



Global Lake Marathon Impressions and Conclusions & Citizen Science

Lake Balaton Development Coordination Agency
Éva Geletáné Varga

World Wetlands Day 2021
Online Event
February 2, 2021

Background

Lakes and lake areas are special territories with special needs that requires careful balancing of the utilization of natural and socio-economic assets. Therefore, it is important to inform and motivate for action not only the general public, but decision makers at all levels of governance as well.

- **CoR ENVE external conference** - Sustainable Development in the European Lake Regions (Balatonfüred, June 28, 2018)
- **„Science meets Regions” JRC conference** - Common problems and development opportunities of European lakes (Balatonfüred, May 13, 2019)
- **„Budapest Water Summit 2019” side-event** – Progresses needed in integrated lake basin management to mitigate water crisis, targeting a lake development fund (Budapest, October 15, 2019)
- **Online consultation** - A way forward recovery and a more sustainable management of the Lake Balaton region and lessons for large lake areas in Europe (July 22, 2020)

Goal of the Global Lake Marathon

- **Flexible** and **informal** meeting for fun and entertainment
- **To meet** Living Lakes partners again
- **To revive** relationships
- To learn about the **diversity of lakes** in general (nature, culture, society, etc.)
- To share the results of **relevant scientific researches / projects**
- **To call the attention** to the need for the sustainable management of lakes

Positive impressions

- More than 120 participants (> 30 min)
- Many Living Lakes partners attended
- Establishing new contacts with other lakes as well
- Diverse presentations
- Interesting discussions
- Exploring topics of common interests
- Zoom: good platform for online meetings

Meeting the original goal



GETTING TOGETHER & TALKING TO EACH OTHER

Challenges

Preparation:

- Difficulties in mobilizing and activating Living Lakes partners (Reason?!)
- Difficulties in finalizing the programme
- Difficulties in the international dissemination

Implementation:

- Lack of registration: no detailed data on participants
- Participants have different technical background
- Personal capacity of LBDCA: is limited
- Speakers were not available before their presentations
- Keeping the time of presentations

Feedbacks from participants:

- **Liked the idea of the 24h meeting**
- **More guidance on presentations**
- **More attention on social media**

Conclusion and suggestions

Virtual lake journey all over the world

Need for similar events

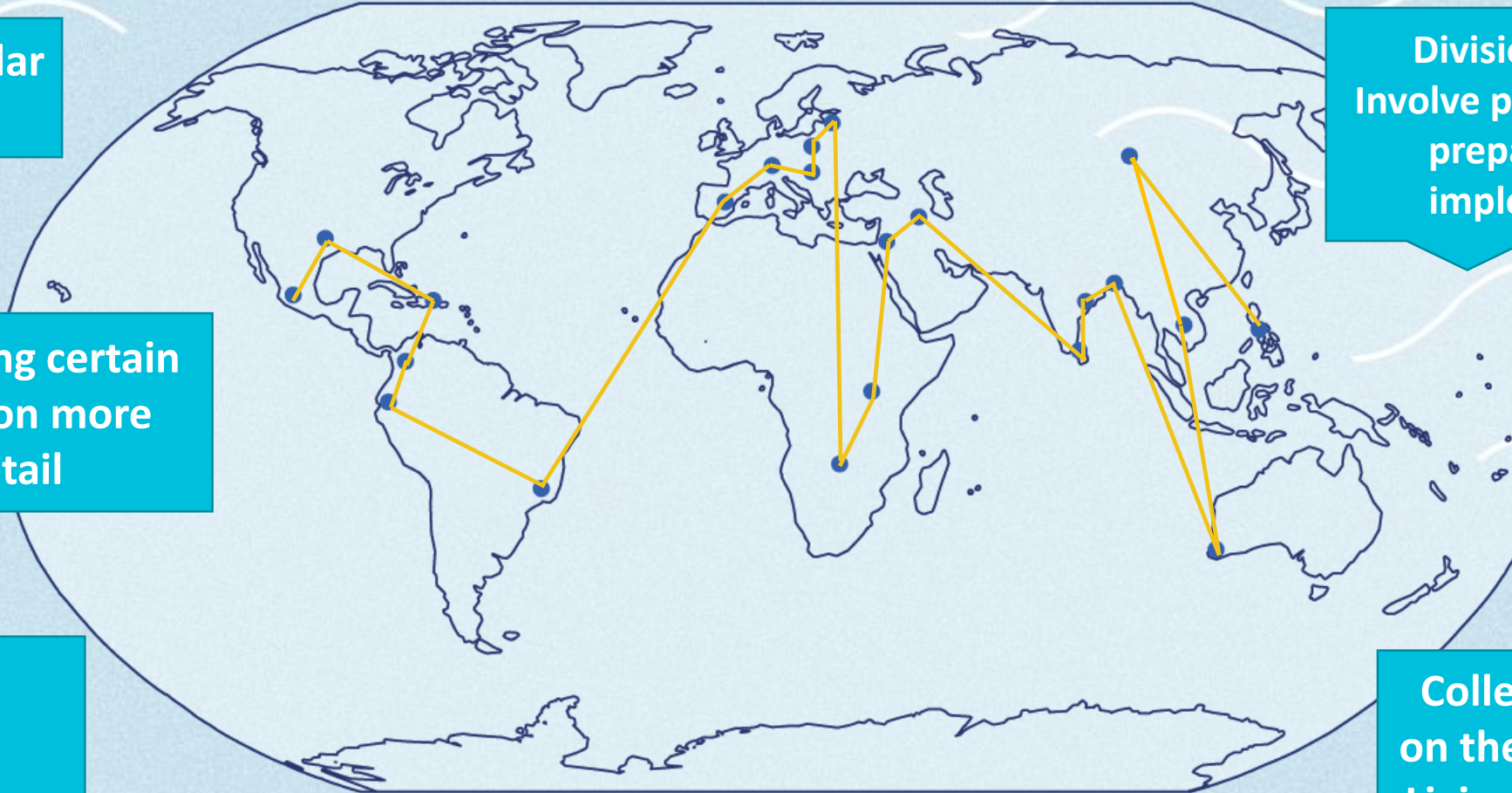
Discussing certain topics on more detail

Technically feasible

Division of tasks –
Involve partners into the preparation and implementation

Further possibilities -
interpretation

Collect information
on the preferences of
Living Lakes partners



Location of lakes presented at the Global Lake Marathon 2020

Plans for 2021

HOW TO CONTINUE GLOBAL LAKE MARATHON?

24h EVENT
(~November 2021)

STRENGTHENING COOPERATION
of local / regional institutions bw.
partners' countries (e.g. schools)

THEMATIC WORKSHOPS
(more scientific topics)

Online Survey:

- Other ideas for cooperation?
- Topics of interest?
- Timing?

NEXT STEPS?

Event Calendar:

Making online events open for international audience

Thank you for your attention!



LAKE BALATON DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION AGENCY

✉ 8600, Siófok Batthyány u. 1., Hungary ☎ 84/ 317-002, 313-346
e-mail: bftkht@balatonregion.hu, URL: <http://www.balatonregion.hu>