



# International Newsletter

About the international work of NABU and  
NABU International Foundation for Nature 2013/2014



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## Dear friends and supporters of our international work, dear NABU activists,

One billion euros for nature conservation projects from the EU – a promising announcement, and a success for NABU. After all, NABU coordinated BirdLife Europe’s Europe-wide lobbying efforts on the reform of LIFE, the only EU direct funding instrument for environmental projects, between 2012 and 2014. And yet – considerably more funding is needed for nature conservation projects to be implemented effectively. This is why throughout Europe, NABU will continue to support the interests of nature and the environment – be it funding instruments, agricultural policies or a citizens’ initiative against the free trade agreements TTIP and CETA that are concerned.

Our international work in the past two years was mainly focused on climate protection through forest conservation. Together with its Indonesian BirdLife partner Burung Indonesia, NABU initiated a project in the province of Gorontalo on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi. NABU’s work there is aimed at preserving the island’s endangered tropical forest areas. The project is managed by the KfW and funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI).

Another IKI-funded project is already in its second phase. Following the successful conclusion of our four-year-long climate protection project in the Kafa Biosphere Reserve in Ethiopia, the project is now supplemented by a new component: the protection of the region’s unique species diversity. For this aim, 17 NABU volunteers provided us with their support: They travelled to Kafa, conducted a monitoring, and returned with exciting results. They even discovered a new species in the region!

Our long-established snow leopard project is also making strong progress. Being actively involved in the protection of the big cat in Kyrgyzstan for 17 years now, NABU was able to bring together representatives of all range countries for the first time in autumn 2013. At the Global Snow Leopard Conservation Forum in Bishkek, all twelve countries adopted common conservation measures to benefit the “Ghost of

the Mountains”. With financial assistance from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, NABU also launched a project in January 2013 aimed at protecting and conserving the Tian Shan mountain region’s biodiversity.

NABU International Foundation for Nature is now operating in its sixth year and is active mainly in NABU’s international focal regions. A specific bequest allowed the Foundation to establish a fund in Kenya and Ethiopia that supports the families of killed rangers. A further fund exists that focuses on the protection of rain forests. NABU International uses the donations collected in the fund to stop the destruction of rain forests, preserve paradises of biodiversity, and to open up new perspectives for the local population.

I also want to mention the numerous volunteer projects conducted by NABU activists in our focal regions, Africa, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Every year, our five international Federal Working Groups make impressive contributions to international nature and species conservation projects. At this point, I would also like to thank all volunteer and full-time colleagues for their committed work. I also thank all supporters and sponsors. Be it for the Sharpe’s Longclaw in Kenya, the protection of migratory birds in Egypt, on Cyprus or Malta, the snow leopards in Kyrgyzstan or forest and climate protection projects in Ethiopia – it is only together that we can continue to have an impact on the ways in which we protect our nature and environment.

Enjoy this newsletter, and don’t forget to pass it on!

NABU Vice President  
Head of International Department and  
President of NABU International Foundation for Nature



**Africa**



# A Biosphere Reserve is gaining momentum

News from Lake Tana



Papyrus grows around Lake Tana, and is used by the local population, for example to build the typical local boats.

*For two years now, NABU has been working in cooperation with the Michael Succow Foundation to establish a biosphere reserve at Lake Tana, Ethiopia's largest lake. A growing population and large infrastructure projects are threatening this unique natural landscape that is one of the most significant wintering grounds for birds such as the European crane.*

In a major step towards achieving the area's recognition as a UNESCO biosphere reserve, the local population and Ethiopian authorities together designated the reserve's future conservation and land use zones in 137 regions around Lake Tana. The so-called "core zones", which serve as resting and breeding grounds for rare bird species and boast a particularly high species diversity, will be protected by national legislation for the application submitted to UNESCO.

Together with the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, natural stone walls have been constructed that now protect five church forests – the area's only remaining forests – from overgrazing through livestock. Corridors have also been designated that are to be reforested in order to connect the forest islands. Scientists have undertaken research to identify which soil-friendly forms of agricultural cultivation ("conservation agriculture") might be introduced at Lake Tana in order to reduce erosion into the lake and its pollution by nutrients, and to sustain the soils' nutrient levels and

long-term capacity for use. This measure is designed to improve crop rotation, increase yields, and thus permanently improve the farmers' incomes. In other regions, farmers are receiving training in the high-quality production of soaps, honey and other natural products. Together, a brand for these regional products is being created and their marketing is being supported.

Ecotourism is being developed as well: The local information centre is being restructured and will in the future also serve as a main hub for visitors interested in the biosphere reserve. Moreover, community-based tourism services have been developed and are now to be introduced. All this helps to promote a green tourism that supports the local population in securing alternative and sustainable income methods.

NABU's involvement in Ethiopia is made possible by funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).



## Lake Tana on the Internet

NABU hopes to have Lake Tana Biosphere Reserve established by 2016. Visit us online at [www.LakeTana-people-nature.com](http://www.LakeTana-people-nature.com) or [www.LakeTana-biosphere.com](http://www.LakeTana-biosphere.com).



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In particular the large wetlands surrounding Lake Tana are to be preserved on a long-term scale.





## Bird count at Lake Tana

Africa working group on field trip to Ethiopia's largest lake



Many cultures value the crane as a symbol of luck and health for both humans and livestock. The two African species breed in the wetlands surrounding Lake Tana.



### Did you know?

In both their size and diversity, the wetlands surrounding Lake Tana are uniquely significant for North-East Africa's birdlife. Water birds could only find comparable habitats hundreds of kilometres away to the south, at the lakes of the East African Rift System and in the large Nile swamps in Sudan and South Sudan.



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*NABU has set up an office in Bahir Dar, on the southern shores of Lake Tana in Ethiopia. From here, its Ethiopian staff is currently working to establish a biosphere reserve. In December 2013, a team of NABU's Africa Working Group was invited to conduct a bird monitoring in the region. The team primarily mapped eligible "core zones" that are later to be subject to stricter conservation plans.*

Supported by NABU staff from Bahir Dar, 37 areas were visited during the monitoring and their bird populations recorded. All in all, 220 bird species were recorded during the studies, among them many rare and endangered species. The areas Shesher and Walala on the eastern shores of the lake and the estuary of the Megech River in the north proved to be especially significant for Eurasian migratory birds. About 30,000 Common Cranes have their night roosts in the shallow water zones of the two wetlands, and the area also hosts migrating ducks such as teals, shovellers and pintails in large numbers. Several species of wading bird including the Little Stint, the Black-tailed Godwit and the Ruff are also abundant.

Lake Tana is especially significant as a breeding ground for endangered bird species. The Wattled Crane breeds in the marshes surrounding the small town of Chimba on the lake's southern shore. This species is considered endangered worldwide, and its Ethiopian population is estimated at less than 200 animals. The Black Crowned Crane

(*Balearica pavonina ceciliae*), an Eastern subspecies, is globally endangered as well. It has been recorded as breeding in many wetlands around Lake Tana.

Unfortunately, many forests around Lake Tana have not been conserved – the demand for construction timber and firewood is too high. The fertile landscapes surrounding the lake are intensively used for pastoral or agricultural farming. Nevertheless, there are still large and shady trees standing on the fields. They are visited above all by fruit eaters such as the Hemprich's Hornbill or the Bruce's Green Pigeon as a food source and breeding ground. Those forest areas that are still intact are mostly church or monastery forests, and enjoy a special conservation status anchored in the local population's spiritual connectedness to nature. On the Zege peninsula, which is also renowned for its wild coffee, a larger, connected forest area still exists that is definitely worth protecting. Here, the team was able to record breeding of the Black-winged Lovebird and the Yellow-fronted Parrot – two parrots endemic to Ethiopia.

# Crane-friendly land use in Ethiopia

Scientific exchange between Bielefeld and Jimma



After all the data have been recorded and the cranes have been colour- and radio-banded, they are released into the wild.



Dessalegn Obsi Gameda and Tariku Mekonnen Gutema participated in the banding scheme for Minerva's owls in the district of Gütersloh.

*In 2013, an official partnership was established between the NABU's Africa Working Group, Crane Conservation Germany (Kranichschutz Deutschland) and the Department of Natural Resources Management at the University of Jimma in western Ethiopia. That year, and with financial support from the International Crane Foundation, students recorded the population of Black-Crowned Cranes and Wattled Cranes in selected wetlands around Jimma.*

The student's assignment gave rise to questions concerning monitoring and fieldwork, which is why the NABU Africa Working Group and the Crane Information Centre invited two academic researchers to conduct a three-week practical course and participate in an exchange of ideas in June and July 2014.

In a workshop organised by Crane Conservation Germany, natural scientists Dessalegn Obsi Gameda and Tariku Gutema learned to catch, band and radio-tag cranes. All in all, 41 cranes were banded in Mecklenburg-West Pomerania in spring 2014. The acquired knowledge will be applied in Ethiopia for the individual banding of cranes as well. In this way, data can be collected on the Black-Crowned Crane's and the Wattled Crane's seasonal migrations and on the habitat requirements that their breeding, resting and wintering grounds have to fulfil. Both crane species are threatened. With regard to NABU's efforts to establish a biosphere reserve at Lake Tana, our colleagues in the Ethiopian city of Bahir Dar are hoping to be

provided with important data allowing them to designate protected zones and draft more "crane-friendly" land use plans.

In the course of their subsequent stay in East Westphalia, the guests had expert discussions with colleagues from the behavioral sciences at the University of Bielefeld and the Biological Station Gütersloh/Bielefeld, where they were able to gain practical experience in wetland and grassland management. An evening event in Bielefeld, organised by the Welthaus Bielefeld and the Africa Working Group, saw a lively exchange of views on nature conservation and land use conflicts in Ethiopia. To conclude their stay, the guests from Ethiopia visited the Rieselfelder Münster, a wetland of European significance for bird migration.



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# Grey Crowned Crane endangered

## Action plan to prevent extinction



The Grey Crowned Crane is common in 15 countries in southern and eastern Africa. With the exception of South Africa, its population is decreasing in its entire distribution area.



### Did you know?

The Grey Crowned Crane can be found in Kenya, Uganda and South Africa. In Burundi, the Africa Working Group and NABU's local BirdLife partner are planning to conduct a nationwide monitoring of the Grey Crowned Crane population in 2015. Donations for this project are welcome.



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*The Grey Crowned Crane has long been regarded as the most common crane in Africa's grass- and wetlands. Studies have now shown that over the past 45 years, its population has decreased by approximately 80 per cent. This makes it the world's most rapidly declining crane species, and has led to its classification as an endangered bird species in the IUCN's Red List.*

At the invitation of the "African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement" (AEWA) and the Rwandan environment agency, an international workshop aimed at developing an action plan for the conservation of the Grey Crowned Crane was held in Musanze in northern Rwanda in September 2013. It was attended by 31 nature conservationists and crane experts from nine African countries as well as government representatives and nature conservation enthusiasts.

With the exception of South Africa, the population of the Grey Crowned Crane is decreasing in its entire distribution area. In many countries, the causes of its endangerment are similar. Cranes lose nesting and feeding grounds for instance when wetlands are destroyed or other reasons such as intensified land use cause their habitat's deterioration. Often, the birds are poisoned by pesticides or rodenticides. Progressive electrification is increasing the number of collisions with high

voltage power lines. During a field trip to the Rugezi Wetlands, the workshop's participants saw many of these risks causing the crane's endangerment with their own eyes. What is more, in Rwanda almost all young cranes are captured and sold to hotels and gardens.

The AEWA Secretariat in Bonn is now condensing the workshop's results into a draft that – following further consultations – will be put to the vote during the 6th Meeting of the Parties in 2015.

The workshop was organised by the African Crane Conservation Programme (ACCP), a partnership programme between the South African "Endangered Wildlife Trust" (EWT) and the U.S.-based "International Crane Foundation". Financial support came from the Swiss Federal Department of the Environment, the Dohmen Foundation, NABU Rhineland-Palatinate, the NABU Africa Working Group and Cologne Zoo.

## Future workshop on conservation work in Djibouti



Discussions during the workshop were committed and focused on the future work of Djiboutian BirdLife partner Association Djibouti Nature.



With its many different biotopes, Djibouti holds a key position along the migration route of Palearctic migratory birds.

*In May 2014, NABU, BirdLife International and Zoo Landau in der Pfalz supported a workshop in Djibouti. The workshop was aimed at developing the core competencies of Association Djibouti Nature (ADN), the local nature conservation organisation. The participants also formulated a strategy for the future and drafted plans to expand the association's organisational structure.*

ADN is the official Djiboutian partner of BirdLife International and was founded in 1999. The organisation focuses on those conservation and environmental education activities in Djibouti that are strongly promoted by NABU's Africa Working Group.

ADN is especially committed to protecting the endemic, but critically endangered Djibouti francolin (*Francolinus ochropectus*) and its extremely endangered habitat, the "Forêt du Day". This unique forest is also an important roosting place for Palearctic migratory birds.

"ADN has been an associated member of the BirdLife network for some years now. The BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat in Nairobi is working intensively to promote and increase the capacity of this important

partner", BirdLife Regional Director Dr Julius Arinaitwe explains.

"After 15 years of cooperation with ADN, this workshop was an important step towards sustaining the association's independent future development as well as its environmental education and practical conservation work for endangered species," notes Dr Jens-Ove Heckel, long-time active member of NABU's Africa Working Group and Director of the Zoo Landau.

"Located along one of the major migration routes of the Rift Valley/Red Sea flyway, in particular the Strait of Bab-el-Mandab, Djibouti is one of the important countries for BirdLife's migratory bird project," adds Osama Al Nouri, regional coordinator of the "Migratory Soaring Birds Project".



### DVD-Tip

Readers interested in the project in Djibouti can purchase a professional film-DVD for 9.50 euros plus postage via Zoo Landau in der Pfalz.



### Your contact person

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The mountain cloud forests in Kafa are a characteristic of the region, because this is where the wild *Coffea arabica* grows.

## News from the Kafa Biosphere Reserve

### Conserving the unique wild coffee forests



#### NABU Coffee

You can purchase NABU's wild coffee via Original Food at [www.shop.originalfood.de](http://www.shop.originalfood.de)



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*Ethiopia is a globally significant centre of origin and one of world's most biodiverse countries. The last remaining Ethiopian highland forests are considered to be particularly valuable ecosystems. The Kafa Biosphere Reserve is a 760,000 hectare large area located in the southwest of Ethiopia. Here, NABU has been protecting the mountain cloud forests and preserving and marketing the region's wild coffee together with Original Food since 2006.*

#### Positive assessment after four years of forest and climate protection

NABU launched its project entitled "Climate Protection and Preservation of Primary Forests – A Management Model using the Wild Coffee Forests in Ethiopia as an Example" in 2009, as part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB). The projects aims were the preservation and sustainable use of the remaining afro-montane cloud forests

in order to avoid greenhouse gas emissions and secure the local population's livelihood on a long-term basis. Funded with a total of about 3.2 million euros, the project was able to draw a positive assessment of its work with government representatives, partners and the local population when terminating in January 2014.

Together with the local government and the local population's determined commitment, all the goals that had been set concerning

Kafa Biosphere Reserve is part of the "Eastern Afro-montane Biodiversity Hotspot" (CI) and a "Key Biodiversity Area" (CEPF). Because of its importance for biodiversity and as a catchment area, the Ethiopian Government has placed it under national protection as a "Regional Forest Priority Area" (RFPA). It is particularly noteworthy for being the origin and centre of arabica coffee's genetic diversity, and therefore a globally significant in situ genomic library. In 2010, the area was designated a UNESCO biosphere reserve due to the efforts of NABU and partners in the context of a German public-private partnership project.





