



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, project partners, friends and supporters,



Senator e.h. Claus-Peter Hutter,
President of NatureLife-International

With this newsletter I would like to present some current information and developments of the work of NatureLife-International and our partners as well as of some of our model projects

At a time of increasing international conflicts and the threat of instability, it becomes more and more important that only together we are able to manage the greatest threat to humanity - climate change and the loss of biodiversity. Nature knows no boundaries and environmental threats do not stop at borders – therefore our commitment to nature, the environment and a sustainable development does not only mean securing the future but is also a contribution to peace and friendship. The worldwide loss of biodiversity is an alarm sign for all humans to take action. The time frame is extremely close: but many projects show that we all can do something. This is my personal motivation as well as of our partners and of all the ones who support NatureLife.

Enjoy reading our newsletter

Warm Regards and best wishes

Yours A.P. Hutter

Protection of the ancestral forests of ethnic Indigenous groups in Vietnam



Indigenous knowledge being protected and preserved

A very special success for our Vietnamese partners: At the end of 2017, the Vietnamese government recognized the land rights of Indigenous minorities in their so-called holy ancestral forests.

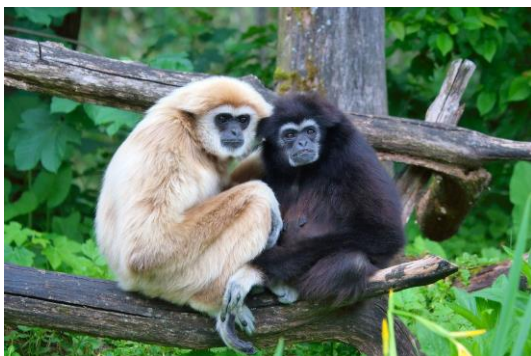
After decades of work and endless efforts of the Social Policy Ecology Research Institute (SPERI) up to 90'000 hectares of natural forest will be protected from commercialization. "This is a terrific success", says NatureLife tropical expert Prof. Dr. Friedhelm Göltenboth. The NatureLife partner organization SPERI has saved an invaluable part of natural forests that are valuable CO2 sinks, for the preservation of local biodiversity and also as a source of seeds for indigenous tree species and medical plant knowledge.



Climate protection helps mankind and nature



Planting trees for the future



Lar Gibbon

Young and old people are working hand in hand, planting trees of different native species and set the foundation for a "second hand" rainforest. In five regions of Vietnam the plantations are not only of great symbolic power because they pass on ancient knowledge to young people, but they also plant the seeds for rainforests that are new, stable and hold a large biodiversity. Rainforests, that replace foreign eucalyptus and acacia monocultures in the landscape. These forests are continuously supplying entire village communities in a sustainable way, while at the same time forming CO2 sinks. In addition, they form important buffer zones for the preservation of the last primary forests with a spectacular fauna including various Gibbon species, spectacular bears and the mysterious wild cattle Gaur. The initiative of the Vietnamese partner organization SPERI / CENDI is sponsored by NatureLife and also supported by the High-Performance Computing Centre (HLRS) of the University of Stuttgart and its director Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Michael Resch.

Successful animal and Emergency transports in Africa



Bateleur – a bird of prey. This bird is the symbol for help from the air. For both endangered animals and their habitats in Africa.

Whether turtles that are ready for their release from the breeding grounds, or wild dogs that are brought to safe habitats as well as recovered lions that are brought back to nature: they all benefit of the dedication of "the Bateleurs". The organization "The Bateleurs - Flying for the Environment in Africa" has the bird of prey named the Bateleur as their symbol. They coordinate the owners of small aircraft, pilots and other volunteers for animal emergencies, as well as for irreplaceable wildlife counts and the control of the last natural paradises. Numerous successful flights can be organized every year that help the threatened nature and the endangered species. NatureLife is supporting this significant work of the Bateleurs and their president Sven Kreher.



NatureLife Environmental Award goes to the polar explorer Arved Fuchs



Polar explorer, adventurer and author Arved Fuchs



The Award ceremony in the Press Club of Frankfurt



f.l.t.r. head of the Zoological Society in Frankfurt Dr. Christof Schenck, NatureLife President Claus-Peter Hutter, Award Winner Arved Fuch, head of the environment editorial of the ZDF Voker Angres in the Press Club of Frankfurt.



