regional development strategy;
- Publication of the educational book "Po stawie pływa" (Swimming in the pond) presenting 22 species of water birds in form of poems for children;
- Organisation of educational bird watching trips and events being part of the Carp Days educational event.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Habitat improvements for birds, butterflies, and plants on at least 100 ha;
- Purchase and lease of land (goal 45 ha);
- Purchase and restoration of a property as a field base for conservation projects, energy demonstration centre, and environmental education;
- International exchange of experience in sustainable management of land for at least 30 professionals;
- Creation of a Green Team task force for habitat management;
- Creation of the first sustainable energy village in Poland;
- Publication of an e-guide for nature trips;
- Active participation in the Partnership for the Barycz Valley;
- Educational activities on nature and sustainable development issues for at least 200 local people and 1,300 participants from outside the area;
- Creation of an e-learning internet platform on conservation issues, publication of a series of nine popular articles about Living Lakes regions and related activities in a nation-wide journal.



Stowarzyszenie Ekologiczne "Etna"

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Polish Society of Wildlife Friends "pro Natura"

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Lake Balaton; Hungary

Lake Balaton is the largest freshwater body in Central Europe and habitat for 250 bird species. The lake and its environment accommodate a rich and diverse flora and fauna. As a result of continued efforts in environmental protection and nature conservation, a fairly rich diversity of species has been preserved. A large number of rare and protected plant species can be found in the area as well as strictly protected and rare animal species. There are 41 indigenous species of fish living in Lake Balaton and its tributaries. The Living Lakes partners on site cooperate closely with various stakeholders at the Lake including local governments and fishery. They pursue the implementation of an Environment Protection Fund and an integrated information system around Lake Balaton.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Habitat restoration in the Tapolca Basin – special pSCI area of conservation, Natura2000 site;
- Development of a management plan for Lake Balaton and its catchment area;
- Implementation of two nature conservation projects, the Balaton Partnership Programme and the Balaton Adaptation Project;
- Development of the RES PUBLICA project – an energy-programme for the Lake Balaton area;
- Elaboration of a Quality Assurance System for eco-, horse, and swimming tourism;
- Strengthening cooperation between NGOs, regional and national governments, the Upland National Park, and research institutes;
- Active participation in the European Capital of Nature and Biodiversity LIFE Project;
- Coordination and implementation of sewage treatment plants in small settlements;
- Development of environmental education workshops, board games for children, Water Day celebrations, and Green Week for Youth; installation of a moving outside eco-counselling tent.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Implementation of the national competition “Capital of Biodiversity”;
- Implementation of capacity building measures for municipalities in the field of an Integrated Environmental Management System (CHAMP project);
- Capacity building for schools through the Euronet 50/50 project, republishing the Book of Balaton for elementary school students;
- Dissemination of the Environment Protection Collaboration Model (ECM);
- Launch of two new EU projects: EUROSCAPES (Green management plans for European urban and peri-urban landscapes) and EULAKES (European Lakes Under Environmental Stressors);
- Support of sustainable sports (biking, hiking, and sailing) and eco-tourism;
- Construction of a new visitor centre in Tihany and implementation of further restoration measures in the Balaton Upland National Park.



Association of Civil Organisations of Lake Balaton

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Lake Balaton Development Coordination Agency

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Lake Võrtsjärv and Peipsi; Estonia and Russia

The large shallow lakes Võrtsjärv and Peipsi form an important part of the Baltic Sea basin and suffer from eutrophication due to high nutrient loads from agriculture and industrial wastewater. They are connected by the Emajõgi River. Võrtsjärv is the largest lake within the boundaries of Estonia and Lake Peipsi is the largest trans-boundary water body in Europe. Living Lakes partner organisations on site champion sustainable development in both lake areas in close cooperation with scientists from the Limnological Centre at Lake Võrtsjärv. They hosted and actively participated in various Living Lakes events, in the joint projects “Living Lakes Eastern Europe”, and “Sustainable Development in Lake Areas”.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Maintaining the natural and ecological system of the lakes via development of a nature conservation plan, scientific studies, and environmental monitoring programmes;
- Support of organic farmers’ efforts, conducting round tables for stakeholders at Lake Võrtsjärv twice a year;
- Creation of a tourism strategy and a development plan for the Lake Võrtsjärv region;
- Development and construction of the ecological tourism infrastructure, namely Lake Võrtsjärv Visitors Centre constructed out of ecological materials, bicycle roads, sign posts, and recreational areas;
- Renovation and restoration of historical and cultural sites, reintroduction of traditional activities;
- Creation of two new organisations: Lake Võrtsjärv Fisheries Development Agency and Lake Võrtsjärv Union with the objective of promoting alternative and small scale business sectors in the region;
- Construction of three traditional Kale boats to promote zero emission recreational activities and realisation of Kale boat excursions with more than 10,000 tourists on both lakes.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Restoration and protection of ecosystems:
 - Eel restocking as a contribution to the recovery of threatened species through natural regeneration;
 - Development and production of an ecological fertiliser beneficial for local people;
 - Regular studies and monitoring;
 - Management and restoration of breeding sites and bird areas; reed-bed management;
 - Restoration of fish-spawning areas;
- Environmental education activities, i.e. stakeholder seminars, nature camps, and outreach work;
- Studies on renewable energy sources, promotion of ecological construction materials and handicraft;
- Integrated water resources management;
- Development of international projects on renewable energies and lake management within the Living Lakes Network.



Estonian Fund for Nature (ELF)

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CTC Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation

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Lake Võrtsjärv Foundation

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Living Lakes

Members Africa





Lake Victoria; Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda

With a surface of 69,490 square kilometres, Lake Victoria is the world's largest tropical lake. A rapidly growing population, the clearance of natural vegetation along the shores, a booming fish-export industry, the introduction of exotic plant and animal species, the prolific growth of algae, and the dumping of untreated effluent affected the ecological health of Lake Victoria.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Implementation of an integrated model for sustainable development including commercial tree farming and social initiatives promoting community livelihood projects and civic driven child development: over one million trees planted in Gwasssi; establishment of aloe gardens, 53 tree nurseries; a secondary school constructed for girls' education.
- Establishment and training of 50 village environmental committees being custodians of their environment;
- Implementation of awareness raising measures by using the trans-regional radio channel Radio Lake Victoria (RLV) 92.1 FM;
- Conducting rehabilitation activities to combat soil erosion in Nyakanga valley and to stimulate the socio-economic community development: planting of 10,000 trees and training of 15 farmers in good land use practices;
- Construction of an environmental education centre with a broad offer of lectures and activities for the local population, especially students; education on ecological sanitation, rehabilitation of degraded land, as well as HIV/AIDS; over 60,000 visitors;
- Development and implementation of eco-tourism boat routes and promotion of handicrafts;
- Implementation of projects for sustainable development and poverty alleviation, namely establishment of an ice plant as a fish storage facility, introduction of solar lamps for night fishing, and installation of water purification systems for 800 pupils.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Capacity building of Nyakanga farmers on organic farming, participatory integrated community development, environment and natural resource management, as well as sanitation; continuation of rehabilitation and mitigation measures;
- Capacity building at the village level for the Lake Victoria basin community;
- Improvement of environmental education measures by incorporating essay writing, debates, drawing and fishing competitions;
- Spreading the RLV-network coverage to Nairobi and other regions;
- Searching for an opportunity to establish a TV frequency "Lake Victoria";
- Establishment of a system of OSIENALA buses for hire to provide the local population with affordable and reliable transport services;
- Implementation of Water-Energy-Hubs serving about 1,000 households;
- Construction of 1,000 ecosan toilets and ferro-cement tanks;
- Establishment of internet systems for communities;
- Planting of 3,000,000 seedlings within the Lake Victoria basin.



OSIENALA (Friends of Lake Victoria)

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Okavango Delta; Botswana

With its length of 1,600 kilometres, the Okavango River is the fourth longest river in Southern Africa and drains onto the surface of the Kalahira Desert to create the world famous Okavango Delta which has no outlet to the sea. The Okavango Delta is situated in Botswana, Southern Africa, and has a size of approximately 16,000 square kilometres. It is the world's largest inland delta and the principal tourist attraction and water source of Botswana also providing food and building materials to the local communities. The Living Lakes partner organisations on site have a long history of concern and active involvement in the area. The aims are the conservation of Botswana's rich biodiversity resources and the wilderness management.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Nomination of the Okavango Delta as a World Heritage Site: assistance to the government of Botswana including consultation and explanation of correspondent benefits and responsibilities;
- Awareness raising, publicity, and management of the Okavango Delta as a World Heritage Site;
- Intensification of cooperation on environmental issues with the local population;
- Implementation of the Botswana Indigenous Trees for Life Project and its replication in other parts of Ngamiland.

WILDERNESS
FOUNDATION SOUTH AFRICA

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Lake St. Lucia; South Africa

Lake St. Lucia lies in the centre of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, the oldest protected area in Africa. It is surrounded by massive vegetated dunes on the eastern shores. About 530 bird species are recorded at Lake St. Lucia. The range of other animals is equally diverse, among them the Leatherback Turtle, the Nile Crocodile, the African Python, and the Hippopotamus. In 1999, UNESCO recognised the Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park as a World Heritage Site thus acknowledging the universal value of this unique landscape.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Establishment of a long term Rare and Endemic Inventory and Research programme;
- Consolidation of existing and potential conservation areas surrounding the World Heritage Area on to the Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park to effectively organise the ecosystem functioning under a single integrated management framework;
- Development and implementation of a conservation based community development and entrepreneurship programme in all rural communities neighbouring the lake and the surrounding areas;
- Development of the Trees for Life project and its introduction into 35 communities, expanding the concept to Recycling, Food and Bikes for Life;
- Growing of 116,800 trees by 559 community members worth 70,000 euros; of these trees, 93,471 were planted in local forest restoration projects;
- Development and implementation of a comprehensive environmental education and awareness programme for “treepreneurs”; 329 local treepreneurs rewarded through 37 educational trips.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Providing ongoing ad hoc support for the consolidation of existing and potential conservation areas surrounding the World Heritage Area on to the Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park;
- Development and implementation of benchmark Community Ecosystem Based Adaptation (CEBA) initiatives in the KwaJobe and greater Dukuduku communities;
- Development and implementation of benchmark Green Leadership initiatives anchored in the Trust’s Living Lakes based custodianship of Lake St. Lucia.



Wildlands Conservation Trust

www.wildlands.co.za ecopart@iafrica.com



The Wilderness Foundation

www.wildernessfoundation.org.za info@sa.wild.org

Living Lakes

Members Asia & Oceania





Dead Sea; Israel, Jordan, and Palestine

The Dead Sea is located 417 m below sea level. Its shores are the lowest lying natural spots of the world. Apart from algae and bacteria occurring in some estuaries aside, the Dead Sea is biologically dead. Its salt content is ten times higher than that of sea water. Its “over-salinity” is attributable to the salt-laden inflow rivers, to the absence of an out-flow, and to the huge amounts of water evaporating under fiery sun. The Dead Sea is extremely threatened due to extensive water withdrawal from the lake and the Jordan River for agriculture, industry, and big cities’ population needs. The Jordan River once carried an average of 1.3 billion cubic metre of fresh water to the Dead Sea annually. Today this figure has been reduced to just 20–30 million cubic metres per year due to the diversion of 98 % of the river’s flow by Israel, Jordan, and Syria. The Dead Sea level continues to decline by more than a metre a year.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Launching an awareness campaign to rehabilitate the Lower Jordan River resulted in the creation of a Jordan River and Dead Sea Mayors network;
- Conducting a comprehensive research study to identify the means for water transfer to the Jordan River and motivating the political will to make it happen. The Israeli Minister for Regional Cooperation and the Israeli Minister for Environmental Protection publicly declared their commitment to the rehabilitation of the Lower Jordan River;
- Independent research study on the proposed Red Sea Dead Sea Canal project and its environmental impact as well as negotiations and broad outreach work on rehabilitation alternatives;
- Establishment of the Good Water Neighbours (GWN) project to raise awareness of the shared water problems, growing from 11 to 25 communities throughout Israel, Palestine, and Jordan;
- Feasibility Study on sustainable tourism opportunities in the Jordan River Peace Park;

- Launch of a new GWN component Community Geographic Information System (CGIS) to create environmental hazard maps;
- Installation of two dry compost toilets with GNF support in the Ein Gedi EcoCenter, promoting awareness on the importance of water conservation;
- Promotion of eco-tourism: thousands of Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli residents undertaking “Neighbour’s Path” tours around the Dead Sea.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Development of a strategic action plan based on local, national, and international interests;
- Ensuring a minimum of 400 million cubic metres of non-contaminated water per year for the Jordan River to restore the ecosystem functions of the river;
- Continuation of the campaign “Save the Dead Sea” for a common vision for the future of the region;
- Promoting sustainable tourism and establishment of the Jordan River Peace Park as a pass free zone;
- National education campaigns to advance policy opportunities identified in FoEME’s economic study and its study of the benefits of a rehabilitated Jordan River;
- Publishing a regional tourism master plan for the Lower Jordan River;
- Creation of a Jordan River Council involving municipal, business, faith-based, environmental, and social stakeholders;
- Realisation of a study on best practices in international basin commissions and the publication of a model Jordan River Basin Commission.