The inhabitants of the Kafa Biosphere Reserve are dependent on their forests and use the resources they provide in various ways.

reforestation and the introduction of sustainable forest management were achieved. Women in particular took an active part in the collection of wild tree seeds and the

timber, which again has positive effects on the forests. Rangers continuously accompanied the project and monitored the forests' condition using modern methods. They were

#### The project's success in figures

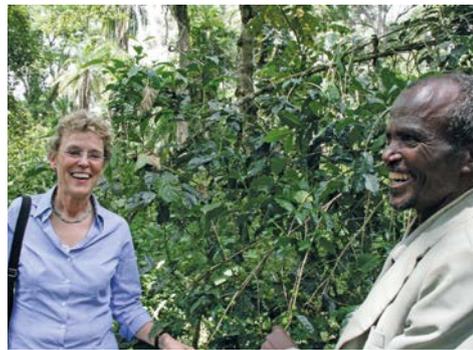
Reforested natural forest area	734 hectares
Established agroforestry area	290 hectares
Area established as community plantations for timber	1.759 hectares
Unemployed inhabitants trained as stove makers	50
Natural forest area handed over to sustainable community management	11.577 hectares
Rangers trained for the Kafa Biosphere Reserve	30
Young people trained as environmental ambassadors	146
People reached through a communication campaign	400.000

cultivation of saplings. The energy-saving stoves, which have been adapted to local cooking habits, also inspired widespread enthusiasm. They simplify cooking in general, reduce burns and lessen smoke pollution in huts. At the same time their production provides training positions and jobs, and the stoves themselves reduce the demand for

also in constant contact with the local population, NABU's volunteer environmental ambassadors and the project's ecotourism initiatives. The project also funded smaller projects aimed at developing the tourism sector. Hiking trails, observation towers and picnic areas were constructed, young people were trained as wildlife guides, and both a



The trees raised in the nurseries are later transplanted to timber plantations.



The former German ambassador in Ethiopia Lieselore Cyrus



Dr. Elsa Nickel, head of the nature conservation section at the BMUB



### Come to Kafa

Further information on and tips for travelling the Kafa Biosphere Reserve are available on the Internet at [www.kafa-biosphere.com](http://www.kafa-biosphere.com)

lodge and a historical open air museum were supported as well.

The project has received several awards as a best-practice model. It is frequently visited and has received broad public attention. The former German ambassador in Ethiopia, Lieselore Cyrus, for instance, travelled to the NABU project region together with representatives of the Ethiopian press and the GIZ. The project's successful conclusion was celebrated both in Kafa and in Berlin together with the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, the Ethiopian government, partners and numerous guests end of 2013.

### NABU launches new climate and biodiversity conservation project in Kafa

The end of the project however also signalled a new beginning: In February 2014, NABU, supported by the IKI, launched a new three-year project with a volume of approximately 2.4 million euros. It will not only build on the success of the preceding project components, but also complement them by adding a focus on biodiversity, since the habitats and species abundance of the Kafa Biosphere Reserve continue to be threatened by overexploitation, destruction and climate change. For this reason, NABU now also wants to commit itself to the protection of the threatened species diversity of the afro-montane cloud forests and wetlands.

Against this background, the programmes aimed at reforestation, sustainable forest use and the distribution of energy-saving stoves are being extended, while at the same time new activities focusing on the protection of species diversity, the strengthening of participative community management and regional development are being added. Development programmes for the crafts, regional products and ecotourism are intended to prove the added value of the region's threatened species diversity. Education programmes aimed at children and young people and integrating spiritual leaders and schools are designed to preserve and cultivate a traditional understanding of nature in order to win young people for nature conservation activities.

An assessment of the region's species diversity and a threat analysis, which were conducted by volunteer experts from Ethiopia and Germany at the end of 2014, are expected to provide essential data for a monitoring concept. In addition, an exchange between scientists from both countries will be promoted. The project will support the implementation of Ethiopia's "Climate-Resilient Green Economy Strategy", tie climate and biodiversity conservation to regional development, and help the local population to independently ensure the long-term conservation of nature and natural resources.



## For the “King of the Forest”

NABU International establishes a fund to protect lions



To date, the African lion – an endangered species listed on the IUCN’s Red List – has only been documented outside of rainforests, mostly in savannas.

*The first photographic evidence of a lioness living in the cloud forest of Ethiopia’s Kafa Region caused a sensation in the scientific community in early 2012. The local population had however long been aware of the forest lions: Every year between January and May these big cats kill more than 850 farm animals in the Kafa Biosphere Reserve alone, where NABU has been implementing a forest and climate protection project since 2009.*

For the farmers, livestock is an important means of livelihood. But towards the end of the dry season, even African lions find it increasingly difficult to find natural prey. Then in particular, the herds of livestock are welcome sustenance for the big cats. In other parts of Africa, lions that attack livestock are tracked and killed by the population. In Kafa, however, the majority of the local population worships and protects the “King of the Forest”. When the Ethiopian Government sent out a team of hunters to Kafa in 2011 to kill a number of suspiciously behaving lions, spiritual leaders in particular turned against the decision and refused to give their consent. Local inhabitants actively protected “their lions” – and the animals remained alive. To date, the African lion – an endangered species listed on the IUCN’s Red List – had only been documented outside of rainforests, mostly in savannas.

Nevertheless, the problem in Kafa remains: Lions attack the local farmers’ livestock. That individual farmers bear resentment against the lions from time to time, is more

than understandable. For this reason, NABU International supported by NABU established a fund to protect the lions. It has been provided with an initial 10,000 euros. The fund provides financial rewards for well documented sightings and compensates farmers in the Kafa Biosphere Reserve in case their livestock is injured or killed by a lion. In this way, the project fosters community-based monitoring, provides financial assistance and promotes a bond between humans and lions.

Following the astounding photo documentation of lions in Kafa’s rainforest and mountain cloud forest area, NABU has now teamed up with researchers of WILDCRU to observe these animals. The team of experts from the University of Oxford assumes that they form a local population that migrates within the region according to prey availability. To learn more about the animals’ behaviour, NABU rangers are now collecting faeces and hair samples in the forests and making them available to the researchers for laboratory analyses in Europe and Africa.



### Save the king

According to expert estimates, there are only 1,000 to 1,500 lions living in Ethiopia. With a donation to NABU International’s lion fund, you can help to protect the endangered animals. Further information: [www.NABU-International.de/loewenfonds](http://www.NABU-International.de/loewenfonds)



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In South Africa alone, more than 1004 rhinos were poached in 2013 – more than ever before.

# Are African Wildlife Rangers fighting a Losing Battle?

Helping the families of nature conservation's heroes



Werner Schröder and KWS commemorate killed rangers on Heroes' Day in Kenya.



## Ranger Fund

Learn more about how to support wildlife rangers and their families in Africa online at [www.NABU-International.de/rangerfonds](http://www.NABU-International.de/rangerfonds)



## Your contact person

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*Poachers, ivory smugglers, middlemen and masterminds ... Poaching is a lucrative business, and its networks span the highest circles in business and government. For many African countries, this issue has become a matter of national security, and they urgently need international support – it is up to us as well.*

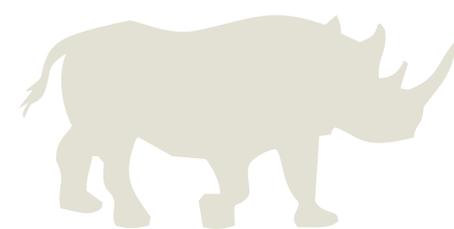
“Smugglers aren’t poor rural inhabitants forced to earn a living. They’re ruthless profiteers,” NABU Vice President and President of NABU International Foundation for Nature, Thomas Tennhardt, reported at the ITB (Internationale Tourismus-Börse), an international tourism fair in Berlin. The rangers, mostly underpaid and poorly trained, are the last bastion against the ruthless killing of wild animals. What is more, they are themselves increasingly becoming the target of criminals. At the ITB, NABU and representatives of Kenya’s state wildlife conservation authority Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) reported on the difficult situation faced by the families of killed or injured rangers. These families not only lose a beloved relative, but often also their main income earner.

To support such families, NABU International Foundation for Nature has established its Ranger Fund. For families whose main income earners have been killed in the fight against poaching, the small pension provided by the KWS is not enough to pay for their children’s school fees. Thanks to the funding

provided by NABU International, the children of killed rangers are able to attend secondary school or university. In the coming years, NABU intends to expand the project to also provide Kenyan rangers with better equipment and training.

In the future, NABU, KWS and the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust will be supported by a dog unit in their fight against poaching. The dogs will trace ammunition, ivory, rhino horn or injured animals, pick up scents and check vehicles, buildings and hideouts.

For the Ranger Fund to continue its successful growth, NABU is asking nature lovers all over the world for support. In May 2014, Werner Schröder presented the initiative to Germany’s ambassador to Nairobi, Andreas Peschke, who expressly welcomed it and offered the German embassy’s support for NABU’s anti-poaching projects in Kenya.



# Elephant action plan

In the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, water is becoming scarce



During the first species conservation-planning workshop for elephants, participants discussed possible solutions: Water for the “grey giants” inhabiting the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest is becoming scarce.

*From 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2013, NABU’s partner organisation Nature Kenya and Kenya’s state wildlife conservation authority Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) organised the first species conservation plan for elephants in Kenya’s Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. They were financially supported by NABU. Around 200 elephants live in the forest area on Kenya’s north coast. The fully enclosed area, about 450 square kilometres large, is surrounded by agriculturally used land.*

It lacks a perennial waterhole, and the area’s increasing dryness causes substantial problems for both elephants and humans. Initiated by NABU, Nature Kenya and the KWS brought together local communities and national as well as non-governmental stakeholders involved in elephant protection in order to identify solutions that benefit the local population, the forest and the elephants.

Experts and community members made clear that large amounts of data on the elephants in Arabuko Sokoke are already available, and have now been compiled for the first time. The conservationists of Nature Kenya and “A Rocha Kenya” have been recording the elephants’ impact on the forest’s vegetation since 2012. Wildlife experts have warned that with 200 elephants in the enclosed forest, genetic exchange has become impossible. Discussions therefore focused on the possibility of establishing wildlife corridors for the elephants in Kilifi County in order to ensure population exchange and access to the Sabaki River.

Collectively, the elephant activists developed an action plan and presented it to the public in Kilifi in December 2013. Representatives of the local government from Malindi pointed out that local communities were responsible for forest protection. The local population underlined that it wants to actively support possible nature conservation measures.

The exact number of elephants is currently being determined with the help of a population study. The environmental education programme integrating local communities has been launched. On top of this, properties are being recorded and negotiations being led in order to establish a corridor to the Tsavo East National Park for the elephants. Conservationists are putting a lot of effort into anti-poaching campaigns. Visiting schools and towns, they inform the local population about the bloodstained business and its negative impacts on the elephant population and tourism.



## Did you know?

Water scarcity is not the only cause threatening the survival of the elephants in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. Poaching, too, has increased in the region: By October 2014, at least six elephants in the Arabuko Forest had fallen victim to poachers. In 2015, NABU will support the conservationists in stopping this horrible trend.



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Ghana's beaches resemble dumps – and every day, the ocean washes up new waste.

## Waste prevention and environmental education

Cooperation project in Ghana



### Did you know?

The initiative “Fishing for Litter” is part of the NABU project “Seas without Plastic”, which also coordinates activities such as beach monitoring, environmental education programmes and cooperation with water sports associations. For the project “Fishing for Litter”, fishermen collect and then properly dispose of the waste they catch at sea. All waste is sorted and analysed in order to learn more about its composition and the ways in which it has reached the sea.

Today, the initiative includes nine ports and about 70 fishermen on the German North Sea and the Baltic Sea. By July 2014, about five tons of waste had been fished.



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*Coconut palms sway in the wind. Sea spray drifts across the wide beach. Colourful fishing boats are lying in the sun. There is waste as far as the eye can see. Many of Ghana's coasts, beaches and rivers are in a similar state.*

NABU and two Ghanaian organisations, Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS, BirdLife Ghana) and Friends of the Nation (FoN), have joined forces in order to raise Ghana's public awareness of waste prevention and marine pollution. Together, they developed and implemented a partnership project supported by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Development in the framework of the initiative “Commitment for Africa”.

The project identified the main factors threatening wetlands in the coastal regions of Sakumo, the Songor Biosphere Reserve and the Densu and Keta deltas (the latter both Ramsar sites), and together with local authorities developed action plans for the protection of wetlands. Among the main threats to wetlands are littering and the lack of waste disposal systems, the level of nutrient intake, scrub encroachment, human settlement and general overexploitation by fisheries, agricultural use or salt production. Climate change, too, has become tangible, and is driving up temperatures, increasing the frequency of droughts and depriving the wetlands of water.

In joint experts and communities workshops, littering in two Ghanaian pilot areas was analysed. Discussions then focused on identifying in how far the positive experiences that NABU gathered during its “Fishing for Litter” project can help tackle issues in Ghana. Like their German counterparts, Ghanaian fishermen were willing to participate in campaigns to collect the waste they had caught at sea, and gave the issue highest priority.

To improve the local partner organisations' public relations work and support them in communicating these urgent issues more effectively to the public, NABU conducted exchange and training sessions in Ghana. Friends of the Nation then subsequently trained volunteer conservationists, enabling them to immediately apply their newly gained insights into environmental communication and lobbying.

The partnership project was implemented over a period of only six months and was conceived as a kick-off and pilot project. With so little time, it was only able to scratch the surface of these urgent environmental problems. All partners concluded on the urgent need for their joint project to be continued.

## “Learning Under Trees”

Young people in Burundi receive education in nature conservation and climate protection



One component of the project was the recording of species diversity in the Rusizi National Park.

*Together with its Burundian partner organisation “Action Ceinture Verte pour l’Environnement” (ACVE) and NABU’s Baden-Wuerttemberg Branch, NABU International Foundation for Nature carried out an environmental education programme in Burundi.*

The development project consisted of four modules. First, pupils and young people aged between 10 and 25 years were trained for over four months to become “environmental ambassadors” for their country. The interactive lessons in environmental education, called “School under the tree” (“École sous l’arbre”), were held in the City Park of Bujumbura, Burundi’s capital, and were aimed at educating dedicated young people in nature conservation and climate protection. The young people are taught on topics such as climate change adaptation, resource consumption and waste prevention. These topics were also addressed practically: Pupils cleaned up the garbage on one of Lake Tanganyika’s beach sections, for instance, or set up a compost system in the City Garden.

The second module addressed teachers, who were provided with new teaching methods and materials. NABU’s and ACVE’s aim was to reach multipliers able to contribute to rethinking environmental conservation on a long-term basis. So far, teachers in Burundi still lack illustrative material or knowledge about innovative teaching methods. They also do not receive additional training on a regular

basis, which is why their knowledge is quickly outdated and they are unable to teach their pupils about current developments such as climate change. At several events, primary and secondary school teachers from all over the country were introduced to new methods and materials, so they can now begin to include environmental issues in their classes.

The programme’s third module was a workshop, held together with NABU representatives in Burundi in autumn 2013. It served to evaluate the programme as well as the teacher trainings, and identified possible cooperation projects for the coming years. The last module of the programme was focused on analysing biodiversity in the Rusizi National Park.

