

Curriculum for the Living Lakes Academy

In order to receive the official diploma for the Living Lakes Academy (LLA) the students must successfully complete the curriculum, consisting of mandatory and elective modules, a practical unit and a final report. The following module manual provides an overview of the curriculum.

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§ 1 SCOPE

- (1) The *Living Lakes Academy (LLA)* is offered by Global Nature Fund and the Environmental Campus Birkenfeld (branch of the Trier University of Applied Sciences) as a consecutive and application-oriented advanced academy. A diploma certifies a successfully completed academy.
- (2) The objective is to teach the students applicable knowledge, information on up-to-date practical solutions, overarching political frameworks and actors in the field of lake and wetland and biodiversity management that are usually not a primary focus of universities.
- (3) The curriculum and scholarship opportunities are funded within the framework of the Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate Project (LLBCP) and mutually supported by the Trier University of Applied Sciences. This is a project supported by the German Ministry for the Environment in the framework of the IKI Program with the aim to improve the conservation and restoration of wetlands and the protection of related biodiversity. The LLA is an integral part to achieve that future generation of lake managers have a shared vision to lead an effective conservation and sustainable use of wetland ecosystems.
- (4) The academy offers a flexible study or work-based curriculum. Participants are given a two-year timeframe to successfully complete the four modules and obtain the certificate.

§ 2 ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- (1) The LLA is aimed at candidates who fulfil the following admission requirements
 - (1.1) recently finalized an academic education (the graduation is not more than 5 years in the past) or are currently studying/enrolled in the following fields
 - Limnology
 - Biology
 - Agriculture
 - Forestry
 - Geography
 - Environmental Science
 - NGO Management
 - Sustainable Development
 - Politics
 - (Environmental) Law
 - and related subjectsor having a first work experience (maximum 2 years) in the field of lake management or related fields such as
 - working for an environmental NGO
 - working for a local administration
 - working in (environmental) politics
 - (1.2) English language proficiency at a minimum of Level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).
- (2) Application procedure
 - (1.3) Since the academy offers a flexible study or work-based curriculum, the students can choose their own starting date.
 - (1.4) A written application should be send to academy@livinglakes.org. The application shall encompass:
 - a. A resumé/CV

- b. A letter of motivation (max. ½ page; Please specify any preferences you may have regarding the organization where you would like to undertake the trainee program.)
- (3) The selection and suitability of candidates is based on the written application the GNF, the Environmental Campus Birkenfeld and, if applicable, the host for the trainee program.
- (4) If, due to any purpose, it is necessary to limit the number of participants in a module, - and if the number of applicants exceed the maximum capacity, candidates from the 10 project countries involved in the LLBCP trainee program (Cambodia, Colombia, India, Malawi, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, South Africa, Sri Lanka) will be given preference. Otherwise, the order of registration will be taken as a basis.

§ 2 PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- (1) The Living Lakes Academy (LLA) consist of courses and other requirements worth a total of 30 credits. The credits correspond to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) whereas 60 ECTS credits are the equivalent of a full year of study or work (one ECTS credit is equivalent to 25 working hours)
- (2) The Living Lakes Academy curriculum divided into the following components:
 - Compulsory Modules (3 credits)
 - Elective Modules (3 credits)
 - Trainee program (up to 18 credits, depending on the duration)
 - Final Report / Case Study (6 credits)

§ 2.1 Compulsory Modules

- (1) The compulsory modules set the foundation for a core understanding that students must attend to gain a foundational understanding of lake and wetland management. The different seminars are taught by experts in the field and will provide students with up-to-date knowledge and practical solutions. The students will be able to choose the webinars that are most relevant to their (future) work.
- (2) This module consists of webinars or online workshops hosted by experts from the Living Lakes Network. The webinars are covering topics such as biodiversity conservation, water quality management, and ecosystem restoration.
- (3) The list of webinars and the registration thereof is available on www.livinglakes.org
- (4) If applicable, a short assignment, a quiz or further literature ensure that the participants have understood the material.
- (5) Each seminar accounts for 0.5 ECTS. Six compulsory webinars worth a total of 3 ECTS credits are required to complete this module.