Lake Paliastomi; Georgia

Lake Paliastomi is the largest of over 40 lakes in the ecologically important and fragile Kolkheti Wetland complex in Georgia. The wetland area harbours a lot of waterfowl, rare endemic plants, and many water-associated amphibians, reptiles, and mammals. High salinity and over-fishing, hunting, and lacking regulations are the biggest problems which strongly influence the ecological situation at the lake.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Including Lake Paliastomi in national and international protection programmes;
- Environmental education for youth and adults at the lake;
- Implementation of the Living Lakes Eastern Europe project;
- Publishing brochures, posters, and other information in order to inform the public about the lake as an important ecosystem;
- Developing cooperation between regional and national NGOs, the government, the local population, and the business sector;
- Supporting and promoting sustainable fisheries, responsible logging, and organic agriculture.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Restoration of the lake ecosystem and rehabilitation of its former importance for rare valuable fish species;
- Improvement of the Paliastomi Management Plan;
- Support of the small scale business sector;
- Raising awareness on environmental issues among local people and increasing their participation in decision making processes;
- Enhancing communication among stakeholders;
- Establishment of an ecological information and education centre.



Lake Uluabat; Turkey

Lake Uluabat has the most extensive white water lily beds in Turkey and is one of the breeding sites for the endangered Pygmy Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*). The lake water is used to irrigate surrounding fields and cultivations. Problems arise because of the introduction of untreated industrial and communal wastewater, pesticides and fertilisers, over-fishing, and dams. Lake Uluabat is one of thirteen Ramsar Sites in Turkey. WWF-Turkey works on a management plan for the conservation of 370,000 ha of wetlands. 21 pilot projects on modern irrigation methods on a total area of 27 ha have been implemented, and more than 1,500 farmers have been trained on agricultural water saving methods resulting in an approximate increase of 60 % in efficiency in water, energy and fertiliser usage, manpower and water saving.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Important Bird Areas (IBA) Research in Turkey;
- Establishment of a national wetlands commission and development of a national wetlands strategy for 2003–2008;
- Cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Forest for the declaration of 13 Ramsar Sites in Turkey as well as the declaration of Salt Lake Specially Protected Area of 750,000 ha;
- Preparation of the first participatory wetland management plan in Turkey (Uluabat Lake Management Plan) as well as elaboration of five further management plans;
- Development of the first integrated river basin management process in the Konya Basin as well as the first on-line water course in Turkey;
- Publishing and distribution of specialised literature;
- Guiding water and agriculture policies via campaigns to increase awareness amongst the public as well as relevant government institutions on water.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Populations of green and loggerhead turtles in Çıralı and Akyatan are stable or higher than in 2008; the National Marine Turtle Action Plan is completed, and pilot work with local fishermen has started;
- Completion of the National Leopard Action Plan;
- Completion of a national protected areas gap analysis and declaration of at least ten new protected areas covering a total of 250,000 ha;
- Implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas and adoption of the new Framework Law on Nature Conservation by the Parliament;
- Implementation of management plans and development of the national wetlands committee strategy;
- Development of a national climate adaptation plan; Identifying a forest fire strategy for Turkey taking climate change into account;
- Reduction of agricultural water consumption, introduction of water saving irrigation systems, particularly for growing “thirsty crops”;
- Increasing the number of fishermen using environmentally appropriate methods and the number of retailers selling sustainably produced fish and seafood;
- Introduction of the One Planet Living “ecological footprint” and “market transformation” concepts: at least three companies are aware of the principles and interested in their implementation, at least ten offices have become “Green Offices” in Turkey;
- The wide use of a WWF Footprint Calculator.



WWF Turkey

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Tengiz and Korgalzhynski Lakes; Kazakhstan

These steppe lakes form unique habitats for various species. The lakes Tengiz and Korgalzhynski are located in Kazakhstan, a country that borders China and Russia. Lake Tengiz is a salty lake. Rare species such as the Saiga Antelope, the Steppe Eagle, the Demoiselle Crane, and the Steppe Wolf live in the steppes around the lake. The islands in Tengiz host 500 nesting pairs of the Dalmatian Pelican, a threatened species worldwide, up to 50,000 pairs of the Greater Flamingo, and 1,300 pairs of the Great Black-headed Gull. Many Siberian nesting birds moult or rest there before migrating to the Caspian Sea, the Persian Gulf, and Western Europe. Some continue to the Mediterranean Basin or Africa. In July 2008, the Naurzum State Reserve and Korgalzhyn State Reserve became UNESCO World Heritage sites. On the territory of the Korgalzhyn reserve, eco-tourism started its development quite recently. However, the number of tourists is growing and the local Living Lakes partner develops corresponding ecological offers. The experts annually expect more than 1,500 people using eco routes.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Monitoring of different fauna and habitat types and hydrological lakes research;
- Establishment of new ranger cordons to secure the territory protection;
- Reconstruction of two hydrological posts: one on the territory of the reserve, another in the Korgalzhyn village on the Nura river; set-up of a computer-aided weather station;
- Opening of a modern visitor centre in the Korgalzhyn State Reserve with environmental education programmes for the local population;
- Establishment of ecological clubs, of the “Flamingo Festival” and other annual educational events;

- Implementation of projects to introduce environmentally friendly land degradation control techniques and to promote traditional land use and mobile cattle breeding around the Korgalzhyn village as well as in Nurinskiy rayon;
- Establishment of four eco-tourism routes on the territory of the Korgalzhynski Nature Reserve and building of an observation cabin near the lake equipped with optical instruments and bird guides;
- Development of two ecological routes with five guest houses around the Nature Reserve as a tool for reducing pressure on the reserve as well as an alternative source of income for the local population.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Habitat management including monitoring of optimal water level and fire protection;
- Wildlife management via restoration of dams serving as watering places for the Saiga Antelope and thousands of waterfowl; regular patrolling of the territory by wildlife protection services;
- Scientific research;
- Environmental education via campaigns, festivals, eco-clubs, excursions and workshops;
- Creation of an informational coordination centre to increase the number of guest houses on eco-routes and organise a series of training workshops for hosts and guides.