The environmental education project was financed by the federal state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, whose partner country is Burundi. The Baden-Wuerttemberg Foundation for Development Cooperation (SEZ) provided the project with conceptual advice and accompanied it from its most initial stages onwards through to its final report. The project was made possible through the commitment of NABU’s Baden-Wuerttemberg Branch.



Pupils collect waste on a section of the shoreline of Lake Tanganyika in Burundi.



### Your contact person

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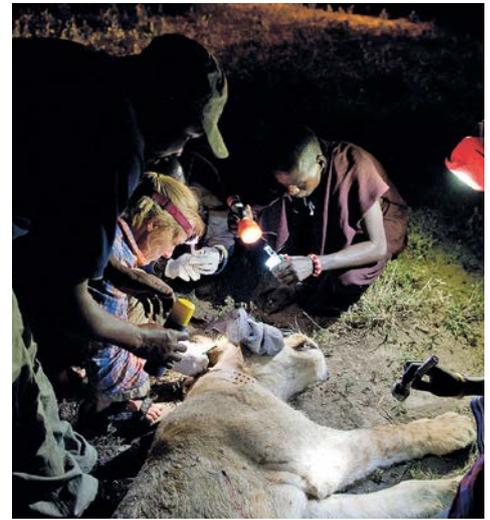
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# Warriors turn “lion keepers”

Satellite collars to save the king of animals



Lions are hunted in many places. Their species is increasingly endangered. At the Ngorongoro Crater in Kenya, information campaigns and satellite collars have proven to be effective conservation measures.



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*Lions are considered a symbol of Africa. What is less known, though, is that the “King of Animals” is on the verge of becoming extinct: Merciless hunting as well as the loss of habitat and prey are depriving the majestic big cats of their natural basis of existence. In the Serengeti, a world-famous lion stronghold, the animals are also exposed to dangers. Here, NABU International Foundation for Nature is actively committed to protecting the lion.*

The population in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area in the south of the Serengeti has increased tenfold since 1959. Today densely populated by the Maasai and their livestock, the areas form a barrier for those lions wanting to access the crater from the Serengeti National Park. As a consequence, the lions inhabiting the crater have been geographically and genetically isolated, which has caused the population to collapse. NABU International’s conservation project therefore aims to establish a safe wildlife corridor for lions between the Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti National Park. For this, it is very important to be familiar with the lions’ routes and their behaviour. Thus, altogether six lions are now to be equipped with satellite collars.

The lion population in the crater today consists of only 46 individuals. It has shrunk to less than half of its original size. Again and again, warriors of the local Maasai villages pursue and kill lions – as a ritual to prove their bravery with spears, and in revenge for killed livestock. An important component

of NABU International’s project therefore consists of integrating the Maasai communities in the lion conservation measures.

The success of this cooperation became visible again recently: Being displaced after his pride had been taken over by other males, one of our radio-collared lions, “Young Tom”, was forced to enter the densely inhabited area on the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater. In order to prevent conflicts, our Maasai colleagues informed neighbouring herdsman in advance about the potential danger to their livestock – none of the Maasai’s animals were injured or killed, and the lion was able to continue his journey safely. Another radio-collared lion, named “Orbili Nabos”, was less lucky. After the team of researchers had removed the transmitter as planned in September 2013, we received terrible news: Maasai warriors had killed a lion with spears, and its description fitted Orbili. Such setbacks underline the urgency of our work to train more local Maasai as active “lion keepers”.

# 115,000 signatures against the bird murder in Egypt



Hardly a chance of getting through: The few birds that escape the nets are killed with guns.



The world's largest bird trap has an overall length of approximately 700 kilometres and reaches from the Libyan border almost to Gaza.

*Every autumn, around 140 million migratory birds end up in the world's largest bird trap located along Egypt's Mediterranean coast. Those affected most are long-distance migrants flying to Africa via the eastern Mediterranean. Many of them end up being sold as a delicacy on Egypt's markets.*

By December 2013, 115,000 people had signed NABU's petition against the murder of migratory birds in Egypt. This makes it one of the largest signature campaigns in the history of NABU. Delivering the signatures to the Egyptian ambassador on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013 in Berlin, NABU's President Olaf Tschimpke called on the Egyptian government to adhere to international nature conservation conventions and take decisive action against bird trapping.

"Our campaign has drawn attention to the alarming situation of migratory birds in Egypt and created political pressure. The 115,000 signatures are both a confirmation and a motivation for us to continue our campaign to end the bird murder in Egypt. We expect the Egyptian government to introduce the measures adopted in the action plan as quickly as possible in order to meet its international obligations on bird conservation," Tschimpke said.

Prior to the delivery of the petition, NABU's campaign had already achieved substantial results: The Federal Ministry for the Environment made funds available for a conference to end bird trapping. Among the participants in November 2013 were representatives of the Egyptian and Libyan environment ministries, BirdLife NGOs from Egypt and Libya, NABU, BirdLife International, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment and the international nature conservation agreement. It led to a huge success: a joint action plan to fight the illegal trapping of migratory birds in Egypt.

NABU bird expert Lars Lachmann is very content with the campaign's results so far: "A NABU-funded team is now in Egypt and will coordinate the action plan's implementation."



## Sad result

According to NABU's projections, roughly every seventeenth migratory bird from Europe ends up dying in the nets of Egyptian bird trappers, which extend 700 kilometres along the nation's coastline.



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# Monitoring of Sharpe's Longclaw continues

Workshop helps endemic Kenyan species



Thick tussock grass is the Sharpe's Longclaw's preferred habitat. But structural changes and intensified agricultural cultivation are threatening this bird species that is endemic to Kenya.



## Did you know?

BirdLife International assessed the Sharpe's Longclaw as endangered in 2000. Its population was estimated at between 6,000 and 15,000 birds, their number decreasing. More recent censuses suggest that its current population is significantly smaller.



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*In March 2014, with support from the National Museum of Kenya in Nairobi, a team of NABU's Africa Working Group and Kenyan conservationists visited the Kinangop Plateau, the Aberdare National Park, the area around Timau north of Mount Kenya, and parts of the Mount Kenya National Park. One important aim was to examine whether the Sharpe's Longclaw still occurs in the Aberdare and Mount Kenya National Parks, since the species had not been confirmed there in recent years.*

The bright yellow Sharpe's Longclaw is endemic to Kenya. Ecologically, the species is adapted to short grassland habitats at altitudes between 1,800 and 3,500 metres. Thick tussock grass is particularly important, as it provides cover and nesting sites. Since this specialised habitat is rare even in Kenya, the species' distribution is limited to the plateaus located east and west of the East African Rift System. Important breeding areas are located in the altitudinal zones of Mount Elgon, Mount Kenya, the Aberdares and the Mau Escarpment.

The team was able to catch a small number of birds, take blood samples and conduct DNA analyses in order to draw conclusions on the species' population size and its possible isolation. The current censuses highlight that its population is further decreasing. Still, it is encouraging to know that after more than 70 years,

the Sharpe's Longclaw still inhabits both Aberdare National Park and Mount Kenya National Park. However, the size of these sub-populations still cannot be estimated. It also remains unclear whether the birds use the area to breed or only visit it temporarily.

A final workshop, initiated by NABU, was then held at the National Museum in Nairobi on 7th March 2014. It marked the first time that almost all Kenyans and Europeans conducting research on the Sharpe's Longclaw or involved in its conservation were able to convene. It became clear that the situation of species adapted to Kenya's grasslands closely parallels the situation faced by meadow birds in Germany. The participants agreed to arrange a follow-up workshop on the Sharpe's Longclaw in 2015 in order to draft targeted conservation measures. The necessary funding will be provided by NABU.



# Conservationist with passion

**Environmental education project teaches Kenyans about their native bird world**



In primary schools, women's groups and at village meetings, George Ndung'u Muigai teaches the local population about the birds living around Lake Ol' Bollosat.

*George Ndung' u Muigai has launched an environmental education project in Kenya entitled "Creating Community Awareness on Biodiversity and the Socio-economic Value of Lake Ol' Bollosat – A Threatened Wetland in Kenya". Located in Central Province, Lake Ol' Bollosat is an "Important Bird Area" and one of the region's threatened ecosystems.*

George was raised near Lake Ol' Bollosat and witnessed the negative changes in nature caused by intensified and shifting land use around the lake. He assisted ornithological field research and participated in banding campaigns, and in 2010 accompanied members of NABU's Africa Working Group on their search for the Sharpe's Longclaw.

George is proud to present his two-volume publication in his native language Kikuyu entitled "Nyoni na Andu" – Birds and People –, which he wrote in order to inform fellow community members around the lake about its marvelous birdlife. It was followed by a poster entitled "Itemi ria Nyoni" on the role of birds. Both the booklets and the poster he was able to publish and distribute thanks to the financial support of the African Bird Club.

In early 2014, George established an environmental education project that takes him to primary schools, women's groups, farmers, and village meetings in order to explain the ecological interdependencies of Lake

Ol' Bollosat. The contents of the 14-month project were developed together with Nature Kenya, BirdLife International and the Africa Working Group. It is funded mainly by NABU, but also by private donations from England and Italy. Nature Kenya provides local professional support. NABU also supplied the project with equipment such as binoculars, field guides and a laptop.

George's commitment helps endangered grassland bird species such as the Sharpe's Longclaw, the Rosy-throated Longclaw, and the Aberdare Cisticola, and creates awareness that is essential for a more sustainable interaction with biodiversity. George also works as a nature guide for tourists. His project is already producing successful results: Due to his initiative, no grassland was burnt between January and March 2014. Usually, each year during the dry season, when the grass has grown high, large parts of the grassland are lit – with devastating effects on grassland bird species.



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**Asia**



## Twelve states, one aim

Worldwide forum for the  
conservation of the snow leopard



In almost all of their twelve range countries, snow leopards are hunted by poachers.

Experts estimate that worldwide only 3,500 snow leopards still live in freedom. To more effectively protect the species, NABU initiated the first “Global Snow Leopard Conservation Forum”, which was held in October 2013 at the invitation of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and with the support of the Global Tiger Initiative of the World Bank.

“NABU has been actively engaged in protecting the snow leopard in Kyrgyzstan since 1998. It quickly became clear to us that there has to be a transboundary conservation plan – not least in order to bust the poaching networks that are also active across national borders,” says NABU President Olaf Tschimpke. “We therefore suggested holding a global forum to be attended by representatives of all twelve range countries.” NABU submitted this proposal to the former Kyrgyz President Rosa Otunbajeva, who immediately announced her support.

At the “Global Snow Leopard Conservation Forum”, which was held in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz capital, representatives of all twelve countries adopted the “Bishkek Declaration” on the conservation of the snow leopard and the „Global Ecosystem Snow Leopard Recovery Program“. One essential objective is the so-called “20 by 2020” commitment: The range countries have pledged to identify and conserve 20 habitats that contain at least 100 breeding age snow leopards by 2020. This will be monitored by the forum’s Working Secretariat, which will have its seat in Bishkek until a permanent Programme Secretariat is established in one of the snow leopard range countries.



### Global forum online

Learn more about the global snow leopard forum and the conservation measures that have been implemented since at [www.akilbirs.com](http://www.akilbirs.com)



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Like his predecessor Rosa Otunbajeva, Kyrgyz president Almasbek Atambajew has proven to be a committed supporter of the snow leopard forum.





## Research in the “Heavenly Mountains”

Camera traps help to protect snow leopards



NABU's wolf expert Markus Bathen supported the Kyrgyz colleagues in installing the camera traps, because NABU's wolf project has been employing camera traps for some years now.



### Further information

More information on the expedition is available at [www.nabu.de/kirgistan-reisetagebuch](http://www.nabu.de/kirgistan-reisetagebuch)



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*In summer 2013, thanks to the broad support of its members, NABU was able to purchase several camera traps and install them in the Tian Shan Mountains. The cameras help to identify the tracks of snow leopards and in this way contribute to improving their conservation. NABU has initiated the introduction of a joint monitoring system in Kyrgyzstan.*

So far, the project has already been able to evaluate photos of seven different snow leopards – a very high rate, especially since NABU set up its camera traps not in protected areas where snow leopards have been observed in the past, but in particularly remote mountainous areas where snow leopards have not been sighted over the past two decades. This proves that our experts' strategy has been successful, and that there is reason to hope that the number of snow leopards in Kyrgyzstan is possibly higher than has been assumed so far – all population figures are based merely on estimates. A scientifically based monitoring system to observe the population of snow leopards and other wild animals did not exist in Kyrgyzstan in the past.

Both accurate information on the size of the remaining snow leopard population as well as precise data on its habitat are fundamental prerequisites for the species'

conservation. In the context of the global snow leopard forum, NABU has therefore initiated a pilot project that can serve as model for other countries, too: In cooperation with scientists, the Kyrgyz Government and all international snow leopard conservation organisations active in the region, NABU is developing a joint monitoring system. Its results will enable snow leopard conservation organisations – among them NABU, the Snow Leopard Trust (SLT), WWF and Fauna & Flora International (FFI) – as well as the Kyrgyz Government, which has also been integrated into the project, to implement concerted conservation measures. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has already announced funding through the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Together, the snow leopard conservation organisations will contribute 80 camera traps and thus an amount of around 30,000 euros.



A joint monitoring system will hopefully provide up-to-date information on both the size of the snow leopard's population in Kyrgyzstan as well as the big cat's migration routes.



## The kingdom of snow leopards and brown bears

Conserving the environment – for people and nature



Project staff recording the Tian Shan's flora and fauna.

*Rare animal species such as snow leopards, Tian Shan brown bears and wild sheep are at home in the mountains of North Tian Shan, in the border region between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The area's untouched nature fascinates and attracts both local and international tourists. But this paradise is increasingly threatened by the region's expanding tourism sector and population and economic growth as well as poaching and uncontrolled pasture farming.*

In the region's existing conservation areas, both flora and fauna are so far not yet fully recorded and protected. Financed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), NABU therefore launched a project in January 2013 aimed at protecting and conserving the mountain region's biodiversity. Its implementation is managed by NABU's team in Kyrgyzstan and its project partners Rural Development Fund (RDF), AK Terek, Avalon and the Kazakh Bird-Life Partner, the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK).

The project staff closely cooperate with four existing conservation areas: Together with experts, their tasks are to train staff, evaluate

and improve management plans and introduce a common biodiversity monitoring system.

Much emphasis is put on involving the local population. Together, pasture farming is improved. The development of sustainable, community-based tourism allows the local population to benefit from the project and have a voice in how their region is conserved and developed sustainably.

Participatory activities including the production of a film and radio broadcasts to promote exchange between all stakeholders and raise awareness of the value of biodiversity.