§ 2.2 Elective Modules

- (1) The elective modules allow students to choose more specific topics based on their previous knowledge and field of work and shall encourage more practical engagement with the topic.
- (2) Electives worth a total of 3 credits are required to receive the Living Lakes Academy Diploma.

- (3) There are three eligible options to receive up to 3 credits:
- i. Events organized within the “Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate Project” such as the Sustainable Leadership Journey (3 credits) or Living Lakes Conferences ([see Annex](#)).
 - ii. Webinars from the compulsory elective module list that the student did not visit and account for the compulsory module (one webinar = 0,5 credits)
 - iii. Third-Party webinars, workshops, field trips or conferences related to their field of work, always in the frame of lake and wetland management. These seminars, workshops, fieldtrips or conferences may be hosted by universities, NGOS or CSOs. The students need a certificate of attendances for these third-party-events. The credit value will be assigned based on the number of hours of the webinar or workshop attended and the relevance to the course.

Fellowship Sustainable Leadership Journey (SLJ) and Living Lakes Conferences

- (1) Students are encouraged to join the capacity building workshops and field visits in the project regions or to participate in the sustainable leadership journey or living lakes conference.
- (2) Students of the LLA, who come from ODA-Countries, can apply for a fellowship to cover travel costs and accommodation in context of the SLJ or the Living Lakes Conference.
- (3) Request for fellowships are addressed to the Global Nature Fund.

§ 2.3 Trainee program

This component is designed to provide students with hands-on experience and real-world exposure to lake and wetland management and to enable a career start.

- (1) Students conduct a trainee program with NGOs, institutions, research institutes or government agencies to gain practical experience working on lake and wetland conservation projects.
- (2) The trainee program should last at least 3 months maximum 6 months.
- (3) Students will be required to hand-in a questionnaire on their experiences gained, highlighting their learning outcomes and providing feedback on the organization they worked with.

§ 2.4 Final Report

The final report shows that the students are able to work independently on a subject-related problem using scientific methods within a specified period of time. The final report will require students to apply the knowledge and skills they have learned in the program.

- (1) The scope of the final report is detailed analysis of a real-world case of wetland management or a research project. The final report can summarize the concrete work/projects/approaches in lake protection and to classify the measures scientifically. The focus can be either on the scientific or the political classification of the measures.
- (2) The specific topic is chosen by the graduate and agreed upon with the Global Nature Fund and the University of Trier. Ideally this will be based on experienced gained in the trainee program.
- (3) The final report shall meet academic standards (references, photo credits, etc.) and shall indicate general working skills concerning format and layout. The report will be assessed based on the quality of research, analysis, and recommendations, and the clarity and coherence of the writing. The report will be delivered to GNF and shared with the University

of Trier. Both organizations will examine the report along qualified criteria and give a final approval.


§ 4 COMPLETION AND DIPLOMA

- (1) The Living Lakes Academy has been completed when the student successfully participated to the required courses, completed the trainee program and received an approval on the final report.
 - I. To pass a module, students need to demonstrate participation of each webinar and provide proofs to the Global Nature Fund.
 - II. The approval of the final report is based on qualified criteria including content (60 %), writing style (20 %), structure (10 %), and format and layout (10 %)
- (2) If all modules are completed the students will receive a diploma attesting the achievements and the time invested within the academy.
 - I. The diploma is signed by and bears the seal of the Trier University of Applied Sciences and of the President of the Global Nature Fund.
 - II. The diploma lists all names of the completed modules, basic information on the traineeship and the title of the final report.
 - III. By discussing the matter with the appropriate examination office, it might be possible that the diploma could be acknowledged and accepted as an academic credit within the student's university. This recognition would likely depend on several factors, such as the relevance of the diploma to the student's current program of study and any applicable university policies or guidelines regarding the transfer of credits. If students are interested in getting the acknowledgment, it is advisable contact the examination office in advance.