Korgalzhyn State Nature Reserve

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Lake Hovsgol; Mongolia

Also called Lake Khuvsgul, Chöwsgöl Nuur or Khövsgöl Nuur, the lake is one of the world's ancient lakes, more than 2 million years old. Four islands, partly wooded and partly rocky, are located in the lake. Those are important breeding places for numerous bird species. Lake Hovsgol is surrounded by larch forests, mountain ranges and mountain chains. The larch forests are threatened by illegal logging and forest fires. Increased soil temperatures due to climate change as well as overgrazing of the soils are responsible for the thawing of permafrost soils. An increase in livestock population leads to soil degradation, the important vegetative cover is missing to keep down the soil temperature and control evaporation. The long tradition of nomadic families is threatened by increasing desertification of the landscape.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Comprehensive research in partnership with ten academic and scientific institutions, monitoring and management programmes to ensure sustainable Lake Hovsgol National Park management;
- Training of 20 staff members of the park administration to integrate all management plans and provide compatible policies and practices;
- Create a business, funding and administrative multi-year strategy including park operation, staffing and infrastructure as well as revenues;
- Providing five different training courses on management practices to the park staff and the staff at the Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism;
- Informing 2,500 area residents and park visitors annually through a comprehensive environmental education programme;
- Reaching 5,000 park visitors by creating information stations and websites to provide park maps, information, commercial services and permits in the park; installation of interpretive and educational signs in strategic locations in the park;
- Training of 50 to 100 local residents in quality eco-tourism services and promotion of local goods;
- Re-establishment of the traditional Morin Ortoo System of horse terminals jointly with 20-25 nomadic families, where visitors can rent and exchange horses for rest and feed on long trails through the park;
- Development of training material workshops for 30 operators of traditional nomadic camps "Ger Camps" in order to reach a common standard meeting the requirements of eco-tourism;
- Introducing Hovsgol products from local families at international tourism fairs;
- Preparing the UNESCO world heritage site application for submission and expanding the sister park relationship to European National Parks.





Lakes Ulaan, Airag, Khyargas, and Angir-Nuden Mondochei; Mongolia

Under the coordination of the NGO United Movement of Mongolian Rivers and Lakes (UMMRL), the four lakes became members of the Living Lakes Network. These areas have been seriously damaged by human activities. The lakes are home to various rare species such as the almatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), the White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) or the Swan Goose (*Anser cygnoides*). Besides various educational activities, UMMRL takes care of the promotion of nature conservation issues in the Mongolian legislation.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Increase of the water level of the Onggi river in the Khangai mountain by two to four times after the implementation of the special headwater programme;
- Development of an eco-book for 22,000 children from seven villages along the Onggi River, which now could reach the Ulaan Lake for the first time for the last three years;
- Planting of 11,000 trees by children within the frame of the “Plant Green Grove” programme;
- Trainings on environmental protection for 20,000 local participants; organisation of common campaigns for nature conservation;
- Elaboration of a national plan prohibiting mineral resource exploration and mining in Mongolian regions with sensitive eco systems (river basins and forests) and its introduction to 6,000 citizens; establishment of a lobby-group in the Mongolian Parliament;
- Establishment of the first eco-gardens for ten vulnerable and low-income families in Khuder Village and promotion of ecological agriculture.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Realisation of environmental education programmes for school children and adult education programmes on environmental legislation with the participation of 20,000 children and adults from seven villages along the Onggi river;
- Promotion of ecological agriculture and organic food programmes by active participation of the local population; promotion of ecological tourism;
- Implementation of the law on prohibition of mineral resource exploration and mining in the river head, river basin areas, and forests.



United Movement of Mongolian Rivers and Lakes (UMMRL)

www.rivermovements.org rivermovements@gmail.com



Lake Uvs; Mongolia

The largest saline lake in Mongolia forms unique wetlands. With its reed beds and freshwater river deltas, it provides significant nesting and resting areas for numerous migratory species. In the areas of desert and mountain around the lake rare animals such as Mongolian Gerbil (*Meriones unguiculatus*), threatened Snow Leopard (*Panthera uncial*), Wild Sheep as well as the Asiatic Ibex (*Capra sibirica*) are found. Since 1997, the Uvs-Nuur-Basin is recognised as a UNESCO biosphere reserve.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Development and implementation of a waste management system for the Uvs province; training for 400 people and qualification of 40 waste drivers;
- Protection of water sources in Turgen, Dawst, Naranbulag, Ulaangom soums, Howd soum, and Baruunturuun soum and their furnishing according to the National Programme “Struggling against Desertification”;
- Planning measures to decrease the desert around the places of Uvs Lake;
- Establishment of a member NGO in the Uvs province;
- Awareness raising, environmental education and outreach work;
- Reforestation of 10 ha of land in Undurkhangai soum and building of a greenhouse to continue reforestation activities.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Development of innovative solutions to prevent desertification;
- Scientific research and monitoring on fauna and flora in cooperation with scientific institutes for the protection of the Lake Uvs;
- Compilation of a new list of rare plant species;
- Replanting five hectares of native forest around the lake;
- Reviewing the functioning of tourist camps around the lakes Uvs, Hyargas, and Airag in terms of their sustainability;
- Increased cooperation with educational and environmental institutes as well as regional NGOs and governments; active participation in the council of environmental NGOs of the Uvs Province;
- Implementation of energy supply for livestock herders to decrease poverty;
- Improvement of the drinking water supply for communities around the lake.



Uvs Green Movement
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Lake Baikal; Russia

Lake Baikal is the deepest and oldest lake with the highest species diversity in the world. About 2,500 different species of animals and 1,000 plants are recorded. In the Siberian taiga, in the pinewoods and larch woods, one can find bears, wolves, lynxes and elks. The Baikal Seal (*Pusa sibirica*) is a unique kind of seal living exclusively in fresh water. There are also other endemic species – an example is the Golomyanka, a scale-less transparent fish possessing no swim bladder. The Living Lakes partner organisations GRAN and FIRN work on the development of strategies for ecological tourism and nature conservation issues.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Development and implementation of criteria for sustainable tourism development and establishment of the first Ecotourism Association of Buryatia (BETA);
- Organisation of two workshops on sustainable tourism practices in Germany for decision makers and environmental activists from Buryatia;
- Development of the first eco-tourism route, establishment of two environmental visitor centres in the villages of Orlik and Sorok; inauguration of an ecological summer hotel as well as modification of five houses into Bed & Breakfast accommodations;
- Creation of a visitor centre in the Ust-Barguzin settlement and a travelling exhibition to educate the public on unique Baikal seals (Nerpa) protection;
- Enhancing cooperation between NGOs, national parks, local and national governments and businesses;
- Implementation of a wide range of public awareness activities and involvement of local population in participation and decision-making processes via eco-forums, workshops, contests, and anti-waste campaigns; annual celebration of the “Day of Baikal”;
- Integration of IT technologies into environmental activities within the project “Common Swallow”.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Building broad social partnerships for the establishment of Lake Baikal as a model region for sustainable development;
- Consolidation of the Ecotourism Association of Buryatia BETA and further development of eco-tourism offers in the Oka and Tunka regions;
- Development of concepts for the first ecological camping sites in Buryatia;
- Creation of a Russian-Chinese “Crane Area” for cranes monitoring and protection;
- Start of the “Every Drop Matters – Lake Baikal” project on waste treatment and recycling;
- Research on opportunities for the use of renewable energy sources in the Baikal region;
- Continuation of the international exchange programme “Buryatia – Osnabrück” and organisation of an international summer eco-school for students from Germany and Buryatia;
- Environmental education programmes and campaigns for local people to increase their participation in environmental issues.