### Our tip

Perhaps you would like to explore the project region? More information on the conservation areas Almatinsky Zapovednik, the Ile-Alatau and Kolsai National Parks as well as ecotourism in Kazakhstan is available at [www.eco-tourism.kz/eirc\\_eng.html](http://www.eco-tourism.kz/eirc_eng.html). Travellers interested in visiting the Chong-Kemin National Park can contact the project village via the Rural Development Fund: [www.rdf.in.kg/eng/home](http://www.rdf.in.kg/eng/home)

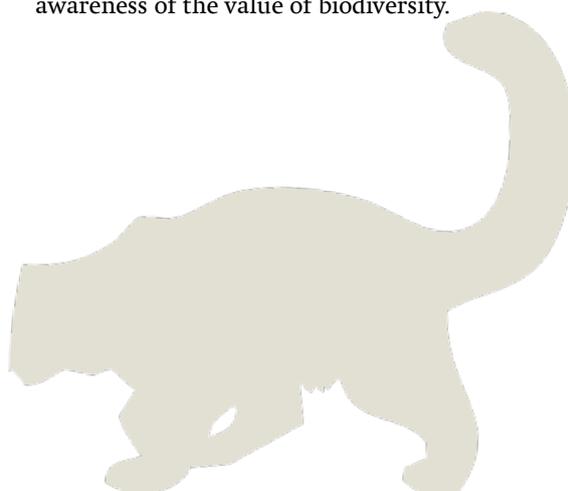


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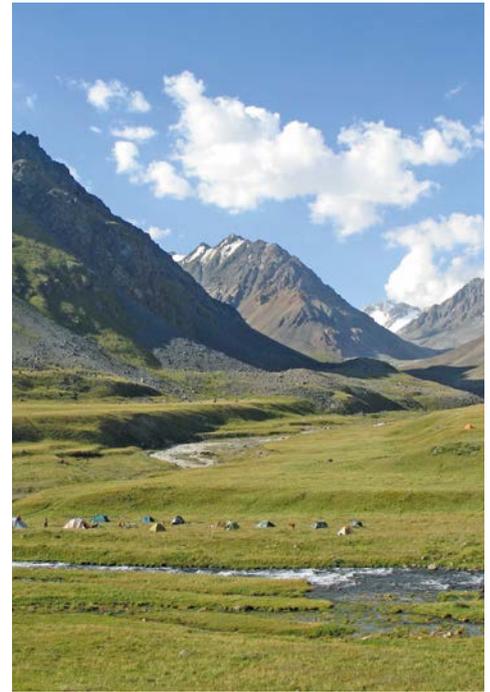


# Into the field, researchers!

Volunteers support snow leopard protection



NABU and Biosphere Expeditions make it possible for wildlife enthusiasts to participate in genuine hands-on wildlife volunteer research expeditions into the northern Tian Shan mountains.



The shy snow leopard lives in the Tian Shan's rough mountain world. Today, only about 250 of these rare animals survive in Kyrgyzstan.



## Further information

Further information on the fundraising campaign: [www.crowdrise.com/snowleopard/fundraiser/biosphere-expeditions](http://www.crowdrise.com/snowleopard/fundraiser/biosphere-expeditions)

Information on volunteer expeditions: [www.biosphere-expeditions.org/tianshan](http://www.biosphere-expeditions.org/tianshan)



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*Snow-covered mountain peaks, wild and rare animals, the chance to become familiar with a different culture – thinking of the Northern Tian Shan mountains in Kyrgyzstan certainly inspires wanderlust. But above all, the region needs help in protecting one of the world's most endangered big cats: the snow leopard. NABU has therefore established a cooperation with Biosphere Expeditions, a nature conservation organisation.*

“Biosphere Expeditions makes it possible for nature enthusiasts to participate in genuine hands-on wildlife volunteer expeditions,” Dr Matthias Hammer, founder and executive director of Biosphere Expeditions, explains. “The local knowledge of the NABU branch in Kyrgyzstan and our know-how in the field of eco- and science tourism provide the basis for our expeditions.”

The participants of each expedition actively support conservation efforts on the ground. Together with the “Gruppa Bars”, NABU's team of wildlife rangers, they set up camera traps or check the status of already active ones. Depending on the time of day, participants also observe and identify snow leopard prey such as the ibex. In this context,

communication with local herdsmen is very important and therefore part of the expedition members' tasks. One aim is to raise awareness for the protection of snow leopards among herdsmen and other locals. The expedition's field work, which also integrates local employees, and the expedition members' interest are hoped to act as incentives for the local population to actively participate in and benefit from protecting the snow leopard.

The cooperation has also included the launch of a fundraising campaign for camera traps. Everyone can join the crowdfunding campaign – even a small amount is a contribution! Each additional camera trap helps scientists to better understand this elusive big cat and its life in the remote mountain areas of Asia. A camera trap costs approximately 370 euros.





Tigers need food: An abundance of prey is a precondition for a growing tiger population.

## Number of tigers doubled

### Indian success story



Village inhabitants, too, have an interest in preserving their forests, and welcome alternatives such as wood-saving stoves.

*In the past three years, the number of tigers in NABU International's project area in the Indian Valmiki National Park has increased markedly. Today, 22 tigers roam the reserve covering about 900 square kilometres of land. Since the last census, the population has thus doubled.*

Monitoring activities require systematic track and excrement analyses. Additionally, our project partners have set up camera traps – a particularly effective and accurate instrument for the census. Since February 2013, 210 camera traps have been set up in the reserve, and many of these were funded by NABU International Foundation for Nature. Since 2011, all of India's tiger reserves have been obliged to conduct an annual census of the endangered big cats. Coordinated by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), a nation-wide census is conducted every four years.

“When we took up work in Valmiki, its tiger population was unable to grow because it lacked prey animals,” explains Dr Barbara Maas, Head of NABU International's Species Conservation projects. But the progressive ecological restoration of the area, which NABU International initiated in cooperation

with the forest authority and local communities, is paying off, as the most recent tiger census confirms.

“What caused the number of tigers in the reserve to rise is our successful and comprehensive approach,” Maas said. “We contributed to improved management structures, initiated transboundary cooperation between India and Nepal, and were able to significantly reduce the dependence of large local communities on the national park's forest resources. However, the crucial basis for a recovery of the tiger population is an increase in the number of prey animals. It is therefore particularly important to restore the meadows and forests destroyed by commercial timber industries,” the tiger expert continued. “In a world in which habitats for tigers are becoming more and more scarce, the big cat's survival depends on whether we are able to effectively protect existing natural areas.”



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# New climate protection project on Sulawesi

Gorontalo is a “hotspot of biodiversity”



Gorontalo is home to one of the most species-rich forests on earth. A new project is designed to protect the forest and its rare inhabitants and at the same time make an important contribution to climate protection.



## Did you know?

Every year, a rainforest area larger than Switzerland is lost. If this trend continues at its current rate, all of earth's rainforests will have disappeared within the next 50 years. To counter this development, NABU has established its Rainforest Fund. More information is available at [www.nabu-international/regenwaldfonds](http://www.nabu-international/regenwaldfonds)



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NABU and its Indonesian BirdLife partner, Burung Indonesia, have launched a new project to protect tropical forests on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi. The project is coordinated by the KfW, the German Development Bank, and has received 4,405 million euros in funding from the IKI – the International Climate Initiative of the German government. The project will be implemented by NABU and Burung Indonesia until April 2019 in the province of Gorontalo, located in the island's north. 68.5 per cent of the province is still covered with forests which are famous for their unique biodiversity. For this reason, Gorontalo as part of Wallacea is listed among the world's 34 'biodiversity hotspots'.

The project area is inhabited by 36 endemic species of birds and numerous other species which are only to be found here, including the Gorontalo Macaque (*Macaca nigrescens*) and the Sulawesi Babirusa (*Liopropoma celebensis*). The project area connects two nature reserves (Panua Nature Reserve and Nantu Wildlife Reserve) and six protected forest areas, uniting a total of 257,000 hectares of forest. Due to its hilly topography and difficult accessibility, a large part of the forest is in relatively good condition. In the western part of the forest, however, larger areas have been allocated for oil palm plantations. NABU and Burung Indonesia plan to establish an 84,798 hectare “area for ecosystem restoration” in order to stop the further expansion of oil palm plantations.

The main aim in Gorontalo is to preserve the endangered tropical forest areas as carbon sinks and a living environment for indigenous people as well as conserving their unique biodiversity. Additionally the project plans to implement measures to strengthen the structural effects of ERC (Ecosystem Restoration Concession) and encouraging policy development. For this purpose, the ERC Forum initiated by Burung Indonesia will support nature conservation organisations and forestry practitioners in exchanging knowledge and facilitate the involvement of relevant government agencies. In this way, the project significantly contributes to the further development of ERC as a promising instrument of nature conservation in Indonesia.



# Long-term success in the “Harapan Rainforest”

Forest and climate protection project in Indonesia concluded



Harapan is a “hotspot” of biodiversity! It is home to 726 tree species, 304 bird species, 121 fish species and 57 reptile species. 54 mammals, 38 amphibians, 19 butterfly, three dragonfly and nine bee species, many of them protected, can be found here as well.

*After a five-year implementation period, the forest and climate protection project in the Harapan Rainforest on Sumatra ended in April this year. The forest area is one of the most biologically diverse places on our planet.*

The IKI-funded model project “Harapan Rainforest – Restoration of ecosystem of a degraded production forest area in Sumatra” is the first area for ecosystem restoration in Indonesia, and with nearly 100,000 hectares in size, it remains one of the largest to date. Among the project’s most important achievements are the reforestation of 3,049 hectares of forest and the reduction of the deforestation rate from 239 to 76 hectares per month. An improved system for preventing forest fires has been established as well.

22 Sumatran tigers have been sighted in Harapan since 2009. Experts assume that worldwide only 400 individuals of this tiger subspecies remain in the wild. But new endangered species have been discovered in the project area as well: The Clouded Leopard and the “Malayan gharial”, a rare freshwater crocodile. Further scientific findings are to be expected. Currently, researchers and students from three European and five Indonesian universities are conducting research in Harapan Rainforest.

An emergency clinic was set up for the local population and the over 250 member strong project staff, and 43 children of the indigenous Bathin Sembilan tribe currently visit the primary school established by the project. In cooperation with the government, a mediation process was initiated to solve both land conflicts and the problem of illegal timber harvesting.

Plans for the construction of an over 53-kilometre-long road that would directly cut through the rainforest, proposed by the construction company PT Musi Mitra Jaya, threaten to undermine the project’s success in Harapan. Soon, 800 trucks could be rolling along the 15-metre-wide road every day. Its construction would also involve the erection of a barbed-wire fence that would divide the area in two. As a consequence, it would not only destroy the habitat of the tigers living in Harapan, but also make it easier for poachers to enter the protected forest. For this reason, NABU and its partner organisations urgently call on the Indonesian Government not to approve the road construction plans.



## Did you know?

These new Ecosystem Restoration Concessions (ERC) were introduced in Indonesia by law in 2004. They forbid all logging and the conversion of forest area to agriculturally used land. At the same time, they require the holder to protect and restore the forest ecosystem.



## Your contact person

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<b>AFRICA</b>		<b>ASIA</b>		<b>CAUCASUS</b>		<b>EUROPE</b>	
<b>Egypt</b>	Migratory bird conservation	<b>India</b>	Tiger conservation	<b>Armenia</b>	NABU project office	<b>Malta</b>	Migratory bird conservation
<b>Ethiopia</b>	NABU project offices	<b>Indonesia</b>	Rainforest conservation		Bird conservation	<b>Russia</b>	Bird conservation
	Anti-poaching measures	<b>Kazakhstan</b>	Tiger conservation		Conservation of steppe lakes		Environmental education
	Ecotourism		Ecotourism		Ecotourism		Peatland conservation
	Establishment of protected areas	<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	Establishment of protected areas		NGO capacity development	<b>Turkey</b>	Forest conservation
	Lion conservation		Saiga conservation	<b>Azerbaijan</b>	Mouflon conservation	<b>Cyprus</b>	Migratory bird conservation
	Rainforest conservation		NABU project offices		Bird conservation		
	Wildlife ranger support	<b>Tajikistan</b>	NABU rehabilitation center		Establishment of protected areas		
<b>Burundi</b>	Environmental education		Environmental education	<b>Russia</b>	NGO capacity development	<b>WORLDWIDE</b>	
<b>Djibouti</b>	Environmental education		NGO capacity development		NABU project office	<b>Cuba</b>	Bird conservation
<b>Ghana</b>	Environmental education		Snow leopard conservation		Bison conservation		Crabs conservation
	Marine conservation		NGO capacity development		Ecotourism	<b>New Zealand</b>	Dolphin conservation
<b>Kenya</b>	Anti-poaching measures				Establishment of protected areas		Marine conservation
	Bird conservation				Forest conservation		
	Ecotourism						
	Elephant conservation						
	Forest conservation						
	Poverty reduction						
	Wildlife ranger support						
<b>Liberia</b>	Environmental education						
	Migratory bird conservation						
	Monitoring						
	NGO capacity development						
<b>Tanzania</b>	Lion conservation						

● project area



**Europe**



NABU President Olaf Tschimpke: "I support Natura 2000, because I want this conservation network programme to form the backbone of nature conservation in Germany and the European Union!"

## Nature conservation in the European Union

NABU supports BirdLife office in Brussels



Among other species, *Rosalia longicorn (Rosalia alpina)* and the Eastern pasqueflower (*Pulsatilla patens*) are now especially protected under the Habitats Directive.



*In 2013, NABU again intensively lobbied in Brussels to influence those decisions that are especially significant for nature conservation work in Germany and all EU member countries. This was done in close cooperation with BirdLife International and its Brussels Secretariat as well as with BirdLife partners in EU member states.*

Among other things, NABU, supported by its British and Dutch BirdLife Partners RSPB and VBN, coordinated an EU-wide working group on the two central EU nature conservation directives, the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive. NABU experts were also involved in the BirdLife working groups on climate and energy policy, EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) as well as in working groups on the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and maritime policy.

Lobbying for the EU's budget policy, in particular its multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2014-2020, was made the task of a special working group involving BirdLife and other organisations accredited in Brussels. NABU and BirdLife experts also joined the European Commission's expert groups, which in 2013 focused on developing a strategy for Natura 2000, a network of sites protected under the Birds and Habitats Directives, to

better adapt these sites to climate change, and on drafting management plans for Natura 2000 sites in forests, as well as on identifying management plan priorities for some of the so-called biogeographical regions of the EU.

Cooperation with Germany's Permanent Representation as well as with representatives of the Federal States in Brussels were also improved. The Representation of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate, for instance, hosted a well-attended event organised by NABU and the Rhineland-Palatinate Ministry for the Environment, discussing the second pillar of the EU's CAP on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2013. Several representatives of the European Commission and the European Parliament (EP) were among the guests.

For each of the six-month EU Presidencies, BirdLife compiled a list of demands and sought cooperation with the Council Presidencies.



### Council Presidencies

Further information from NABU on the Council Presidencies is available at [www.NABU.de/eu-ratspraesidentschaft](http://www.NABU.de/eu-ratspraesidentschaft)

To learn about what the elections the 25th of May 2014 meant for the conservation of nature and the environment, visit [www.NABU.de/europawahl](http://www.NABU.de/europawahl).



### Your contact person

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The Asian tiger mosquito and the Policeman's Helmet are listed as invasive species.

## Controlling invasive species

### New EU regulation for the protection of biological diversity



#### Tip

Facts about the EU regulation on dealing with invasive species can be found on the NABU website: [www.NABU.de/ias-verordnung](http://www.NABU.de/ias-verordnung).



#### Your contact person

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*At the global level, invasive species represent one of the greatest threats to biodiversity. In the EU, experts estimate the number of so-called alien species (neobiota) at about 12,000. About 10-15 per cent of them are considered problematic (invasive). These “invasive alien species” (IAS) have substantial negative impacts on biological diversity, for example when they displace native species from their habitat.*

The ecological, economic and medical costs caused by invasive species throughout the EU are estimated to amount to at least 12 billion euros annually. According to international studies, the ecological costs caused by invasive species in the United States, Australia, South Africa, Brazil and India add up to about 100 billion US dollars per year, the economic costs to 230 billion US dollars. Many invasive species were introduced by ship from across oceans and rivers; other species were deliberately introduced by man, such as the Giant Hogweed from the Caucasus or the Policeman's Helmet from the Himalayas.

