



Membership Criteria & Application Form for Living Lakes Network



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1 Mission, Vision, Terms of Reference

1.1 Mission

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

1.2 Vision

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

1.3 Objectives

- To conserve the biodiversity, ecological integrity and the preservation of lakes, wetland ecosystems and their watersheds.
- To restore altered and disappearing wetlands and lake ecosystems.
- To improve the quality of life for the local communities living around lake and wetland ecosystems.
- To build commitment towards sustainable use and development of these eco-systems for agriculture, fishery, tourism, settlement, energy and water.
- To promote the use of applied sciences and technologies towards the conservation of these ecosystems.
- To support educational programmes and cooperation with local communities and all stakeholders or users focusing on the conservation of the biodiversity of these ecosystems.
- To disseminate information relevant to these ecosystems.

1.4 Terms of Reference for membership in the Living Lakes Network

Members:

- Declare their agreement with the Living Lakes' Mission and Vision.
- Participate in the Living Lakes Conferences and other events and activities.
- Produce an annual progress report on relevant activities in their area.
- Seek active co-operation with other Living Lakes partners.
- Support Global Nature Fund in the development of the Living Lakes website, participate in working groups and contribute to publications (brochures, newsletters etc.) where appropriate.
- Contribute to the successful achievement of the Living Lakes Mission and Vision.
- Encourage exchange programmes for volunteers, staff and other stakeholders within the Living Lakes Network.
- Support and promote environmental education for the better understanding of lake and wetland areas.

2 Procedure and Criteria for membership in the Living Lakes Network

2.1 At least one of the following criteria has to be met by the respective lake or wetland

- The lake or wetland is ecologically important and
 - hosts endemic or endangered species,
 - is of international importance,
 - is a gathering place for migratory birds.
- The lake is threatened by human use.
- Land development plans threaten the lake.
- Legal regulations are not respected.
- The lake is not legally protected or needs better legal protection.
- In the lake area there are examples of nature conservation practices.

2.2 The following criteria have to be met by the applying organisation

- The organisation preferably is of a non-profit, non-governmental organisation (other organisations such as national park authorities, scientific institutes etc. need to have an NGO as a co-partner);
- The organisation is active in the management of / conservation of / environmental education at specific lakes, wetlands, rivers, or water bodies and their catchment area;
- The organisation demonstrates interest and commitment contributing to the development of the Living Lakes Network;
- The reliability of the network partners is an indispensable requirement for admission. The applying organisation is committed to fulfil the conditions of the Mission, Vision and Terms of Reference of Living Lakes.
- In case, there are three or more partner lakes in one country it is recommended to create a national Living Lakes Network.

3 Annual Membership Fee

The Annual Membership Fee in the Living Lakes Network is 200 EUR per member organisation. Member organisations that cannot afford a membership fee, have the possibility of applying to waive it for up to two consecutive years.