Club FIRN

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Baikal Information Center “GRAN”

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Poyang Lake; China

Poyang-hu is the largest freshwater lake in China. Its flood plain is subject to massive changes in water level. In the dry season, the size of the lake shrinks to less than 1,000 square kilometres, leaving a complex of wetlands and mudflats which attracts up to half a million waterfowl, among them remarkable species such as the Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*). There are practically no purification treatment plants for the local sewage water and therefore the eutrophication of the water increases continuously. Negative impacts also originate from toxic heavy metals pollution from copper mines. 2010 marked a new era for the region of Poyang Lake: the Chinese government adopted the plan of the "Eco-economic Zone" around Poyang Lake as a national strategy.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Implementation of the modified Grameen Bank (a microfinance organisation and community development bank) micro-debt model for poverty alleviation;
- Promotion of cooperations between the Chinese government and NGOs in order to develop a village-level-planning for poverty alleviation and implementation of correspondent plans in Dongfeng, Qiutian and Shibei Villages of Ningdu County in the Jiangxi Province;
- Restoration of the pond in the Jinjialong Village strongly polluted by domestic sewage through the creation of a constructed wetland for water purification;
- Implementation of projects creating new sustainable job opportunities for women in grape cultivation resulting in the cultivation of over two hectares of plants;
- Creation and promotion of the Living Lakes Network China in close cooperation with the GNF and hosting the 11th Living Lakes Conference in 2006.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Promotion and enlargement of the Living Lakes Network China to at least 15 member organisations by 2015;
- Conducting environmental education and awareness raising campaigns;
- Enhancing the Green Commuting Project on climate change and carbon footprint;
- Development of a volunteer scheme for MRLSD;
- Hosting national and international training courses on the topic of regional sustainable development, poverty alleviation, and environmental-friendly agriculture;
- Improving and setting up further demonstration sites for better protection of wetland ecosystems.



MRLSD – Promotion Association for Mountain-River-Lake Regional Sustainable Development

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Lake Biwa; Japan

Lake Biwa evolved from a tiny lake formed approximately 4 million years ago and is one of the oldest among our Living Lakes. It became a designated wetland of the Ramsar Convention in 1993 as an important relay point for migratory birds. The biodiversity of this region is very rich: about 500 species of plants and 500 species of animals have been recorded. More than 400 brooks and rivers flow into Lake Biwa. In recent years, more than 30 million people visited the Lake area every year. Lake Biwa water is used as drinking water for 14 million people and for irrigation purposes. Explosive growth of population, trade, and industry within the last 60 years caused drastic changes in the lake's ecosystem. Our partner, the International Lake Environment Committee Foundation (ILEC), works actively on sustainable development schemes for the benefit of the local people as well as the fauna and flora of the Lake Biwa region.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Promotion of Integrated Lake Basin Management (ILBM) through the implementation of three extensive pilot projects;
- Organisation of seven international capacity building training courses on environmental education and lake basin management;
- Organisation of three World Lake Conferences, one international Consultative Meeting on Water and Wastewater Management as well as the World Lake Student Conference.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Elaboration of an action plan and new strategies for sustainable lake management;
- Continuous of dissemination of the ILBM-approach worldwide;
- Organisation of at least two World Lake Conferences as well as further international awareness raising events.



International Lake Environment Committee Foundation (ILEC)
& Kosho-Net

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Tonle Sap Lake (Great Lake); Cambodia

The largest freshwater lake in South East Asia is at the same time one of the most productive inland fisheries in the world. The lake is connected to the Mekong River through the 100 kilometres long Tonle Sap channel. During the rainy season from mid-May to October, the water level of the Mekong River is four times higher than in the dry months. Due to this unique natural phenomenon the lake is very rich in freshwater fish. In the floodplains rice has been cultivated for centuries. Lake Tonle Sap forms a unique eco-system with the rivers Mekong, Tonle Sap, and Bassac. Over-fishing, untreated industrial sewage, and dam building projects threaten the natural balance of the region. In 1997, Tonle Sap was nominated as a UNESCO biosphere reserve (TSBR) encompassing the whole lake. The fisheries sector is considered to be a key contribution to the livelihoods of Cambodian rural poor in terms of food security, nutrition, and employment for income generation.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Strengthening the fishermen network and NGO coalition for fisheries protection and conservation in the three main regions Tonle Sap, Mekong, and Coastal;
- Supporting initiatives in promoting rights and democratic development to women and youths;
- Conducting six regional women's forums to encourage women in leadership roles, and discuss their contributions to fisheries resource protection with 420 participants;
- 85 trainings on good governance provided to 725 people, 45 % women;
- Conducting 81 forums on fishery resources for 4,000 stakeholders;
- Establishment of 30 community based organisations with 1,500 members;
- Formation of 50 new self-help groups for local people within communities;
- Organisation of regional workshops to disseminate knowledge on climate change and adaptation to relevant stakeholders: 200 participants, among them 80 women and 30 young people;
- Construction of a sustainable fish farm facility;
- Concept development for ecological tourism at the lake;
- Facilitating meetings on climate change and mitigation on village, community, and provincial level.



Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT)
www.fact.org.kh fact@online.com.kh



Laguna de Bay; Philippines

Laguna de Bay is the largest inland water body in the Philippines and an indispensable source of water for fishing, irrigation, power supply, recreation, and navigation suffering from siltation and pollution from domestic, agricultural, and industrial waste. 8 million people live around the lake. In 1993, the Laguna Lake Development Authority presented a plan for a controlled economic and social development of the region.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Launching the sachet recovery project – LiteRRRacy Programme;
- Organisation of the workshop “Laguna De Bay Mapping of Environment-Related Initiatives – A Workshop to Plan for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies”;
- Realisation of forum series “Wetlands Caravan” focused on local environmental issues;
- Implementation of the educational programme Youth in Action for Lake Conservation in five towns in the Laguna de Bay basin;
- Conducting Ecological Youth Camps for Laguna de Bay with over 160 participants and carrying out of five CLEAR Youth Network Congresses;
- Spearheading a two-days Bike Caravan in 2008 around Laguna de Bay;
- Launching the Community Lake Monitoring Network to harness the youth in providing alternative monitoring data on water quality of Laguna de Bay;
- Regular celebration of World Wetlands Days as well as International Days of Biodiversity involving community members, politicians, and farmer associations;
- Hosting three Learning Cross-Visits of Living Lakes partner organisations;
- Hosting the 5th Living Lakes Conference dedicated to Sustainable Development of Densely Populated Lake Regions in 2005.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Reducing the pollution from domestic sources;
- Creative Public Awareness programme on solid waste management and sound sanitation practices; Conduction of ecological camps as well as community lake forums;
- Conducting annual CLEAR Youth Network Congresses;
- Promotion of the implementation of school- or village-based solid waste management projects;
- Adoption of water bodies for protection and rehabilitation by schools or communities.



Conservation of Laguna de Bay's Environment and Resources (CLEAR)
Tripartite Partnership of:



Laguna Lake Development Authority
www.llda.gov.ph ogm@llda.gov.ph



Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands
www.psdn.org.ph/wetlands or /clear amym@psdn.org.ph



Unilever Philippines
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Lake Jempang and Mahakam Wetlands; Indonesia

The Mahakam Area is part of East Kalimantan, where wilderness and jungle prevail. It includes three major and several minor lakes, peat and freshwater swamps and major tributaries. The area hosts the symbol species of East Kalimantan, the critically endangered Irrawaddy Dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*) living in fresh, brackish and salt water. Other species inhabiting the area are endangered mammals such as Proboscis Monkeys (*Nasalis larvatus*), the Wild Banteng (*Bos javanicus*), and Crocodiles (*Crocodylus siamensis* and *Tomistoma schlegeli*).

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Establishment of a protected area in a primary dolphin habitat including important fish spawning habitat based on several biodiversity as well as socio-economic surveys;
- Development of a monitoring plan and formation of a monitoring team for the protected area;
- Establishment of environmental education courses at 25 high schools and 30 elementary schools, development of necessary materials;
- Organisation of an international workshop on protected river areas in Samarinda in 2009.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Reforestation of critical land with community participation;
- Identification and protection of high conservation value forest areas;
- Establishment of a stakeholder management body in dolphin protected areas;
- Achieving Ramsar status for Lake Jempang;
- Promotion of green energy for local households;
- Support of women and fishermen in producing and selling of products from sustainable aquaculture (fish & chips);
- Awareness raising campaigns: student field trips, environmental education centre, outreach work.



Yayasan Konservasi (YK) RASI – Conservation Foundation for Rare Aquatic Species of Indonesia

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Deh Akro-II Wetlands Complex; Pakistan

The wetlands complex is a unique example of a desert wetland ecosystem that hosts a variety of rare and endangered wildlife species. It comprises 36 lakes and a complex of four major habitat types, namely desert, wetland, marsh, and agricultural lands. These lakes cover an area of about 5,000 ha and are formed in inter dune valleys. Deh Akro-II wetlands are home to more than 18 species of mammals, 16 species of reptiles, 14 species of fish, and 101 different birds. It regularly supports over 20,000 waterfowls. Also a small population of Marsh Crocodiles (*Crocodylus palustris*) is found there. The wetland is an important feeding and spawning ground for several indigenous fish species.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Establishment of the Wetland Protection Committee for a regular check of potential threats to the wetlands biodiversity and rehabilitation plans;
- Replanting activities on five hectares in wetland sites involving 300 people from local communities;
- Capacity building workshops for local stakeholders on community based wetland management and sustainable natural resource management;
- Organisation of two nature camps on wetland rehabilitation involving students and teachers of local schools; development of informational material to raise awareness on environmental sustainability.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Creation of small mounds in the wetlands to provide basking and breeding places to waterfowls and crocodiles;
- Construction of three and reparation of two watching towers for observing the sanctuary's wildlife;
- Forming of one female and one male local community based organization (CBO) to work for the protection of threatened species and conservation of natural resources;
- Introduction of drip irrigation practices encouraging the cultivation of vegetables and fruit plants to ensure the food security of local communities;
- Organisation of five nature camps on wetland sustainability and rehabilitation;
- Developing a five-year conservation plan of wetland-protection and biodiversity.



SANGAT Development Foundation (SANGAT)

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Lake Pulicat; India

The second largest brackish water eco-system on the East Coast of India is situated 60 kilometres to the North of the Chennai City. Lake Pulicat has a rich fish diversity, mostly marine species, some truly brackish water, and a few freshwater species. For numerous birds, it is an important stopover on migration routes. Pollution from pesticides, sewage, agricultural chemicals, and industrial effluents are gradually becoming the major threats. In 2010, the GNF declared Lake Pulicat the Threatened Lake of the Year.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Over 1,000 mangroves were replanted in degraded areas, eight model nurseries were created;
- Establishment of continuous monitoring of mangroves, fish, insects, and plants living in mangrove ecosystems;
- Development and implementation of a kitchen gardening system for 75 local families;
- Conducting health medical camps in two villages and treatment for 126 people; conducting veterinary camps;
- Development of an eco-tourism programme for local communities;
- Promotion of sustainable fishing practices;
- Environmental education for children and adults on mangroves, climate issues, and waste disposal.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Restoration of 8,000 mangroves and 5,000 multi-purpose trees and monitoring of mangrove areas, creation of two Mangrove Watch Groups;
- Creation of new water channels in Lake Pulicat to help the natural regeneration of mangroves and juvenile fish;
- Creation of new income opportunities for local people through kitchen gardening programmes (50 households), household horticulture (20 households), and employment in nurseries (2 villages);
- Bettering sanitation conditions in 50 households;
- Upscale environment education in schools through demonstration programmes in 15 schools with about 10,000 students and their parents;
- Establishment of an Environment Centre at the Pulicat School;
- Cooperation with wetlands and coastal networks and other groups for mangrove restoration in India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Cambodia; active involvement of local communities into restoration activities.





Wular Lake; India

The largest freshwater lake in India situated in the Kashmir Valley acts as a huge absorption basin for annual floodwater. The lake and its surrounding extensive marshes have an important natural wildlife. The incoming rivers bring hundreds of tons of silt into the lake every year. This rampant siltation and the human encroachments have devastating effects on the lake.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Motivation and support of people in the catchment area of Wular Lake to shift from farming to handi-craft sector which has reduced the flow of fertiliser into the lake to a greater extent;
- Promotion of eco-tourism activities and groups visiting the lake;
- Organisation of an annual cleaning drive in and around the lake with the participation of students and volunteers;
- Continuous organisation of awareness raising programmes to sensitise the communities around the lake.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Extensive work on the research of ecological economics of the Wular Lake;
- Expanding the organisation staff to ten members to carry out the research work;
- Organisation of an international workshop on lake protection;
- Conducting further awareness raising campaigns for the local population.