Many species have also been able to spread due to climate change, for example the Asian tiger mosquito, which has today reached northern Italy and can transmit yellow fever and other tropical diseases.

Invasive species are therefore a typical environmental problem that does not halt at national borders, but instead has to be combated across borders with common minimum standards. In 1992, the contracting states of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), among them Germany and the other EU member states, already committed themselves to prevent the introduction of new invasive species, to increase their control of already introduced species, and if necessary, to eradicate them (CBD, in particular article 8[h]). Nevertheless, it took EU member states until 2013 to agree on a respective regulation. It remained disputed over a long time due to the massive lobbying of the fur and horticultural industries in the European Parliament (EP) and the Council of Ministers. But in mid-April 2014, the EP adopted the regulation with a large majority. In autumn 2014 EU member states also adopted the new regulation, which then came into force on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2015.



The grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) originates from North America.



BirdLife is the largest network of NGOs committed to species diversity, the conservation of habitats and sustainable development. BirdLife's Global Secretariat is located in Cambridge in the United Kingdom. BirdLife's European work is coordinated in Brussels by BirdLife Europe.

## A future for nature and the environment

### EU passes new Environment Action Programme and new EIA Directive

*The Environment Action Programmes (EAP) of the European Community – which is now the European Union – set the course for future political initiatives concerning nature and the environment. The Birds Directive, for example, adopted unanimously in 1979, is to this day one of the foundations of nature conservation in the EU, and goes back to the first EAP from 1973. To make the 7th EAP for the period up to 2020 as ambitious as possible, BirdLife and NABU have developed proposals, provided much technical input, and done intensive lobbying.*

NABU was primary responsible for developing a statement distributed to all BirdLife Partners, which these then used to participate in the public consultations on the EAP in 2012. Numerous improvements concerning resource, soil and nature conservation were included in the European Commission's draft thanks to the good cooperation between BirdLife, NABU, and the European Parliament, in particular Jo Leinen as one of the rapporteurs for the 7th EAP, and Matthias Groote as chairman of the environment committee. The EAP now also includes improvements concerning both the implementation of existing conservation law and the monitoring of its implementation. A regulation on soil conservation was opposed by some member states, however, among them Germany.

The amendment of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, adopted in December 2013, will bring progress not only for Germany, but above all for many southern and eastern European member states. The experts conducting future environmental impact assessments, for instance, will have to be “professionally competent, objective and independent”. Issues such as biodiversity and climate change will have to be given greater consideration, and alternatives will have to be examined more intensively. A more thorough assessment of cumulative effects is intended to counteract “salami tactics”, i.e. the widespread practice of dividing large projects into several smaller ones not subject to an EIA.



#### Fracking

So far, fracking is not subject to environmental impact assessments in the European Union: The proposal to include fracking on the list of projects subject to EIA was blocked by the European Parliament's conservative majority.



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The porpoise is in danger! In the western Baltic Sea, its population has decreased by more than 30 per cent. Gillnet fisheries bear the main responsibility for this trend. Automated longline fishing systems are a sustainable alternative.

## By-catch – an unsolved problem

Paving the way for a sustainable fishing industry



### Did you know?

The EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) regulates fisheries outside national coastal waters and was reformed in 2013. In the future, the implementation of multi-annual management plans, research-based catch limits and a discard ban will hopefully help overexploited fish stocks to recover.



### Your contact person

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*Almost 30 years of misguided European fisheries policy are responsible for the overfishing of nearly half of the EU's fish stocks. On top of this, every year hundreds of thousands of seabirds and thousands of whales, dolphins and turtles end up losing their lives as unwanted by-catch.*

In December 2012, after over twelve years of discussion, in which NABU and BirdLife International, a partnership of national non-governmental conservation organisations, played an active part, the European Commission adopted an action plan to help prevent the senseless death of seabirds caught in fishing nets. The plan identifies various measures to tackle this problem: The technical modification of fishing gear, operational management measures in protected areas, or intensified surveillance and monitoring. According to NABU, these measures have to be made mandatory and be integrated into the EU's common fisheries policy, which was last reformed in 2013.

Germany has placed nearly 45 per cent of its North Sea and Baltic Sea areas under the protection of the Natura 2000 network. And still, up to 20,000 seabirds drown every year on the coast of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania alone. In particular the large-scale use of gillnets and entangling nets sharply

contradicts the conservation goals defined in the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive. But not only birds, seaducks and fish hunters are caught in set nets. For porpoise, too, they are a deadly trap.

As part of a research project funded by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, NABU has been testing alternative fishing gear with fisheries operating in the German Baltic Sea since autumn 2013. The aim is to replace set nets in protected areas and other conflict regions. To achieve this, the project wants to increase acceptance of innovative fishing methods and promote dialogue between fishermen, scientists and conservationists. In the meantime, one cutter has been equipped with an automatic longline fishing system, another with four automatic fishing systems. The introduction of trap nets is planned for 2014. These are crucial contributions to implementing sustainable, ecologically friendly fishing practices in the marine Natura 2000 areas.



In cities with large ports, air pollution is often more than twice as high as in inland cities.

## Europe's ports need fresh air

### Start of the NABU project "Clean Air in Ports"

*As part of the EU LIFE+ project "Clean Air", NABU is actively campaigning for better air in Europe, along with eight other environmental organisations from six European countries. NABU's own three-year project within this framework aims for more "Clean Air in Ports".*

Every year around 420,000 people die prematurely from the direct health effects of poor air quality. Air pollutants such as particulate matter (PM) are highly dangerous to health and significantly contribute to global warming. Others, such as sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>), significantly damage our ecosystems. In ports, the air is contaminated not only by incoming and outgoing vessels, which are still permitted to emit concentrations of exhaust pollutants thousands of times higher than those permitted on European roads. Dense rail and road traffic, cranes and other port equipment are significant sources of emissions, too. This is all the more problematic because many ports are located either in the centre of or very close to cities. Many European cities permanently breach EU air pollution limits for PM, NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub>.

With its project, NABU wants to contribute to cleaner air in European ports in order to protect the environment, the climate and the health of local residents. Experts have presented the latest scientific findings at four conferences in the port cities of Hamburg, Antwerp, London and Copenhagen. Representatives of ports, terminals and businesses have presented possible solutions and best-practice examples. These include clean air plans, environmental port charges, filters for diesel engines and electric motors. Local possibilities, barriers and challenges have been discussed together with port-stakeholders. Two further conferences in Spain and Poland will follow before the project ends in 2015.



#### Did you know?

An English-language working paper on the NABU project for clean ports is available at <http://bit.ly/cleanairinports>. It will be continually developed as the project is implemented, and published as a handbook in summer 2015. The project team is happy to receive feedback as well as suggestions for additions and amendments.



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In the past 15 years, NABU contributed a total budget of almost 70 million euros to LIFE+ projects. These for instance enabled the restoration of marshes and floodplains and targeted conservation measures for the Lesser Spotted Eagle or the Common Spadefoot.

## €1 billion for conservation projects

### NABU's successful lobbying efforts in Brussels



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*Between 2012 and 2014, NABU coordinated BirdLife Europe's lobbying efforts on the reform of LIFE, the only EU direct funding instrument for environmental projects.*

Initially, there was concern that the EU Member States might cancel funding of LIFE despite the programme's recognised achievements and its outstanding cost-efficiency. The black-yellow coalition government in particular had paved the way for a first-time cutback of the total EU budget by 3.5 per cent, and refused to reallocate funds to LIFE despite a clear multi-fractional request by the German parliament. In the end, however, together with BirdLife partners in other EU countries, the BirdLife Secretariat in Brussels and other environmental networks such as WWF and EEB, NABU was able to secure an increase of LIFE funds by 6.5%. This would not have been possible without strong support from members of the European Parliament, in particular the former North Rhine-Westphalian delegate Jutta Haug (SPD).

From 2014 to 2020, the EU will be making available a total of 1 billion euros for nature conservation projects, funds which in part

can be used for projects outside the EU, for example for the protection of overwintering migratory birds in Africa. Each project has to contribute between 25 and 40 per cent to its funding – which is less than previously and involves less red tape thanks to the joint lobbying efforts with BirdLife.

Nevertheless, LIFE could do with significantly more funding. To finance even only a tenth of the cost of the Natura 2000 network, LIFE needs at least 1 per cent of the EU's budget. In view of the 40 per cent given to agricultural industry in the form of subsidies that are largely harmful to the environment, NABU and BirdLife will use the next round of reforms to massively lobby for reallocations that benefit nature and society.

Over the past 15 years, NABU has contributed a total budget of almost 70 million euros to LIFE projects. These for instance enabled the restoration of marshes and floodplains and targeted conservation measures for the Lesser Spotted Eagle or the Common Spadefoot.



The use of pesticides and fertilisers on Ecological Focus Areas (EFA) is not prohibited.

## Greening the Agricultural Policy

### Environmental organisations make an impact

*A tough negotiation process lasting two-and-a-half years finally came to an end in autumn 2013: The European Parliament and the Agriculture Council confirmed the results of the negotiations concerning the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the years 2014-20.*

Without the support of organisations such as BirdLife, the Council's decision would certainly have been very different. Because with respect to both the Council's political core messages and questions of detail, the influence of environmental NGOs was extremely important and constantly perceptible. All in all, four regulations were negotiated that will provide the future framework for CAP. They concern direct payments, the single common market organisation, rural development and the establishment of a common monitoring and evaluation system. Most of the new CAP regulations will come into effect in 2015. This includes all environmental regulations on "greening", which oblige farmers to convert 5 per cent of their arable land into "Ecological Focus Areas" (EFA) – or otherwise accept considerable cuts in direct payments. Subject to a review by the European Commission, the share of EFAs might be increased to 7 per cent from 2017 onwards. However, eligible agricultural

areas also include short rotational coppice, catch crops and protein crops. Regulations concerning redistributions have also been revised: In order to subsidise smaller farmers, EU Member States can redistribute up to 30 per cent of the total volume of their direct payments to farms smaller than the national average farm size (which in Germany equals about 50 hectares). Rural development will also profit, even if only minimally: Member States will have to spend at least 30 per cent of their budget on agri-environmental measures, organic farming, investment measures and less-favoured areas. They have also increased the co-financing rate for agri-environmental measures to 75 per cent, and agreed on a 10 per cent surcharge for climate conservation measures.

Unfortunately, details were watered down during the final negotiations as well as during the national implementation process, so that NABU's overall assessment is critical.



#### Did you know?

Regulations on the conservation of permanent grassland in the EU have been revised. At the regional level, the share of grassland with respect to the total eligible agricultural area must not decline by more than 5 per cent compared to 2014. The regulations passed by the German Federal Government are even stricter: From now on, every transition will need to be approved and compensated.



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For the campaign “CO<sub>2</sub> knows no borders!”, the NAJU used balloons to symbolise greenhouse gas emissions and radioactive particles in order to draw attention to the dangers of the EU's current, unsustainable energy policy.

## Ideas for a better Europe

### NAJU youth delegation in Strasbourg



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*From 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> May 2014, a ten-member-strong delegation of the German Youth Association for the Protection of Nature (NAJU) took part in the European Youth Event (EYE) and campaigned for a greener Europe. 5000 young people from all across Europe participated in the event to develop “Ideas for a better Europe”.*

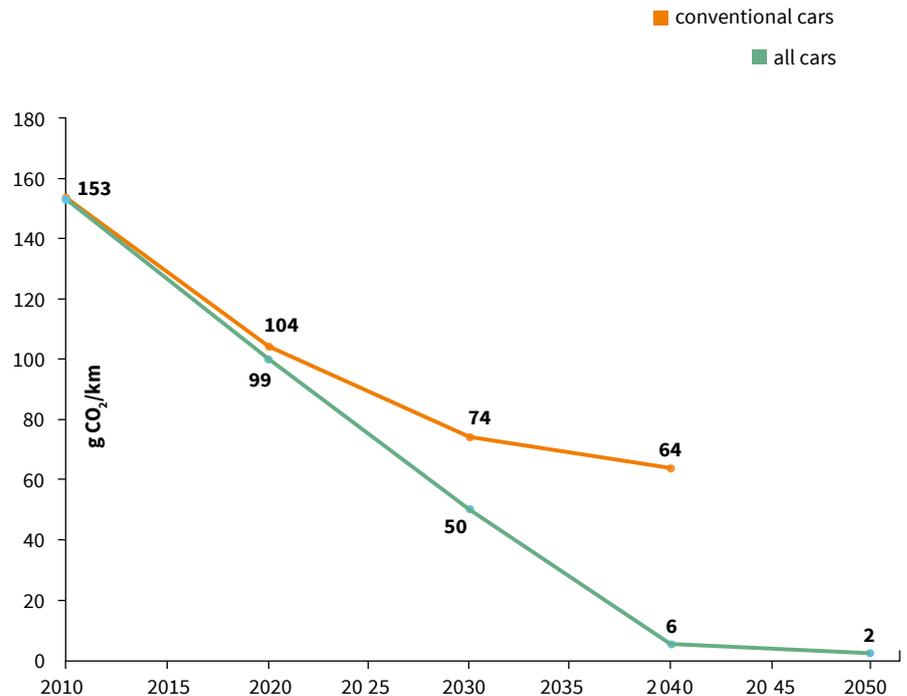
The NAJU delegation wanted to learn more about parliamentary work, gain a better understanding of the European Union's structure, and highlight the transnational interconnectedness of social and environmental problems. “The EU is the right body to address, because just like birds or wolves, greenhouse gases don't know man-made borders,” said Christoph Röttgers, NAJU's federal spokesman. “That's why nature and environmental conservation only make sense if they are practised across borders.”

For this reason, the young conservationists attended workshops, role-playing games and panel discussions. They also organised a campaign under the motto “CO<sub>2</sub> knows no borders!”, which attracted public attention. One of the locations was the bridge across the Rhine that connects France and Germany. Using balloons to symbolise greenhouse gas emissions and radioactive particles, the NAJUs drew attention to the dangers of the EU's

current and environmentally harmful energy policy. Neither possible radiation caused by a nuclear accident in a country dependent on nuclear energy such as France nor the dirty emissions from German brown and black coal-fired power stations will stop from spreading across national borders.

Over the entire weekend, the public was able to follow the delegation via its blog ([www.NAJU.de/internationales/european-youth-event](http://www.NAJU.de/internationales/european-youth-event)), which it used to report on workshops and discussions. At EYE, young people from across Europe developed ideas that they then presented to the newly elected MEPs.

The NAJU delegation had already addressed the topics announced by EYE such as youth unemployment, sustainability and European values during a preparatory meeting in Berlin. Further discussions focused on lobbying, climate policy and the democratic deficits in the EU.



CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from new passenger cars in Germany (NEDC)  
Source: Calculations by Oeko-Institut

## Goodbye, gas guzzlers!

### EU guidelines reduce the fuel consumption of passenger cars

Early this year, Brussels adopted the revised directive regulating CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from new passenger cars. After a long and spectacular tug-of-war, a new limit of 95 grams of CO<sub>2</sub> per kilometre was set for 2021. From then on, new cars will only be allowed to consume about 4 litres of fuel per 100 kilometres.

From NABU's point of view, the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions should and could have been more substantial in order to make the transport sector adequately contribute to the urgently necessary reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. But with active support from government circles, car manufacturers successfully opposed stricter regulations. We, however, will be left to pick up the tab, because the additional fuel that we unnecessarily consume costs us huge amounts of fossil resources, affects the climate and ultimately burdens car owners with additional costs for every additional litre of fuel they pay at the service station.