ANNEXES

List of project regions and Implementing partners

The following table gives an overview of the partner organizations, their expertise and their activities in the project.

<p>Cambodia</p> <p><u>Project region / lake:</u> Tonle Sap</p> <p><u>Implementing partner:</u> Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT)</p> <p><u>Contact person:</u> Senglong Youk y.senglong@fact.org.kh</p> <p><u>Website:</u> http://fact.org.kh/</p> <p><u>About:</u> FACT is a coalition of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) established in 2000. FACT has an outstanding expertise in working on fisheries and environmental issues around the Tonle Sap Lake. FACT's program mobilizes provincial NGOs and community-based organizations to more effectively conduct advocacy programs that respond to development policies and development programs. While FACT has worked with various partners in Cambodia it also is a member of the Living Lakes Network and received grants from the European Union (EU) and Forum Syd (Swedish NGO). FACT is also networking with other national, regional, and international organizations, part of the Advisory Committee of the national network Rivers Coalition in Cambodia (RCC), the Living Lakes Network and IUCN.</p> <p><u>Activities in the Project:</u> A floating eco market will be constructed in the Path Sanday community to allow generation of additional income for fisher communities based on home stay tourism</p>	
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and handcraft products. These services proved to stabilize the livelihood and sustainability of local natural/fisheries resources conservation. A small jetty with an open space education and training center will be established to inform tourist about biodiversity and actions taken in the area.

Colombia

Project region / lake: Lake Tota, Lake Fúquene

Implementing partner: Fundación Humedales (FH)

Contact: Felipe Valderrama fvalde@fundacionhumedales.org

Website: <https://fundacionhumedales.org/>



About: FH is an NGO founded in 2000 in Bogotá with the purpose of contributing to the conservation and management of aquatic ecosystems, applying an integral human and environmental approach. FH has good relations with political partners at the local and regional level. FH's teams have a history of continuous communication and interaction with several national-scale political partner agencies, authorities and institutes that are related to each of FH strategic lines of work. This strategic line encompasses fisheries management, land and water management, environmental education and research on wetlands environment conservation and restoration. FH is a member of the Living Lakes Network. Funds have come from partners such as the BMZ, Wilo Foundation, Kärcher, and SIKA.

Activities in the Project: The Biodiversity Performance Tool (BPT) for the elaboration and monitoring of Biodiversity Action Plans in high altitude agriculture will be adapted and implemented. The productive activities to be addressed with the BPT will be Scallion's aquaculture in Lake Tota and cattle farming for dairy production around Lake Fúquene. This will be complemented by a network of women-managed sustainable agriculture to address food security and to increase local resilience through cultivation of native species.

India

Project region / lake: Deepor Beel, Pamohi river

Implementing partner: Nature Environment & Wildlife Society (NEWS)

Contact: Ajanta Dey ajanta@naturewildlife.org

Website: <https://naturewildlife.org/about-news/>



About: NEWS, founded in 1991, is a conservation NGO based in Kolkata, India. NEWS strives to conserve ecology and environment, wildlife, natural resources and sustainable livelihoods for an improved environment. NEWS fosters community empowerment and participation and has worked with various partners in India. NEWS is a member of the Living Lakes Network. Funds have come from partners such as the GNF, SW Steel Ltd, World Wildlife Fund India and West Bengal State Forest Development Agency (WBSFDA).

