




World Wetlands Day 2021

Threatened Lakes Areas

The Pantanal: Threatened Lake of the Year 2021 –

Lakes of Holstein Switzerland: Living Lakes of the Year 2020/2021

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Lakes and wetlands belong to the most
valuable ecosystems in the world



Lakes and wetlands provide water, food and livelihoods for millions of people



Lakes and wetlands provide habitats for an impressive biodiversity



Lakes and wetlands store more carbon than many other ecosystems



Lakes and wetlands are among the most
threatened habitats worldwide

Designation of a particularly endangered aquatic habitat as Threatened Lake of the Year on World Wetlands Day since 2004

2020: Lake Albufera, Spain

2019: Lake Nokoué, Benin

2018: Lake Bolgoda and Lake Madampe, Sri Lanka

2017: Lake Tanganyika, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania and Zambia

2016: Lake Tonle Sap, Cambodia

2015: Lake Hovsgol, Mongolia

2014: Lake Sampaloc, Philippines

2013: Lake Winnipeg, Canada

2012: Lake Titicaca, Bolivia and Peru

2011: Laguna de Fúquene, Colombia

2010: Lake Pulicat, India

2009: Lake Atitlán, Guatemala

2008: Mahakam Wetlands, Indonesia

2007: Pantanal, Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia

2006: Dead Sea, Israel, Jordan and Palestine

2005: Lake Victoia, Kenia, Tansania and Uganda

2004: Lake Chapala, Mexico



The Pantanal – UNESCO World Heritage in Flames



The Pantanal – Threatened Lake of the Year 2021



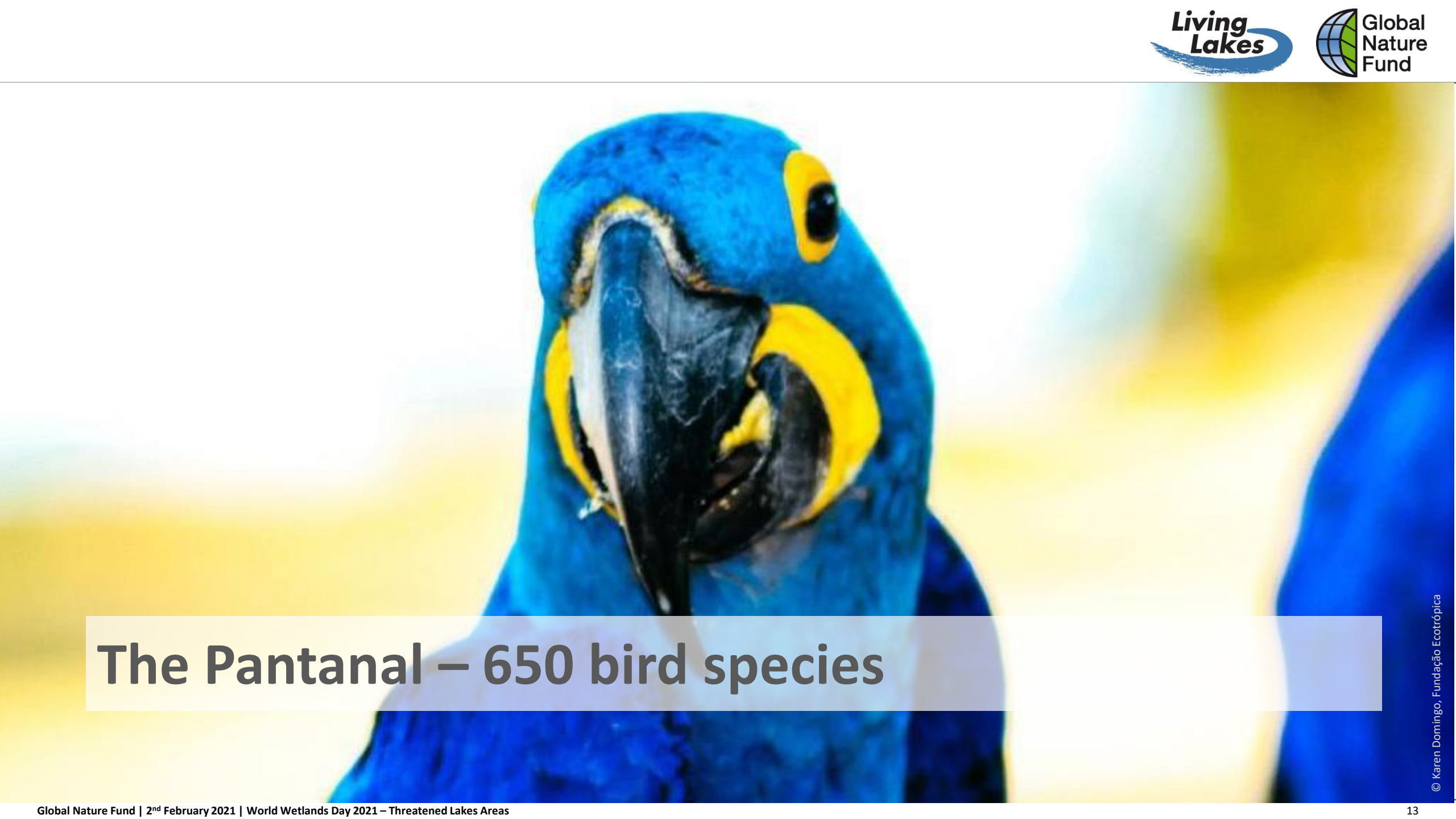
The Pantanal – The world's largest inland wetland