What makes matters worse is that average fuel consumption as officially advertised by car manufacturers is often fundamentally at odds with actual on-road consumption as experienced by car owners. On average, a car's fuel consumption is 25 per cent higher

than specified by its manufacturer. Individual models may even consume up to 50 per cent more than advertised. But the industry's tricks are not even illegal, because manufacturers are able to take advantage of existing loopholes that must be closed.

This kind of whitewashing certainly doesn't help the climate, because the CO<sub>2</sub> we emit is real and contributes to global warming. This nuisance will be eliminated after 2017 at the latest with the help of a new test cycle to determine fuel consumption, the results of which can be expected to be closer to reality. But these plans are already meeting massive resistance by manufacturers. With the new measuring system, they are right to expect their average fleet consumption to rise. But all these calculations easily make us forget our main target: We have to find ways and means to ensure our mobility and substantially reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.



#### Further information

Together with WWF, BUND, Germanwatch and the German Association for Sustainable Mobility (VCD), and with the assistance of the Oeko-Institut, NABU has developed a climate protection concept for a sustainable transformation of the transport sector by 2050. It is available online and free of charge at: [www.NABU.de/klimafreundlicher-verkehr](http://www.NABU.de/klimafreundlicher-verkehr)



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# TTIP

## unfair handelbar

“Anyone concerned about conserving nature and the environment has to oppose TTIP and CETA.” (Sascha Roth, Officer for environmental policy)

## Stop the Free Trade Agreement!

### European Citizens' Initiative against TTIP



#### Participate now!

Following the ECI's successful registration, signatures in the EU Member States will be collected online at [www.stop-ttip.org](http://www.stop-ttip.org) from September 2014 onwards.



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Together with some 150 organisations, NABU registered a European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) against the free trade agreements TTIP and CETA in July 2014. The aim of “Stop TTIP” is to collect as many signatures from EU citizens as possible, so that the European Commission and the European Parliament are forced to discuss a possible stop of the two free trade agreements.

Because in their current form, the proposed agreements with the United States and Canada are a disaster for man and nature. Environmental, consumer and labour standards that it took great effort to establish in the past are now being haggled over behind closed doors.

NABU fears that the agreements, if they enter into force, will only undermine nature and environmental conservation aims. “Negotiations are being driven by purely economic interests. The negotiators see social and environmental standards as obstacles to trade – and not, as it ought to be, as guarantors of sustainable and healthy development,” says NABU President Olaf Tschimpke.

As a consequence, the EU market might in the future be dominated by products and processes that hardly meet current EU standards: Hormones might be used in the

production of meat, for instance, or poultry might be treated with chlorine. Similarly, American legislation on chemicals, known as the Toxic Substances Control Act, is much less strict than the EU's chemicals regulation REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals). And even the energy revolution would be threatened if the EU were to import shale gas from the United States and Canada instead of relying on renewable energies.

The European Commission has time until September 2014 to review whether the citizens' initiative meets all legal requirements necessary for its registration. In case it does, at least one million signatures will have to be collected from all across Europe for the initiative to be successful. 72,000 signatures will have to come from Germany alone. In addition, specific quorums have to be reached in at least six other EU countries.



Each migration season, hundreds of running metres of nets are discovered and confiscated.

## Cyprus and Malta – still no bird paradise

*Since 2007, wildlife rangers of NABU's partner organisation on Cyprus have been patrolling individual areas for poachers. Whenever they discover poaching gear, they notify the police, who then confiscate the illegally set up nets. On Malta, too, NABU and its project partners have to fight for every inch of progress in bird conservation.*

Thanks to the support of NABU and the Heinz Sielmann Foundation, NABU's partner organisation "BirdLife Cyprus" will be able to continue its daily surveillance work and the search for illegal bird hunting sites in the future. Donations have allowed the organisation to finance a second-hand off-road vehicle. Because bird hunters on Cyprus have become increasingly aggressive in recent years, "BirdLife Cyprus" equipped the vehicle with an emergency GPS locator. In case the conservationists are attacked by poachers, the headquarters receives a signal showing the vehicle's current location. Apart from these measures, "BirdLife Cyprus" has intensified its public relations work. Its staff organises educational events at schools, and is currently producing an information film.

On Malta, too, bird conservation is only making slow progress, and occasionally also has to accept setbacks. In spring 2014, quail and turtle dove hunting was fully legalised again. A dubious exception from the EU-wide ban on spring hunting had made this possible – and it entails the risk that protected bird species are illegally shot. In April 2014, NABU partner "BirdLife Malta" therefore organised a bird conservation camp to protect migrating birds and immediately report violations of the law to the police.

Possibly, however, this will have been the last legal spring hunting season on Malta. Together with 13 other Maltese organisations, BirdLife Malta has initiated a successful petition: 40,000 inhabitants signed its demand to ban spring hunting, and in this way forced the government to allow a referendum, which will presumably be held in 2014 or 2015.



### Did you know?

According to NABU's partners on Cyprus, as many as 150 bird species are affected by illegal bird hunting on the island. The poached songbirds, whose number is estimated at over 2 million in each migration season, have a black-market value of several million euros.



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# More protection for peatlands

NABU and VOLKSWAGEN expand cooperation



Representatives of NABU and VOLKSWAGEN on the way to an international peatland conservation fund.



## Did you know?

Peatlands are ecosystems that are able to sequester and store carbon from the atmosphere. Given a water surplus, peatlands produce more vegetation than they decompose biomass. In this way, over the centuries peatlands store large amounts of carbon – in their peat. However, if a peatland is drained and the body of peat exposed to air, the carbon it has stored is released into the atmosphere again. Restoring the natural water regime of peatlands is therefore an important key to effective global climate protection.



## Your contact person

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*Peatlands are among the world's most important carbon sinks – provided they are intact. Degraded and drained peatlands in turn are a massive source of CO<sub>2</sub>. NABU and VW Financial Services have therefore decided to expand the cooperation between NABU and VW and build on the success they have achieved in Germany.*

On the international agenda, the conservation of peatlands remains a topic that is still not given the importance it actually has for climate protection. In the European part of Russia alone, degraded and drained peatlands release almost 140 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere every year – unnoticed and invisible. The cooperation between NABU and VW aims to initiate projects that are relevant to climate protection and at the same time have a positive impact on biodiversity. The first step consists in designing a scientific analysis of potentials to identify the most effective sites between Eastern Europe and West Siberia and methods to implement peatland conservation measures and the basic conditions under which these are possible. As in Germany, effective peatland conservation is often hindered by a lack of availability of rewetting areas because of contradictory land use.

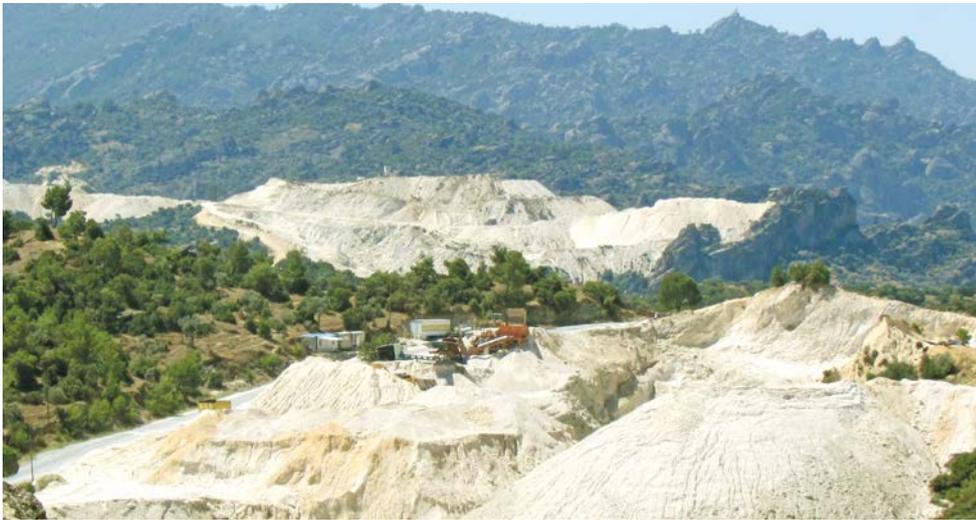
In August 2014, NABU, Volkswagen, the local protected area administration and representatives of the nature conservation organisation “DRONT” came together near Kerzhensky nature reserve in the central Volga basin close to Nizhny Novgorod, and discussed

exemplary problems inhibiting practical peatland conservation work. The meeting also laid the foundations for a cooperation that is to be part of an International NABU peatland conservation fund planned for 2015. The symbolic ground-breaking ceremony did not involve closing a drainage ditch, however. Instead, participants tried handling a turf analysis borer, because the analysis of drill cores provides information on the degree of oxidation of the peat, the pore volume, and the peatland's composition and genesis.

In the past years, NABU has already implemented peatland conservation projects, above all in Russia, for example in the peatlands of Taldom and the Vinogradovo Floodplain on the outskirts of Moscow. Future peatland conservation projects will be implemented above all in regions where they are particularly necessary and their impact on climate protection is significant. “The analysis of potentials, which we will present in mid-2015, will provide us with an important basis for future decisions without limiting us to specific regions,” says NABU Vice President Thomas Tennhardt.

# Turkey's largest pine forests under threat

Quarries are endangering nature, health and prehistoric rock paintings



The large quarries in the pine forests of the Latmos resemble gaping wounds.



*Turkey's largest pine forests are now acutely in danger. Quarry operators are planning to extend the extraction of feldspar in the Latmos Mountains. Clearing the forests will not only destroy the region's landscape. Its human population, too, will be threatened, as local people, dependent on pine nut and honey production, will not only lose their livelihood but also see themselves exposed to health risks. NABU therefore supports a petition to save the Latmos Mountains.*

But local operators can't seem to get enough of this rock, which is used for the production of bathroom furniture and tiles. And this despite the fact that feldspar is one of the most common types of rock in the world and can be found almost anywhere. The Latmos Mountains, however, are unique. In 2012, quarry operators purchased a large area, the core zone of the Latmos Mountains. In this part, the mountains' most beautiful, numerous sites with rock paintings have been discovered. So far, the Turkish Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources has not approved the opening of new quarries in the area. Yet this can happen anytime soon. Recently, the construction of a road leading into the core zone

was begun, which suggests that operators are expecting permits to be issued soon. Unless this is prevented, the Latmos Mountains' unique natural and cultural landscape will be irrevocably lost.

Together with nature conservation organisations and archaeological societies, NABU is actively campaigning for the protection of these forests. So far, about 7,500 people from over 50 countries have signed our petition addressed to the Turkish Ministry of Environment and Forestry. But we need an additional 23,400 signatures for our petition to be heard by the Turkish parliament.



## Further information

Help us to prevent the region's destruction, save its forests and protect the local population's health! Please sign the petition and forward it to colleagues and friends: [www.bitly.com/savelatmos](http://www.bitly.com/savelatmos).



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# Caucasus

# Caucasian bison population continues to grow

## Census of heavyweights reveals success



It is rare to see bison on open plains. They spend most of the year in the dense forests of the Caucasus.



*Over the past two decades the number of Caucasian bison has increased from 150 to 850 animals. The census in July 2014 also revealed that the number of young animals increased by at least 10-15 per cent since the last population count in August 2012. This increase suggests that the population is developing very healthily.*

NABU has been committed to protecting the bison in the Caucasus since the 1990s. Back then, the area was home to only about 150 of these large, impressive, but shy animals. The bison were hunted mercilessly at the beginning of the 20th century and were extinct by 1927. Although their reintroduction in 1955 was successful and the number of bison increased to 1,500 animals, the population experienced a substantial drop again in the early 1990s. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the poaching of bison reached an unprecedented scale. In 1994 and 1995, their population shrank abruptly to about 150 animals. Even in the central and difficult to access parts of the Kavkazsky Nature Reserve, the number of bison sank to a few dozen animals.

“Since we’ve become active in the northern part of the Western Caucasus, a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site, the number of wild bison has risen by 700 individuals,” Vitalij Kovalev, NABU's Head of Caucasus Program, is happy to report. “The bison project is NABU’s

most successful species conservation project in the Caucasus,” he adds.

Anti-poaching units and environmental education ensure that the animals’ living conditions improve and the local population develops an awareness of the importance of conserving the bison. A team of inspectors from the Heritage Site administration monitors the bison population every year. This time, almost 100 wildlife rangers set off to reach difficult to access areas on foot. During the rutting season, the rangers are able to approach the ungulates almost without being noticed. During that time, the bison leave the dense forests and gather in large groups to mate on open grassland, where they are easy to observe.

In recent years, the rutting season has begun earlier than usual – not in August, but already in July. Experts assume the cause to be climate change, which significantly affects the animals’ annual cycle.



### Did you know?

The Caucasus Mountains not only make it difficult for rangers to monitor the animals. Bison, too, live there under far harsher conditions than they would experience in more temperate forests, e.g. in Germany. In winter, the Caucasian bison can withstand a snow cover of up to twelve meters.



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Members of the business initiatives of NABU and NABU International Foundation for Nature outdoors in the Caucasus

## In the wild bison's kingdom

### Business initiative visits the Caucasus



#### Did you know?

If you want to learn more about the Business Initiative Caucasus, you can find an overview at [www.NABU-International.de/unternehmerinitiative](http://www.NABU-International.de/unternehmerinitiative).



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*In mid-May 2014, members of the Business Initiative Caucasus, a business network established by NABU and NABU International Foundation for Nature, travelled to Adygea and Krasnodar. The trade mission was guided by one central question: What can the economy do to support the conservation of biological diversity?*

A round table brought together German and Russian entrepreneurs and provided an opportunity to expand networks focused on conserving biological diversity. Russian delegates active in sectors such as ecoconsultancy for construction measures, trade in agricultural products, urban water supply, organic farming, finance, household goods and the textile industry exchanged views and experiences with participating managers from Germany.

The shared interests of the Russian and German trade delegates paved the way for immediate results: For one thing, the delegates were able to establish profitable networks, and on the Russian side, the Business Initiative fell on open ears. And for another, the event strengthened the German delegates' collective identity. "It is wonderful

to directly witness the emergence new partnerships and ideas for the conservation of the World Heritage Site in the Caucasus," said Thomas Tennhardt, NABU Vice President and President of NABU International Foundation for Nature, explaining the background of the journey to the Caucasus.

On a regular basis, NABU International Foundation for Nature invites members of the NABU Business Initiative Caucasus to travel its project areas. "The Business Initiative significantly contributes to the success of our running projects, for example our work to protect the Caucasian bison and its habitat," said Vitalij Kovalev, Head of NABU's Caucasus Program. NABU has been actively involved in nature conservation projects in the Caucasus for 30 years.



Armenia's diverse landscapes provide habitats for an equally diverse world of flora and fauna.

## New alliances in Armenia

### Companies committed to preserving biodiversity

*Sensitising companies to biodiversity is a key focus of NABU's commitment in the Caucasus, and in Armenia in particular. After all, the entire Caucasus is a "hotspot" of biodiversity – and Armenia, with its diversity of landscapes and species, is no exception.*

The project "New Alliances to Preserve Biodiversity in the Caucasian Hotspot" has repeatedly brought together NGOs and economic stakeholders. Discussions focused on reconciling profit- with non-profit-oriented thinking in terms of environmental sustainability. Non-governmental organisations will be taught how to win the support of businesses for nature conservation projects in Armenia.