South Asian Voluntary Association of Environmentalists (SAVE)
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Lake Bolgoda; Sri Lanka

Lake Bolgoda is situated in the South West of Sri Lanka, 19 kilometres from Colombo. The lake consists of two major water bodies and covers 374 square kilometres partly fresh and brackish water. It is one of the biggest sources of fresh water within the western district of Sri Lanka. Its natural beauty has a great potential for development, tourism and fisheries in an area bordering Colombo, but it is gravely threatened by industrial pollution. To improve the situation, EMACE, the Living Lakes partner on site, is carrying out conservation activities to clean up the lake and works closely with the local community to develop interest for nature conservation issues.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Declaration of Lake Bolgoda as a national environmentally protected area;
- Restoration of 11 ha of mangroves as well as re-planting of 17 ha with timber wood and sustenance trees;
- Construction of a permanent environmental education centre;
- Implementation of micro-financing projects, self-employment programme for 27 women, distribution of 67 sustainable fishing gear sets to the inland fishermen as well as training of 60 farmers on organic farming methods;
- Setting up of inland fishery societies for 67 fishermen;
- Introduction of two Green Filter Systems;
- Providing sanitation facilities for five schools with approximately 3,760 students and provision of eight free medical camps for people of low income groups.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Continuation of mangroves restoration and their protection with community participation;
- Reforestation of the vulnerable Nuwara Eliya District area to mitigate soil erosion and landslides;
- Enforcement of the legal system by building up a pressure group to protect mangroves, fauna, and flora;
- Implementation of two new visitors centres;
- Introduction of environmentally friendly lamps for night fishing as well as introduction of sustainable breeding methods in three areas of the region;
- Introduction of wetland craft for women of low income groups;
- Building up of a school network in environmental education;
- Awareness raising on sustainable fishing methods and organic farming among farmers, inland fishermen, and other community members reaching approximately 200 people.



EMACE Foundation of Sri Lanka

www.emacesrilanka.com or www.bolgodalakesrilanka.com
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Lakes Madampa and Maduganga; Sri Lanka

Twin lakes connected by a narrow channel of three kilometres in length forming one of the most beautiful and picturesque landscapes in Sri Lanka. According to a study conducted by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2000, Maduganga Lake is one of the most unique biodiversity spots worldwide including different vegetation types such as the predominating mangroves and marshlands. Due to the broad variety of plants, a large number of invertebrates, reptiles, birds, amphibians, and mammals can be found around Lakes Maduganga and Madampa. Nagenahiru Foundation is the local partner organisation within the Living Lakes Network concentrating its work on mangrove restoration, environmental education, and community involvement.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Establishment of a permanent dialogue on wetlands values between NGOs, communities, and state organisations;
- Declaration of Madampa and Maduganga wetlands as wild life sanctuaries under the Flora and Fauna Act of Sri Lanka;
- Restoration of approximately 15 ha of mangrove forests affected by the tsunami in 2004;
- Establishment of an environmental education centre and implementation of awareness raising activities with the participation of over 1,000 people annually;
- Introduction of LED and CFL lamps replacing kerosene lamps for night fishing for 138 fishermen;
- Introduction of a wetland craft concept enhancing socio-economic living standards of women in rural areas;
- Realisation of two international workshops on best practices for the Living Lakes partner in Asia.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Educational and awareness raising programmes; establishment of a youth environmental campground;
- Development of an ecotourism development plan for the region together with the national government;
- Expansion of reforestation activities, conducting a research study on species native to the wetland system;
- Introduction of solar lamp systems for fishermen families in post conflict areas in Sri Lanka affected by the 30 years civil war.



Nagenahiru Foundation – Center for Conservation of
Lakes and Wetlands

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Wilson Inlet; Australia

Wilson Inlet is a seasonally closed estuary on the southern coast of Western Australia. A sand bar isolates the estuary from the Southern Ocean for about half of the year. The natural vegetation is diverse and complex due to a range of soil and climatic conditions. Before it was cleared for agriculture, much of the low-rainfall northern half of the catchment was Jarrah forest and a variety of open woodlands and shrubs in sandy, swampy soils. The major threat to Wilson Inlet is eutrophication, with the nutrient enrichment originating from human activities in rural and urban areas.

Achievements 2005 – 2011

- Establishment of eco-job programmes for long-term unemployed as well as disabled people focusing on enhancing practical skills in environmental tourism, seed collection, organic horticulture, and reforestation techniques: over 100 people increased their skills, 135,000 trees were planted, and over 20,000 hours environmental restoration work were completed;
- Education of over 300 landholders about native tree decline and their role in protecting iconic trees at risk of or suffering from decline;
- Assistance to the Great Gardens and Heavenly Hectares community education programme by coordination of eight Property Planning Courses, five Pasture Field Days, and 13 Great Gardens Workshops with the participation of over 1,000 householders and rural landholders;
- Organisation of nationally accredited short courses in home sustainability assessment in 2008 and 2009 training people to undertake sustainability assessments of energy, water, waste, and transport;

- Wetland catchment planning and implementation of catchment plans, water quality assessments;
- Implementation of environmental community art projects and the Centre for Sustainable Living programme;
- Publishing the Green Skills 20th Anniversary Book.

Goals 2012 – 2017

- Promotion and demonstration of sustainability in action through the creation of environmentally friendly employment opportunities, and the provision of training;
- Assisting in the provision of relief of poverty, sickness, suffering, and distress for disadvantaged or unemployed persons within Western Australia;
- Providing high quality environmental training and research, and engagement in practical ecologically sound and socially responsible projects;
- Continuous coordination of eco-restoration projects, eco-tourism, and eco-education programmes in the Wilson Inlet catchment and south coast region of Western Australia;
- Coordination and organisation of a regional Living Lakes Conference based at the Centre for Sustainable Living focusing on migratory shorebird conservation.



Green Skills

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CANADA



CHINA

Living Lakes National and Multinational Networks

Since its establishment in 1998, the Living Lakes Network has been continuously growing. Global Nature Fund was not able to respectively increase the resources for the network coordination, especially as the Living Lakes members are becoming involved more and more actively. To enable further growth and to secure a good coordination for an intensive cooperation between members within one country or continent, the Living Lakes Network experienced a restructuring in 2010. It caused an elimination of the “associates” status. Since 2010, there are two categories of members, namely international members and national members within national or multinational networks. The coordinating organisations on site (normally a partner within the international Living Lakes Network), the GNF as well as its Board of Directors are in charge of the acceptance of new members.