Activities in the Project: The construction of a Nature Tourism Infrastructure in Deepor Beel. Six homestay facilities at Chatargaon in Rani GramPanchayat get equipped with toilets and water tanks. The idea is to Develop a pro-biodiversity business of Nature Tourism with responsible home stay tourism model, managed by rural community which will impact the social, economic and ecological context of the local population structure, transform the types of occupation, change values, build on the traditional lifestyle and modify consumption and waste patterns. The capacity building (WPI-1) and implementation for biodiversity friendly agriculture, sustainable water use will ensure quality, nutritious food for the tourists as well as protect and sustain life on land and water. The model will secure women's avenues for income generation and involve them in mainstream development, while managing their household chores through a shared approach. It will also provide opportunity that will promote sustainable community development by fostering gender equity. Moreover a pilot bioremediation model in 500meter stretch of Pamohi river that carries the city sewerage and plastic wastes and flows into Deepor Beel is set up.

Malawi

Project region / lake: Lake Malawi

Implementing partner: Action for Environmental Sustainability (AfES)

Contact: Daniel Mwakameka afes@afesmw.org

Website: <https://afesmw.org/>



About: AfES Malawi is an officially registered non-governmental organisation. The organization implements poverty reduction and environmental management activities and is a member of the Living Lakes Network. AfES has expertise in implementing activities in agriculture, aquaculture, water and sanitation, and rural development. AfES has worked with various partners in Malawi. Funds have come from partners such as the GNF, the Canadian High Commissioner, the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the Rain Forest Alliance, the USAID/Africa Water Association, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) - a consortium of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, Government of Japan, the World Bank, and private companies approved by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for Project of Activities carbon credit program.

Activities in the Project: The project will establish field schools to train farmers on traditional and biodiversity friendly agricultural practices adapted to climate change, the use of native plants, and small scale fish pond farming to fishers to reduce pressure on the native fish biodiversity.

These activities will improve food security, sustainability and market bargaining of the local community while protecting the local biodiversity.

México

Project region / lake: Lake Chapala

Implementing partner: Instituto Corazón de la Tierra (ICT)

Contact: Alejandro Juarez Aguilar corazondelatierra@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.corazondelatierra.org/>



About: ICT is an Institute focusing on the conservation of the environment in Mexico, working mainly at Lake Chapala and its watershed. ICT has a strong history of collaboration with abroad institutions (from USA, Japan, Germany, Canada and Colombia) and international networks and most projects are co-funded by these partners. ICT is a member of the Living Lakes Network.

Activities in the Project:

The project wants to adapt the Man and the Biosphere concept to implement buffers of alternative agricultural production surrounding two natural protected tributary areas, Sierra Condiro Canales and Sierra San Miguel in the Lake Chapala basin. A sustainable management including the promotion of agro ecology, restorative grazing and sustainable forestry practices, will be implemented and focus into restoring and maintaining ecosystem services, while reducing labour effort and money expenditures for producers.

Peru

Project region / lake: Lake Titicaca

Implementing partner: Autoridad Binacional Autónoma del Sistema Hídrico del Lago Titicaca (ALT)

Contact: Bratzo Jorgen Klauer Garcia bklauser@alt-perubolivia.org

Website: <http://alt-perubolivia.org/>



About: ALT, is an entity of international public law with full autonomy of decision and management in the technical, administrative-economic and financial areas, functionally dependent on the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Peru and Bolivia. It was created in 1996 by a binational agreement between the governments of Bolivia and Peru and was approved by Legislative Resolutions of both countries. The President of the ALT reports directly to the Foreign Ministers of both countries and attends and complies with their joint political dispositions. The objective of the ALT is to promote and conduct actions, programs and projects; and to dictate and enforce water management, control and protection regulations for the Titicaca Basin. ALT is a member of the Living Lakes Network.

Activities in the Project: The project will develop and implement innovative technology and methodologies for the decontamination and prevention of eutrophication of the inner bay of the city of Puno. The frontrunner initiative aims to remove up to 60 % of the duckweed biomass in the inner bay and scientifically monitor the process. For the implementation, social actors and municipal authorities will be intensely involved to create ownership and to guarantee the long term sustainability of the actions.