By April 2015, workshops and communication trainings will continue to support both sides in learning about how they can contribute to nature conservation together

Launched in spring 2013, the project is financed by the Federal Environment Ministry's Advisory Assistance Programme for environmental conservation in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (BHP).



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The Eastern Imperial Eagle is one of the largest eagles in Europe. According to the IUCN, the species is endangered.

## Eastern Imperial Eagle under protection

### Help for the emperor of the Volga steppes



#### Did you know?

Imperial Eagles often live together in pairs, and stay together for a lifetime. In flight, the impressive animals can reach speeds of up to 125 kilometres per hour.



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*A particularly large species of bird can be observed if one travels north from the Caucasus to the Volga steppe in the Russian district of Ulyanovsk. With a wingspan of up to 210 centimeters, the Eastern Imperial Eagle (Aquila heliaca) is one of the largest eagles in Europe.*

Together with the region's environment ministry, the consulting agency Prowolsche and the "Russian Bird Conservation Union", NABU is running a new conservation programme for the Eastern Imperial Eagle. The programme is coordinated by NABU's branch in the Russian city of Maykop. It will provide large-scale protection for the Imperial Eagle and hopefully serve as a model for the entire Eastern European region.

As an initial part of the programme, art competitions will be held at schools, and their results will be publicised and presented in urban galleries. In addition to this occupied eagle nests will be counted. Recent counts

revealed about 110 Imperial Eagle pairs to be living in the Volga steppes of the Uljanovsk Region.

The majestic animal is at home in parts of Europe and Asia. Its global population is estimated at between 5,200 and 16,800 individuals. The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) lists the species as globally endangered. Accidents caused by poorly secured power lines, habitat destruction and uncontrolled tourism are responsible for the Imperial Eagle's decline especially in its eastern distribution area.



Azerbaijan does not only accommodate many endemic bird species. The country is also a popular resting and wintering ground for migratory birds.

## Bird conservation in Azerbaijan

### Protecting the Flamingo and the Siberian Crane

*The countries of the South Caucasus are considered a paradise for ornithologists. Azerbaijan alone, a country only slightly larger than Bavaria, is home to 363 different species, and therefore boasts an unparalleled variety of birds within its small area.*

Flamingos and endemic birds such as the Caucasian Black Grouse live in the countries of the South Caucasus. All in all, there are many water birds and migratory birds that have settled in the wetlands of the Ag-Gel National Park and around the Caspian Sea. Some species are critically endangered, mainly because their habitats have been constricted, which is why the civil society is actively involved in their protection.

NABU has provided institutional support and conceptual advice to local non-governmental organisations in Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijan Ornithological Society (AOS), NABU's local BirdLife partner, has been receiving support since 1999. Its recognition as a BirdLife

partner in 2008 definitely ranks among the highlights of the society's cooperation with NABU. The organisation, founded in 1986, introduced NABU's well known "Bird of the year" campaign in Azerbaijan in 2004.

As a critically endangered species, the Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*), also known as the Siberian White Crane or Snow Crane, was crowned Azerbaijan's Bird of the Year in 2012. The Siberian Crane owes its name to its snow-white plumage. It breeds in Siberia, and overwinters along the Yangtze River in China and on the southern shores of the Caspian Sea in Iran. Azerbaijan is an important passage area. The Lesser White-fronted Goose was nominated Bird of the Year 2013.



#### Did you know?

The Armenian Society for the Protection of Birds (ASPB) is a BirdLife partner, too, and crowns its "Bird of the Year" as well. The Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) won the 2014 election, a species that is common throughout Southern and Central Europe and in Asia



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# Olympics next door to Heritage Site

## Sochi and environmental change in the north-western Caucasus



The World Natural Heritage Site West Caucasus was not affected by the Winter Games.

An aerial photograph makes their dramatic impact on the nature of Sochi clear.



### Did you know?

The forests of the “Western Caucasus” World Heritage Site store about half a million tonnes of carbon dioxide. Preserving these mixed mountain forests therefore mitigates climate change.



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*The area surrounding Greater Sochi seldom received as much international attention as during the 2014 Winter Olympics. At the beginning of the year, the sports spectacle provoked a storm of media criticism. Environmental activists from the region and across the world had already expressed concern in 2007, when the International Olympic Committee (IOC) selected Sochi to host the games. NABU shared their concern.*

After all, the Western Caucasus World Natural Heritage Site is located directly next to the Olympic Park. Its nomination (1997) and recognition (1999) was mainly promoted by NABU. Covering a total of 300,000 hectares, the area is slightly larger than the Saarland. The protected landmass accommodates dense mixed mountain forests home to many rare plants and animals. Bison and red deer have found a suitable habitat in the area's Caucasian fir tree forests.

Greater Sochi not only stretches along the Black Sea coast for 200 kilometers, but also extends 50 kilometres inland. From this perspective, the Olympics were held at the foot of the Western Caucasus, whose highest ridges reach 3,300 metres above sea level. Previously, an extensive seven-year

construction period had been necessary to transform Sochi into an Olympic city and develop hotels, sports venues and infrastructure. Inhabitants hardly recognised their city. Sochi National Park with its European yews and boxtrees had to cope with deforestation in favour of road construction and slope failures caused by insufficiently secured landfills.

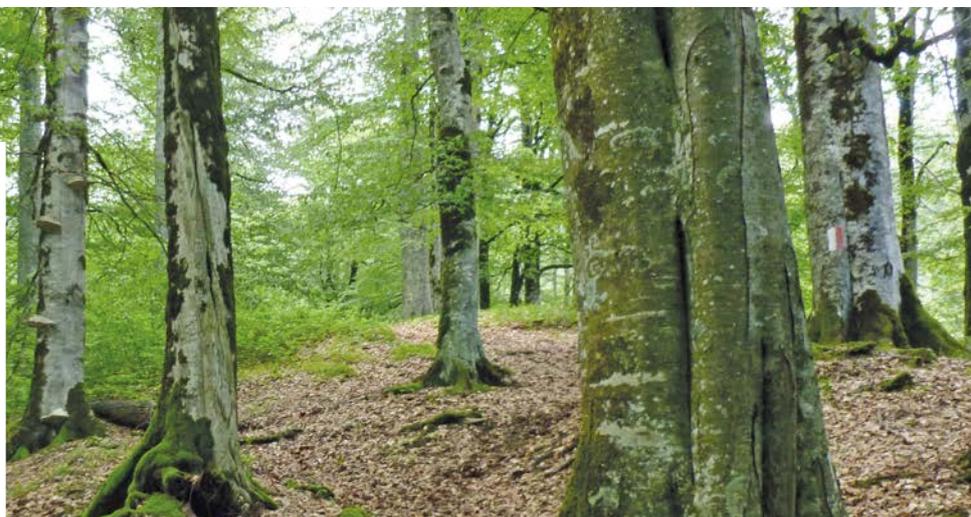
NABU is relieved that the World Natural Heritage Site “Western Caucasus” was not affected by the Olympics' environmental impacts. Nevertheless it calls on the IOC and the Russian authorities to implement the compensation measures they have promised. For every tree felled, the responsible multipliers had committed themselves to plant three new ones. Now, the task is to observe whether they are willing to deliver on their promise.

# Assessment of National Parks

## Caucasus Working Group inspects protected areas in Georgia



Transcaucasian Long-nosed Viper (*Vipera transcaucasiana*)



Oriental beech forests are important habitats in the Lagodekhi National Park at the border to Azerbaijan.

*Much has been achieved concerning the designation of protected areas (PA). Still, the worldwide decline in the number of species has not slowed. A frequent reason for this are deficits in the management of many PAs: A lack of personnel, the toleration of unpermitted land use and the exploitation of resources, law enforcement deficits, wrong management guidelines, corruption – these are only some of the problems that conservation areas worldwide are subject to. In these cases, they cannot serve their purpose, which is to protect nature. Activists of NABU's Caucasus Working Group have therefore now assessed several of Georgia's PAs.*

In 1995, Borjomi Kharagauli National Park was Georgia's first National Park to be established according to international standards. Today, the number of National Parks has increased to ten, covering a total area of almost 277,000 hectares, about 3.8 per cent of the country's area. On top of these, and partially overlapping with them, there are a further 14 strictly protected areas, the so-called Zapovedniks, with a total area of 141,000 hectares. Over the past two decades, many institutions have invested in Georgia's Pasystem, among them Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. In summer 2013, members of the Caucasus Working Group therefore performed a rapid assessment of PAs in order to see whether they actually live up to their promises. The focus was on the Vashlovani and Borjomi Kharagauli National Parks as well as the oldest PA in the whole Caucasus region, the Zapovednik Lagodekhi, established in 1912.

The assessment's results were largely positive. Modern infrastructure for visitors, more personnel than in German PAs, and functioning monitoring systems were noted. These factors have made it possible to effectively tackle problems such as poaching. However, occasional faults were also identified. PA in border regions for example are still prone to poaching by border troops. The present and massive expansion of the use of hydroelectric power marks another huge, countrywide threat to biodiversity. In this way, rivers and brooks whose upper reaches run through PAs lose their function for migratory fish species, and some hydroelectric power plants and dams are even constructed in PAs themselves. The Caucasus Working Group has passed on its results to the Agency of Protected Areas, which now has a basis to approach other Georgian governmental bodies and argue for solutions to the problems highlighted by the assessment.



### Did you know?

As early as 1889 the Polish explorer and biologist Ludwik Franciszek Młokosiewicz (1831-1909) actively campaigned for the conservation of the Lagodekhi area located on the southern slopes of the Greater Caucasus. The area, which today measures about 20,000 hectares, was placed under protection in 1912 – three years after his death – and became the first PA in the Caucasus. The Caucasian Grouse, which also occurs in the area, was named in honour of Młokosiewicz. Its scientific name is *Lyrurus młokosiewiczi*.



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**Worldwide**

# Counting storks

NABU coordinates International White Stork Census



One, two, ... – across the world, stork conservationists are out and about in their countries, counting the number of occupied nests.

*Ten years ago the 6th International White Stork Census revealed that the world's population of white storks counted approximately 233,000 breeding pairs.. This year, again, many voluntary bird conservationists will be out and about in their countries across Europe, North Africa, and Western and Central Asia to count the number of occupied stork nests.*

The International White Stork Census is a unique monitoring project conducted for the seventh time since 1934. NABU has been trusted with its coordination for the third time. The International White Stork Census enables us to extrapolate the species' worldwide population and analyse regional population trends. The data provide us with an important basis for the conservation of floodplains, meadow valleys and agricultural landscapes. Particular focus will be put on the many Central and Eastern European countries that joined the EU in 2004, among them Poland and the Baltic states, as they are home to the largest white stork populations. With their accession, they also adopted the EU's agriculture and infrastructure policies. How has this affected the white stork's habitats over the past ten years?

While this is most important for the populations in the east, the development of populations in the west gives rise to entirely different

questions. In large part, they now migrate only to Spain and find plenty of food on landfills and rice fields. Having given up the dangerous journey to West Africa, the populations in Spain, Portugal, France and Germany are growing strongly again. Will this trend continue, or has it ended? On the basis of an EU directive, landfills in Spain are increasingly being sealed, which diminishes the stork's food supplies.

But before these questions can be answered, the counting and evaluating has to be done. In Germany and other Central European countries, the census is conducted annually, and organisations can rely on an established network of bird counters. But in many other countries, organisers of the census are facing great difficulties. NABU, however, has been able to support some countries. Now, staff at NABU's Michael Otto Institute are waiting to receive the results from about 40 countries to compile the overall results.



## Additional links

Information on the 6th International White Stork Census is available online at [www.bergenhusen.nabu.de/weissstorch/zensus](http://www.bergenhusen.nabu.de/weissstorch/zensus)



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From October onwards, cranes migrate to their wintering areas.



A visit to the environmental education centre in El Oso.

## Fascination for cranes

### Crane conservation established new partnerships and projects



#### Additional links

Additional information on “Crane Conservation Germany” is available online at: [www.NABU-WWF-Kranichzentrum.de](http://www.NABU-WWF-Kranichzentrum.de) and [www.facebook.com/Kranichschutz](https://www.facebook.com/Kranichschutz)



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*In cooperation with Ethiopia, Crane Conservation Germany is carrying out new exciting activities in Spain and Turkey. Together with the Spanish BirdLife partner SEO and the community El Oso, it will improve the conservation of the resting and wintering grounds of “Laguna de El Oso”. This includes supporting the development and funding of a substantial exhibition section for the new environmental education centre in El Oso that is currently under construction.*

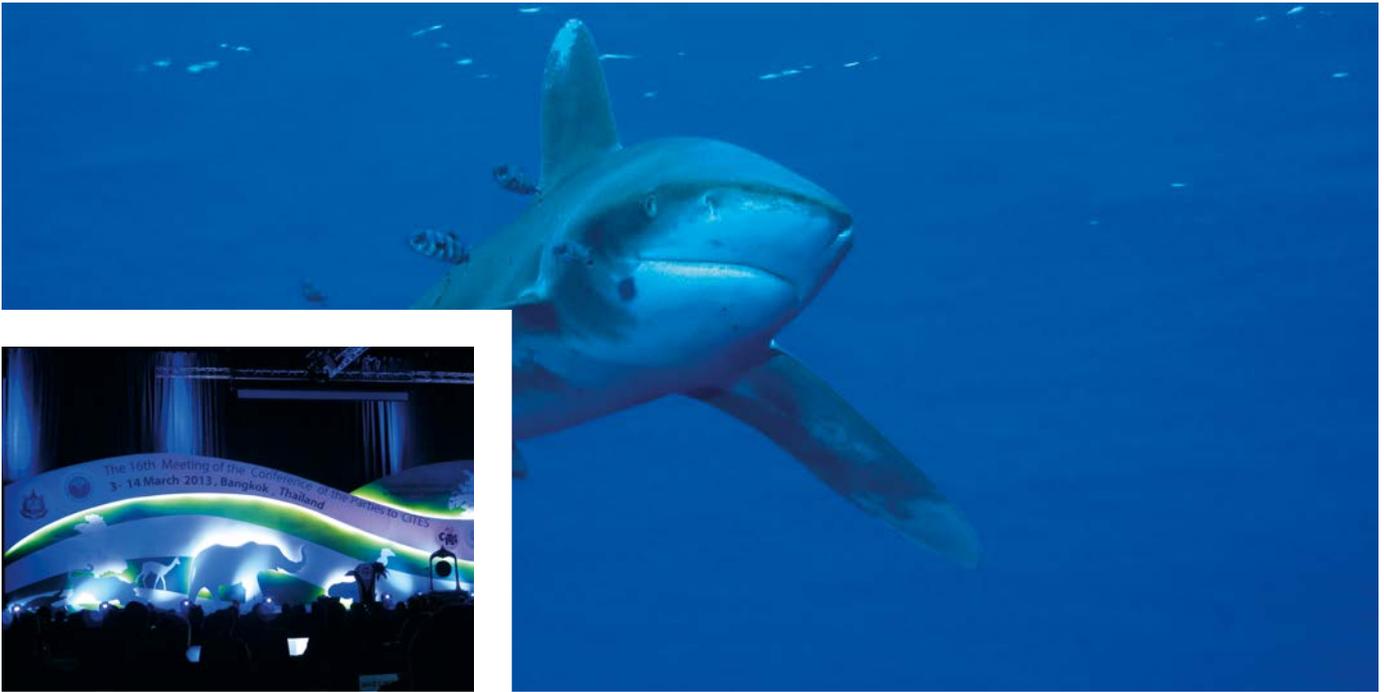
A live webcam broadcast from the Crane Information Centre in Groß Mohrdorf in the “Western Pomerania Lagoon Area National Park” is planned as well. In Turkey, cranes were colour-banded with ELSA rings for the first time. Six cranes aged between seven and nine weeks and two moulting adult birds were banded. Country rings were attached to their left legs (black-black-black), and individual colour combinations to their right legs. In addition, GPS-GSM-transmitters were attached to three young cranes in order to obtain data on their habitat and spatial use patterns. Whether these cranes will later become migratory or resident birds is a question the data will answer by the end of 2014 at the latest.