A national or multinational network starts when three or more organisations from one country or region are willing to enter the network. In Italy, a network Living Lakes Italia was established in 2007. Within few years, further networks in China, Germany, and Canada were formed. Multinational networking also takes place. The Living Lakes Network Latin America and the Caribbean was established in 2009, a consortium of members being active in Central and South America. The establishment of a network in the East Africa region followed. In 2011, European Living Lakes partner organisations formed the network Living Lakes Europe. This kind of networking has numerous advantages. The members get the opportunity to work together within comparable legal and cultural frames or speak the same language; it forms a good basis for common projects and actions. At the moment, further national networks are being formed in Spain, the Philippines, and in Mongolia.

Living Lakes Network Canada

- Lake Winnipeg, Lake Winnipeg Foundation (coordinator)
- Lake Huron, Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation
- Skeena Watershed, Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition
- Athabasca River and Lake Watershed, Keepers of the Athabasca
- Columbia Wetlands, Wildsight

Living Lakes Network China

- Lake Poyang, Promotion Association for Mountain-River-Lake Regional Sustainable Development MRLSD (coordinator)
- Lake Chao
- Lake Dian
- Lake Dongting
- Lake Tai





GERMANY



ITALY

Living Lakes Network Germany

- Global Nature Fund (coordinator)
- Chiemsee, Natur- u. Landschaftsführer
- Dümmer, Naturschutzring Dümmer
- Lausitzer Seenland, Lausitzer Seenland gGmbH
- Lake Constance, Lake Constance Foundation
- Mindelsee,
BUND Nature Conservation Centre Möggingen
- Oberschwäbische Seen,
PRO REGIO OBERSCHWABEN GmbH
- Plauer See, BUND Plau
- Plöner See, Authority for Protection of Sea Coasts
and National Parks of Schleswig-Holstein
- Schweriner See,
Nature Conservation Centre Zippendorf
- Stechlinsee, NABU Brandenburg and
German Divers Association of Brandenburg
- Steinhuder Meer,
Ecological Conservation Station (ÖSSM)
- Deutsche Umwelthilfe (DUH)
- Grüne Liga
- Limnological Institute Langenargen (ISF)
- Department for Environment, City of Friedrichshafen
- German Divers Association (VDST)
- Association for Conservation of Water Bodies (VDG)

Living Lakes Network Italy

- Legambiente Italia (coordinator)
- Lake Albaner, Provincia di Roma
- Lake Bracciano, Provincia di Roma
- Lake Nemi, Provincia di Roma
- Lake Bolsena, Provincia di Viterbo
- Lake Vico, Provincia di Viterbo
- Lake Garda, Comunità del Garda
- Lago Maggiore, Provincia del Verbano Cusio Ossola
- Lake Orta, Provincia del Verbano Cusio Ossola
- Lake Piediluco, Provincia di Terni
- Lake Trasimeno, Legambiente Umbria





EUROPE



LATIN AMERICA

Living Lakes National and Multinational Networks

Living Lakes Network Europe

- Global Nature Fund, Germany (coordinator)
- Lake Constance Foundation, Germany
- Foundation Global Nature, Spain
- Association of Civil Organisations of Lake Balaton, Hungary
- Lake Balaton Development Coordination Agency, Hungary
- Environmental Organisation Etna, Poland
- Lake District National Park Authority, UK
- Lake Võrtsjärv Agency, Estonia
- CTC Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation, Estonia
- League for the Environment (Legambiente), Italy

Living Lakes Network

Latin America and the Caribbean

- Lake Titicaca, Trópico, Bolivien (coordinator) and Centro de Desarrollo Ambiental y Social CEDAS, Peru
- Lake Chapala, Amigos del Lago Chapala and Fundación Cuenca Lerma Chapala, Mexico
- Lake Atitlán, Vivamos Mejor, Guatemala
- Laguna de Fúquene, Fundación Humedales, Colombia
- Laguna de Rocha, Fundación Amigos de las Lagunas Costeras de Rocha, Uruguay
- Lagunita Complex, Fundación Moises Bertoni, Paraguay
- Mar Chiquita, Fundación Mar and Centro de Zoología Aplicada Argentina, Universidad de Córdoba, Argentina
- Pantanal Wetlands, Ecotrópica, Brazil
- Fundación para la Gestión Ambiental Participativa FUNGAP, Network of NGOs, Headquarters in Costa Rica





EAST AFRICA

Living Lakes Network East Africa

- Lake Victoria, OSIENALA, Kenya (coordinator), Rachuonyo Integrated Outreach Programm, Kenya Community Integrated Development Initiative (CIDI), Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, The East African Communities' Organization for Management of Lake Victoria Resources (ECOVIC), Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania
- Lake Bogoria, World Wide Fund for Nature, Kenya
- Lakes of Bugesera Region, Organisation for Defence of Environment, Burundi
- Bujagali Falls, National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE), Uganda
- Lake Bunyonyi, Kabale Diocese, Uganda
- Lake Chala, Umande Trust, Kenya
- Lake Ihema, Rwanda Environmental Conservation Organisation (RECOR), Rwanda
- Lake Jipe, World Neighbours, Kenya, Tanzania
- Lake Kanyaboli, Lolwe Rural Development Program (LORDEP), Kenya
- Lake Katwe, Agency for Environment and Wetlands (AEW), Uganda
- Lake Kivu, Organisation Pour la Defense de L'environnement au Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Rwanda Environmental Conservation Organisation (RECOR), Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda
- Lake Kyoga, The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Uganda
- Mau Forest, Friends of Mau Watershed (FOMAWA), Kenya
- Lake Nabugabo, National Union of Coffee Agribusinesses and Farm Enterprises (NUCAFE), Uganda
- Lake Naivasha, Andreba Community Group, Kenya
- Lake Ol Bolossat, Growth Project (Organisation), Kenya
- Lake Rwihinda, Association Burundaise pour les Etudes d'Impacts Environnementaux (ABEIE), Burundi
- Shompole Wetland, African Conservation Centre, Kenya, Tanzania
- Lake Tanganyika Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Zambia and Collectif des jeunes pour la lutte contre la Pollution pour la Protection des Eaux du lac Tanganyika (CJPPE), Burundi, Burundian Association for Environment Impact Studies (ABEIE) and BIRATURABA, Burundi, Sustainable Development Organization (SeDuFo), Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Zambia
- Lake Wamala, Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development, Uganda



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