Philippines

Project region / lake: Paligui Wetlands in Candaba

Implementing partner: Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands (SCPW)

Contact: Amy M. Lecciones post@wetlands.org ; amy_lecciones@yahoo.com

Website: <https://www.wetlands.ph/>



About: SCPW is a membership organization with more than 150 members in the Philippines and recently with new members in other countries. The SCPW members have multisectoral expertise that is organized into Specialty Committees, Scientific Committee, Resource Mobilization Committee, CEPA Committee, etc. Individually, members have extensive experience in various disciplines such as natural physical and social sciences, communication, education, public relations, organizational development, design and engineering and bring their expertise into the Society thus enriching its human capital. As an organization, the SCPW has more than 20 years of experience in wetland advocacy and has worked in pioneering projects with international organizations such as UNDP, UN-WFP, Ramsar Secretariat and Regional Center East Asia, and the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity.

Activities in the Project: In the Philippines, wetlands are very much threatened by domestic sewage, industrial and agricultural wastewaters, the tourism industry (hotels) and the farming of non-native fish. The work will focus on restoration of agricultural wetlands (rice production landscapes) which includes integrating agroforestry. The activities will by different means promote biodiversity-friendly agriculture in the Paligui Wetlands in Candaba, Pampanga. This huge floodplain is mostly used as intensive rice farmland and provides a valuable bird habitat at the same time. Based on some earlier positive experience, the project will employ sustainable rural tourism with bird watching activities as part of a restoration and conservation strategy. These activities will be complemented with the showcase of a green filter in Pangil River Eco-Park in the Laguna de Bay, the largest lake in the Philippines, to treat wastewater coming from park facilities.

Rwanda

Project region / lake: Lake Kivu

Implementing partner: Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)

Contact: Jacqueline Ntukamazina jntukamazina@arcosnetwork.org

Website: <https://arcosnetwork.org/>



About: ARCOS Network is a regional conservation organization with the mission to enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in the Albertine Rift region, Africa Great Lakes region and African Mountains through promoting collaborative conservation actions for nature and people. ARCOS is registered in the United Kingdom (UK) as a Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee, and in Rwanda and Uganda as an international NGO. With over 25 years of experience, the ARCOS Network has a good professional record on the ground in project management, information sharing and management, stakeholder mobilization, policies review and advocacy for change. ARCOS has been managing nine networks, including the African Regional Mountain Forum, Africa Great Lakes Conservation Group, Albertine Rift Information Management Group, Nature Based Community Enterprise Learning Group and the ARCOS Regional NGOs Network.

Activities in the Project: Best agricultural practices merged with the traditional knowledge of the people in the area will be identified and implemented in order to fight pressing challenges like

soil erosion, water abstraction and loss of biodiversity. A center for sustainable agricultural production will be established to provide training on agroecological practices such as agroforestry, biological pest and disease control, and nutrient management.

South Africa

Project region / lake: Mkhuze floodplain

Implementing partner: WILDTRUST

Contact: Andrew Whitley AndrewW@wildtrust.co.za

Website: <https://wildtrust.co.za/>

About: Wildtrust is a South African Non-Profit, Non-Government and Public Welfare Organisation, established in 2004 through the merger of two regional Trusts. Wildtrust's vision is achieved through working at the interface between environmental sustainability and human wellbeing to improve livelihoods of communities and restore the ecosystems that support them. Wildtrust is a leader in the type of work proposed in southern Africa. The organization has more than 15 years' experience in development and conservation, focusing on methods such as Rapid Rural Appraisal, Asset-based Community Development and Community-led capacity development. Wildtrust is also a pioneer in the region in climate adaptation and mitigation work, focusing on forest restoration and on community adaptation work (food security, drought resistance, community-based natural resource management etc.).

Activities in the Project:

Ecosystem function of the Mkhuze floodplain will be restored through agroforestry using locally grown trees together with other climate and biodiversity friendly agricultural practices. In the past, the natural habitat of riparian and marsh forests has been cleared for agricultural land, resulting in a loss of eco-system services. Agroforestry systems allow for the restoration of important services such as flood and erosion control, while also serving as farmland for food and timber production for local communities.