Arved Fuchs

In the beginning of the year, polar explorer, adventurer and author Arved Fuchs was honoured with the NatureLife Environmental Award 2017 for his extraordinary lifetime achievements at the interface of science, adventure and journalism. At the ceremony in the Press Club of Frankfurt, Arved Fuchs was honoured as a special role model for straightforwardness and moral courage. He never leaves this path and he uses „extreme experiences“ in nature not only for himself, but also to point out the dangers of climate change for man and nature. Volker Angres, the head of the environment editorial of the ZDF (Second German TV program) hosted the ceremony. The head of the Zoological Society Frankfurt and last year's winner of the NatureLife environmental award Dr. Christof Schenck gave the eulogy for Arved Fuchs: He described Fuchs as a "time machine into the past". While the world is becoming increasingly urban and virtual, and after all, the high-tech movement is supposed to be very fast, Arved Fuchs fights on foot as an adventurer and arctic explorer towards his self-imposed goals, even though this often takes months.

In addition, he described Arved Fuchs as a special ambassador, who doesn't limit himself to his personal extreme experiences in the last ice and sea wildernesses of the world, but also addresses the two most important issues of our time - climate change and the loss of biodiversity. The name NatureLife - Environmental Award is a perfect match for the award winner: nature, life, the environment - these are central topics for the polar explorer and adventurer Arved Fuchs. This includes survival in extreme situations as well as the survival of humanity. Both can only work for those who are well prepared and are able to face the challenges with experience and understanding. Actor Hannes Jaenicke and former Minister of the Interior of South Africa Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi congratulated Arved Fuchs via video call and honoured his personal commitment to a global topic that affects everyone.



Transhumance - biodiversity and climate protection in Spain



Cork oaks



Jesús Garzón longtime partner of NatureLife-International



Cranes in the Spanish Extremadura



It has now been 25 years since Jesús Garzón, a long-time NatureLife associate, has succeeded in securing the ancient Pastoral trails (Canadas) with a National Government law. The medieval customary law for using the 75 meters wide trails, running from South to the North of Spain, was transferred to the modern Spanish law. In total, more than 240,000 hectares of land that is significant for nature conservation have been saved from other uses. These trails also connect the ancient cork and holm oak forests, arid - steppe-like terrain, river and creek meadows, central forests and various mountainous regions. With the end of the annual migration of the sheep over these long distances, the transportation of seeds of many different plant species via the claws, skins and faeces of the animals stopped as well. By revitalizing these migration routes of animals now, the different habitats are reconnected through the re-occurring gene exchange.

As a result of this work, regional pastures with shorter distances between them have been revived in different regions of Spain. However, this is not enough for nationwide biotope networking. According to Jesús Garzón, flocks of sheep are needed on long journeys. As a part of the project 1,800 sheep take part in this revitalized migration. Instead of keeping them in the very dry centre of the Extremadura in Spain they are brought back to the Canadas back to their distant pastures again. Animals and shepherds survived this first long-distance migration well and managed to gain additional grazing land in cooperation with numerous municipalities. With the appropriate use of herding trails, areas will be kept open and potential forest fire hazards are eliminated as well through the permanent trampling on the leaves of hardwood lying on the ground (holm oak, cork oak, rockrose, wild olive, etc.). The effects of such an interaction of nature and culture are so far completely underestimated in ecosystem research. Endangered species such as the imperial eagle, the black vulture, the crane, the Spanish lynx, the ghost cat and the wolf benefit from this type of biotope network.



This outstanding project in Spain can be supported via their sheep sponsorship program and donations. Information about the Sheep Sponsorship can be obtained directly from NatureLife.

Bird protection connects people - an outstanding initiative in Israel



Cranes on their Eurasian-African migration



Prof. Dr. Yossi Leshem

For many years, Prof. Dr. Yossi Leshem from Tel Aviv University has been committed to bird migration research for the preservation of natural breeding, resting and wintering grounds for endangered bird species as well as to enable the knowledge transfer to young people especially. Israel is one of the most important land bridges on the eastern Eurasian-African bird migration route and is very important for thousands of cranes, pelicans, white storks and various birds of prey, as well as numerous water and marsh birds such as goose and duck species. Once again Yossi Leshem demonstrated how connected nature is and how people can work together via networking. He showed members of the Israel parliament (Knesset), ministers and about 90 schoolchildren, both from Jewish and Arabic parts of the population and the community of Druze how world understanding across borders can be linked with practical examples such as bird watching and environmental education.

Wild forests



Animal of the year: the wild cat

NatureLife is not only committed to its own homeland - for example the Black Forest National Park and various nature parks around Germany - but also to regions of Europe, Africa and Southeast Asia. The animal of the year - the wildcat - is extremely symbolic especially for the European wild forests. On the one hand, this shy wild animal needs suitable habitats that are simply incompatible with intensive forest management and on the other hand it needs migration corridors, so that a gene exchange can take place between the populations. The German Wild Animal Foundation has declared the wildcat as the wild animal of the Year 2018. NatureLife helps to maintain such habitats, migration corridors and herding trails.