Genetic analyses will also solve the exciting question of whether they belong to a

new subspecies of the Common Crane, the *Grus grus archibaldi*. The project is being conducted in the context of a cooperation with the Turkish Ministry Of Forestry and Water Affairs – Department of Wildlife Management and the U.S.-based International Crane Foundation. The crane monitoring project involving Ethiopian and German conservationists, established in 2007, will be continued in 2015 as well.

With NABU and WWF as its partners, the non-profit organisation Crane Conservation Germany GmbH was founded in 1996. It evolved out of the working group “Crane Conservation Germany”, which had been established in 1991 by East and West German crane conservationists with the support of Lufthansa’s environmental sponsoring programme.





Opening of the 16th CITES Conference in Bangkok

Good news for the Whitetip shark: Stricter international controls on trade now apply to this species as well.

## 16th CITES Conference

### Five shark species now under strict protection

*Between March 3rd and 14th 2013, the 16th Conference on the Washington Convention (CITES) was held in Bangkok – 40 years after the initial agreement of the convention. The NABU Working Group International Species Conservation attended the recent conference, and together with other NGOs fought for better conservation measures for endangered plant and animal species.*

It was a remarkable anniversary conference: The Parties adopted measures to improve the protection of 144 endangered plant and 65 endangered animal species including five shark species that are particularly vulnerable to overexploitation. Now stricter controls on international trade have been adopted for the whitetip shark, three species of hammerhead shark and the porbeagle. At the last three CITES conferences, Asian delegations had still prevented endangered fish species from being listed. In Bangkok, these countries were now stopped from pursuing their economic interests.

Among the winners of the conference is the African manatee. Thanks to its inclusion in Appendix I, this manatee species is no longer allowed to be traded internationally. 50 turtle species now enjoy better protection as well.

20 critically endangered species were even banned from international trade. These include the Green Gecko, popular above all with reptile lovers in the EU and previously only strictly protected in its native country New Zealand. Two thousand euros per specimen are a large enough incentive to smuggle the animals across borders.

The polar bear, in contrast, was among the losers of the conference – it was denied better protection under CITES. Canada is the only country worldwide that continues to trade polar bear products internationally. The US had tried to prevent Canada from continuing its trade by including the polar bear in Appendix I, because after climate change, international trade poses one of the biggest threats to the white bears.



#### Did you know?

Because elephant poaching has increased dramatically, the United Nations sounded an alarm at the 16th CITES conference: In 2011, twice as many elephants were killed as ten years ago, and three times as much ivory was confiscated.

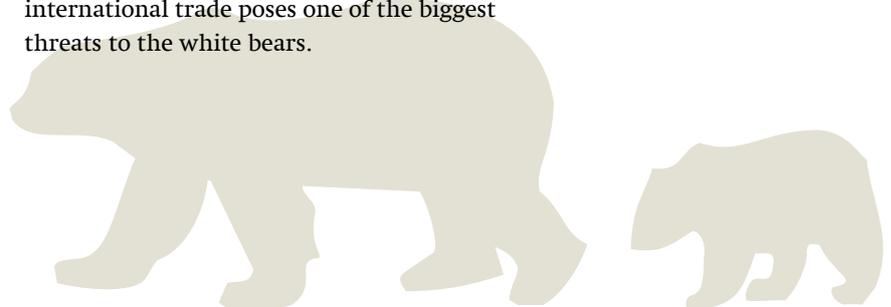


#### Your contact person

**Heike Finke**

Speaker of the International Species Conservation Working Group

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Although there are only 50 Maui's dolphins left, the species can still recover if the harmful fishing methods used in their habitat are finally stopped. Meanwhile, three to four of the extremely rare dolphins continue to die in the gillnets and trawl nets every year – 54 times more than nature allows.

## New Zealand's Maui's dolphins

### New Zealand's Maui's dolphins



#### Additional links

Further information on the Defence Fund is available at [www.NABU-International.de/delfinfonds](http://www.NABU-International.de/delfinfonds)



#### Your contact person

##### Dr Barbara Maas

Head of International Species Conservation

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*The smallest marine dolphins in the world, the Maui's dolphins, are acutely threatened with extinction by gillnet and trawl fisheries. Only 50 of its kind still live in New Zealand's coastal waters – in the 1970s, there were still 2000.*

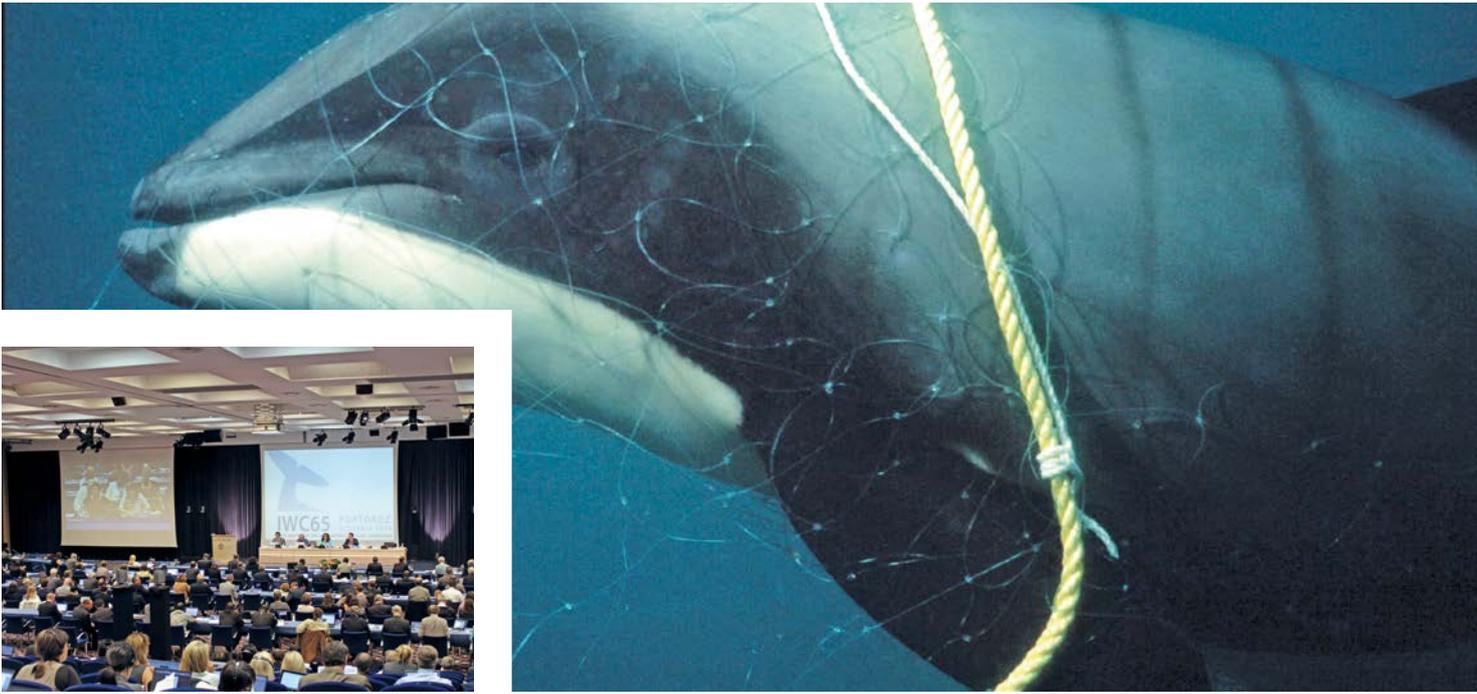
Until today, dolphins end up as bycatch in the gillnets and trawl nets of commercial fisheries as well as in the gillnets of amateur fishermen. But the New Zealand government ignores the urgent recommendations on the protection of dolphins formulated by the global scientific community. More than three-quarters of their habitat are still disturbed by nets.

NABU International Foundation for Nature has been actively campaigning for the protection of the last Maui's dolphins for years. More than 150,000 people, including nearly 67,000 supporters of NABU International, have signed our petitions for an immediate and consistent protection. Yet New Zealand backs its commercial fisheries and their greed for profit, and thus knowingly tolerates the Maui's extinction.

#### Scientifically based conservation mandate

In June, Dr Barbara Maas, the foundation's species conservation expert, was invited by the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to report on the plight of the last Maui's. Our efforts lead to a strong condemnation of New Zealand and an official recommendation on the dolphins' immediate and complete protection. Against New Zealand's massive opposition, we were able to enforce these demands at a broader political level and with the support of more than 31 member countries at the meeting of the IWC in September. To the surprise of the IWC delegates, New Zealand finally laid its cards on the table and admitted it was unwilling to act because it prioritised economic interests.

The International Whaling Commission (IWC), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as well as the Society



New Zealand's Maui's dolphins could be extinct by 2030 if the country doesn't adopt sustainable methods for commercial fishing.

for Marine Mammalogy (SMM) demand a complete ban on fishing in the entire Maui's habitat.

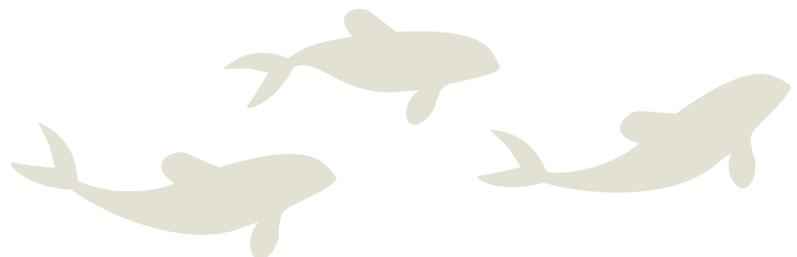
#### **Defence Fund for dolphins**

Under the industry's influence, the government is balking at the necessary expansion of conservation measures, and quotes economic factors as a reason. NABU International thus sees no alternative but to take legal action against the New Zealand government and call the fishing industry to account with an international consumer campaign. "Only if we can enforce the Maui's protection in this way, will they have a chance to survive. To make this possible, we have established the 'Maui's Dolphin Defence Fund,'" explains Dr Maas. The New Zealand government's decision concerning the boundaries of the Maui's protected area is not based on scientific arguments, as prescribed by law, but on a greed for profits. Thanks to NABU International, 104 international nature conservation organisations signed an open letter to the New Zealand government. Its signatories make it known that they intend to call on

their supporters and supermarkets to stop buying fish from New Zealand if the country continues to block the implementation of scientifically based conservation measures.

#### **Oil giants against small dolphins**

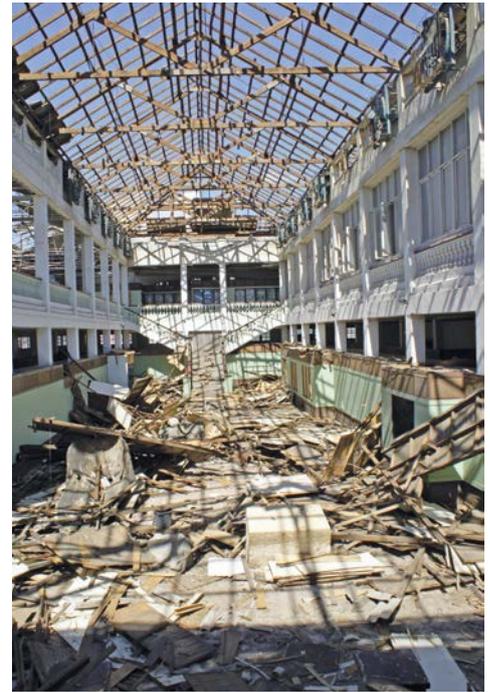
Our commitment has led to a visible success: More than 6,000 square kilometres of the Maui's habitat are now protected. The existing protected areas are not enough, however, to save the animals from extinction. And even in their protected areas, the Maui's are far from safe: Shell and the Austrian oil company OMV, which also operates gas stations in Germany, intend to drill for oil in the rare dolphin's habitat. NABU International has mobilized dolphin friends from all over the world and filed objections with the New Zealand government in order to achieve that the arguments for the protection of marine animals are publicly heard.



## Four endemic bird species on Cuba colour-banded



Cuban Emerald (*Chlorostilbon ricordii*)



Santiago de Cuba's natural history museum was destroyed by a hurricane.



### Your contact person

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The local NABU group Großfahner from Thuringia has been supporting the Eastern Centre of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (BIOECO) and the University of Santiago de Cuba since 2000. Students of the university are sent to Germany and trained here as banders. The first national banding station in Siboney, too, was established with the help of NABU Großfahner in 2010.

In October, a hurricane destroyed houses, schools, hotels and industrial plants on the coast between Santiago de Cuba and the village of Siboney. The local banding station was secured on time. When the village was flooded by up to four-metre-high waves at night, many inhabitants sought shelter at the station, which is located 40 metres above ground. Fortunately, there were only light damages. The natural history museum and the University of Santiago de Cuba were hit much harder.

Under these conditions, NABU intern Natalie Busch began her six-month stay in the affected area. Whoever survives for 14 days without electricity and 17 days without running water as a newcomer and still does his job, proves to be more than qualified for the position. Natalie initially intended to work with students at the university and draft new

projects. But now, the university was closed, and everywhere people were busy with reconstruction work. Quickly, Natalie decided on three sample areas in order to document the ways in which bird species were recolonizing the hurricane-affected areas.

Cuban banders have been registering the Oriente Warbler (*Teretistris fornsi*), a songbird species, with coloured bands since 2009. In the context of a current doctoral thesis, more than 100 specimen of this species have been colour-banded in Siboney to date. These specimen are also continually observed and examined in fieldwork. The Blue-grey Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*), the Cuban vireo (*Vireo gundlachii*) and the La Sagra's Flycatcher (*Myiarchus sagrae*) were also colour-banded in the context of further master's degrees in 2013. These three endemic songbird species will be observed at least until 2016.

Blue-grey Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*)





## We would like to thank

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### Foundations

ClimateWorks Foundation

Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt

European Climate Foundation

Gregor Louisoder Umweltstiftung

Michael Otto Stiftung für Umweltschutz

### Public institutions

Bundesamt für Naturschutz

Bundesministerium für Familien,  
Senioren, Frauen und Jugend

Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Natur-  
schutz, Bau und Reaktorsicherheit

Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche  
Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit

Europäische Kommission

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and legacies.**



## **Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU)**

For 115 years, NABU's genuine commitment and professional know-how have inspired people take action together for nature. One of the oldest and largest environmental associations in Germany, NABU has more than 540,000 members and supporters.

In its international work, NABU concentrates on the regions of Africa, Central Asia, and the Caucasus. Its activities range from protecting habitats and biodiversity over climate protection, ecotourism, and environmental education to capacity building, poverty alleviation, and strengthening of the civil society.

## **NABU International Foundation for Nature**

In 2009, NABU established the NABU International Foundation for Nature. It supports projects in two central fields of action, climate protection and biodiversity conservation. NABU International works mostly in those regions of the earth where pristine natural and cultural landscapes are still intact but under increasing pressure. The Foundation both conducts projects of its own, in close cooperation with local partners, and supports NABU's international conservation projects.