Sri Lanka

Project region / lake: Moratuwa

Implementing partner: EMACE Foundation

Contact: E. Abeyratna emacefoundation@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.emace.org/>



About: EMACE Sri Lanka is a non-profit entity, working towards adaptation to climate change mitigating adverse impacts on environment and ecology. EMACE's mission is to protect the basic human rights of the most vulnerable people – women, children and the displaced – and attain adequate means of income generation, health care, education, security and environmental sustainability, while actively influencing government and industry towards greener policies and practices. EMACE's projects have been recognized by the Sri Lankan government at the highest level. EMACE has been working with the national task force for over 3 decades in many areas. The resource team consists of highly experienced, well-qualified and skilled professionals that work with national projects and provide technical support and expertise to implemented projects. The Foundation coordinates a network of 32 environmental organizations island-wide. With over 30 years of successful project management and implementation, networking and extensive project experience, EMACE is highly competent as an implementing partner in Sri Lanka.

Activities in the Project: The project will form and empower local people to monitor, control and draw attention to a better law enforcement. Onsite trainings, online tools and the construction of

innovative floating education platforms equip local communities with theoretical and practical knowledge about mangrove restoration and ecological management. This will lead to a better enforcement of laws and legislative activities on local level.

Sri Lanka

Project region / lake: Madampa Lake

Implementing partner: Nagenahiru

Contact: Sajeewa Emmanuel emmanuelpsw@gmail.com

Website: <http://nagenahiru.org/>



About: The Sri Lankan Nagenahiru Foundation is a community-based non-profit organization operating since 1991. The mission of the Foundation is to facilitate, assist and promote the improvement of the innate capacities and strengths of the rural communities for the prosperity of the nation, while protecting, conserving and restoring the natural environment and biodiversity, especially when these communities are living in sensitive ecological areas. In achieving the task during the last 16 years, many projects were set up by the Foundation with international donor assistance, especially from German organizations. These projects successfully promote the capacity development and strengths of communities regarding the protection, conservation and restoration of the natural environment of the island.

Activities in the Project:

The project will introduce a pro-biodiversity business based on the production of certified compost, while improving native biodiversity and ecological functions of the mangrove ecosystem by removing Pond Apple plants (an invasive species) at Madapa Lake wetland and replanting the gaps with native Mangrove species. The aim is to establish a self-sustaining and self-motivating community based management system which can be transferred to other mangrove habitats.

More information on the project activities of each implementing partner are available on the following website: www.livinglakes.org

Elective Modules: Events organized within the Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate Project: Sustainable Leadership Journey (SLJ)

The SLJ are 5 day capacity building events for young lake managers, bringing together people from all over the world. The objective is to provide the young generation of lake managers with practical tools for project management, communication, and building collaborative relationships for leadership resilience in a rapidly changing world. There will be three SLJs organized within the Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate Project that are open for participants of the Academy:

- 2023 (09 – 13 October): Philippines, hosted by SCPW
- 2024 (date to be confirmed): South Africa, hosted by Wildtrust
- 2025 (date to be confirmed): Colombia, hosted by Fundacion Humedales

Living Lakes Conferences:

The Living Lakes Conferences, organized by the Global Nature Fund (GNF) in collaboration with the Living Lakes Network, serve as a pivotal platform for the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and solutions pertaining to the conservation and sustainable management of freshwater ecosystems worldwide. The overarching objective of these conferences is to facilitate dialogue among diverse stakeholders, including scientists, policymakers, environmentalists, and community representatives, who share a common interest in safeguarding the health and vitality of lakes, rivers, and wetlands.

There will be two Living Lakes Conferences organized within the Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate Project, that are open for participants of the Living Lakes Academy:

- 2022 (05-08 December 2022): Lake Titicaca, Peru
- 2026 (Date to be confirmed): Assam, India

Updates and further information on the sustainable Leadership Journeys and Living Lakes Conferences will be published on www.livinglakes.org