Environmental education - the basis of future protection for ecology and economy



help alliance

The first edition was quickly gone and handed out to school children. Now the second edition of the educational children's painting, reading and craft book of nature in Southeast Asia was printed. It is an important source to teach small children of farmers about the local flora and fauna and explains in a playful way the connections within nature and its vulnerability. **The project is supported by HELP ALLIANCE and helps numerous small farming communities and their children in Java.**



Congratulations...



Hans-Peter Grandl

...to Hans-Peter Grandl on his 60th birthday. The graduated business economist and kitchen chef made a name for himself as an innovative cuisinier in Munich and in Stuttgart. With the Grandls Festbetriebe GmbH - a big catering business in Stuttgart, he has set an extraordinary example. This is due to the dedication and invocation of traditions on the one hand and with the quality of food on the other. Grandl sources his meat and sausages consistently from sustainable organic production, as far as possible, from the Bäuerliche Erzeugergemeinschaft Schwäbisch Hall (Farmers Association of Schwäbisch Hall). The vegetables and salads are bought regionally and bread and bakery products come from a local bakery. You will also find organic spices from the rainforests in Asia being used. He is engaged in Rainforestation Farming in a cooperative with NatureLife-International, where he sponsors projects in which former deforested land is reforested. Grandl is a versatile person who loves to bring people from different social backgrounds together. This includes being a founding member of the "Queen Katharina Fonds" that uses its capital for nature and culture preservation.



Congratulations...



Claus-Peter Hutter

...to **Claus-Peter Hutter**. The Federal Cross of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany has been awarded to him by the Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier for his invaluable commitment to nature, environmental protection and sustainability. At the Award Ceremony, the Federal Cross of Merit was handed over by Environment Secretary of State Dr. Ing. Andre Baumann. The District governor Dr. Rainer Haas, the publisher Gunter Ehni, as well as the mayor Klaus Warthon praised the work of Claus-Peter Hutter. They especially pointed out the volunteer work of Hutter as an initiator, bridge builder and a person that always takes action in matters of the environment. With video greetings from all over the world the appreciation of NatureLife-President C.-P. Hutter was impressively and humorously shown. He expressed that the award is a tribute to all those who have supported, accompanied or simply followed his work over the years with benevolent interest.



Dr. h.c. Matthias Kleinert

...to **Matthias Kleinert on his 80th birthday**. The former Secretary of State and government spokesman of Prime Minister Lothar Späth and later Chief Representative of Daimler-Benz AG was one of the first industrial figures in the early 1990s who specifically sought dialogue with representatives of environmental protection in science as well as in nature associations. His initiative is based on pioneering model projects that have linked the suitability of natural materials for vehicle construction, the protection of habitats, the promotion of science and the fight against poverty. This included the project POEMA in cooperation with the University of Pará in Belém, Brazil. With the social and cultural network group "Sandstorm Cairo", Matthias Kleinert worked tirelessly for educational support and knowledge transfer in Africa.



Congratulations...



Partners for sustainability Prof. S. Janjai (on the right) with Prof. W. Mühlbauer (on the left)



Solar dryer for herbs at the Chitralada-Palace



Grand Palace in Thailand Bangkok

...to Prof. Dr. Serm Janjai, Director of the Institute for Solar Energy Research at Silpakorn University in Nakhon Pathom, Thailand and the longstanding scientific dialogue and project partner of NatureLife-International and curator Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Werner Mühlbauer, who both received a special award. The Advanced Natural Research Council honoured Prof. Janjai in 2018 as the best scientist in the field of physics in Thailand for his outstanding achievements in the field of solar radiation research as well as for the development and distribution of solar drying plants. Professor Janjai currently operates about 40 weather stations in Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam. The Radiation Atlas issued by him is an important basis for scientists and companies to select optimal sites for the use of solar energy. Under the direction of Professor Janjai, more than 600 solar dryers have been built in Thailand so far. They are used for drying bananas, mangoes, longans, tomatoes, fish and other products. The dryers are mainly run by local cooperatives and small businesses. In collaboration with Dr. Busarakorn Mahayothee, who received her doctor degree in the University Hohenheim in Stuttgart as part of a Daimler-sponsored scholarship, a marketing concept was developed that enables farmers to offer high-quality solar-dried products in supermarkets and at airports. In the meantime, Thailand even has a large number of solar drying systems that were built by the farmers themselves.

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Martina Neher

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