The Pantanal – 1,700 plant species



The Pantanal – 120 mammal species



The Pantanal – 650 bird species

Living Lakes Partner Organisation in the Pantanal

Fundação Ecotrópica

- Non-governmental, non-profit organization, established in 1989
- Living Lakes partner since 2000



Activities of Living Lakes Partner Fundação Ecotrópica



Fight against the fires



30,000 kilometres driven

Activities of Living Lakes Partner Fundação Ecotrópica



Water for the animals



20 tones of food

Activities of Living Lakes Partner Fundação Ecotrópica



40 „food islands“ installed

Activities of Living Lakes Partner Fundação Ecotrópica



Help that is gratefully accepted

Activities of Living Lakes Partner Fundação Ecotrópica



Monitoring the fauna of large mammals in the region with camera traps after the fires

New Contacts



- Contact established to further environmental organisations in the Pantanal
- Their current and long-term activities include i.a.
 - First aid for suffering animals
 - Training of local farmers in firefighting
 - Creation of alternative income opportunities for local families, e.g. with honey production or eco-tourism

The Pantanal – Threatened Lake of the Year 2021



A vicious circle

- Cattle farming, sugar cane and soy cultivation are increasing in Brazil due to a huge overseas demand.
- The loss of forest area in the Pantanal and the Amazon leads to
 - » Regional temperature increases and shorter rainy seasons
 - » Less water means less evaporation to build up a dense cloud cover that softens solar radiation and thus protects the land from drying out
 - » More fires in the dried out areas

Source: Scientific Service of the German Parliament

The Pantanal – Threatened Lake of the Year 2021



The situation on site

- From October 2019 to March 2020, there was 40 % less rainfall in the Pantanal than in previous years.
- This was the worst dry season in almost 50 years.
- Around 11,000 fires were detected in the Pantanal from January to October 2020.
- It is estimated that in this time about 25 % of the Pantanal area may have burnt.

Source: Scientific Service of the German Parliament

The Pantanal – Threatened Lake of the Year 2021



Our intension

- Drawing attention to the tireless commitment of the local nature conservation organisations.
- Raising awareness among the population in Brazil, but also especially in Europe and internationally, to rethink their consumption behaviour.
- Creating awareness among decision-makers in Brazil to implement existing environmental laws and consistently punish violations.

Living Lakes of the Year 2020/2021 – The Lakes of Holstein Switzerland

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An award of the Network Living Lakes Germany

- Yearly announced on World Water Day, 22 March
- For exemplary collaboration between nature conservation organisations, authorities and municipalities
- The Lake Monitoring Programme is a best practice example for a citizens science initiative



The Network Living Lakes Germany is supported by



Thank you very much for your attention.

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