

CCB supported “Green World” post card campaign on the South Shore of the Gulf of Finland, for protection of the Wild Baltic Salmon in Luga River.



The 12th annual international environmental bike trip “OUR COAST 2010” was held along the South Shore of the Gulf of Finland (SSGF) from 26 July to 1 August, 2010. During one week 14 participants, members and friends of Green World from Russia and Germany, took part in the action, riding bicycles 380 km on the roads of Lomonosov and Kingisepp districts and Sosnovy Bor area. During the trip actual socio-environmental problems were discussed with local people of the region.

The main mission of the action was to spread the idea of sustainable development on the South Shore of the Gulf of Finland, through public awareness and involvement of local people in the decision making process for new industrial projects and protection of natural, cultural and historical values.

Aims of the action:

- **Stating the value** of environmental, historical and cultural objects on the SSGF;
- **Visiting Hot spots of SSGF** and informing people about threats connected to them;
- **Conducting a post card campaign** with appellations from local people to the Federal Authorities with the request to make irrefragable decisions to save the environment and people, renewable natural resources and biodiversity.
- **dissemination of the idea to include SSGF to the Baltic Green Belt International project** for saving its natural potential for Russia and the whole Baltic Sea Region;
- **Promotion of the bicycle** as an environmental friendly transport.

500 post cards, addressed to Mr. Uriy Trutnev, Ministry of Nature Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation, were printed with CCB support, with the request to immediately assume measures to stop poaching and save the population of the Wild Baltic salmon in the Luga River. Over 300 post cards were distributed among people of Bol'shoe Kuzemkino, Koskolovo, Sarkulja villages, Lebjazhie and Kingisepp.





The text on the post card was:

Dear Mr. Trutnev, I, (name), a resident of South Shore of the Gulf of Finland, am worried that in Luga river (the only river in the Russian part of the Baltic Sea, where there is still a population of the Wild Baltic salmon) hundreds of spawners of salmon perish every year because of poaching. It is well known, that year by year the size of Baltic salmon population is being catastrophically reduced. First of all this is due to illegal fishing, but also because of the degradation of spawning areas and deterioration of the common environmental situation in Luga bay, especially Luga river mouth in view of Ust-Luga harbor construction.

There is also lack of actions from the State structures directed to nature protection. Meanwhile Russia took international responsibilities and signed the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan in 2007 to protect Baltic salmon (page 23 of the Baltic Sea Action Plan)

I appeal to you to as soon as possible make decisions and take concrete measures on the Federal level to protect the Wild Baltic salmon which is under the threat of disappearance now.

To accomplish this it is necessary, first of all, to restore existing spawning areas in the Luga river, and to STOP POACHING, creation of an effective control system of illegal fishing, including improvement of legislation, creation of public control system, increase the fines and involvement by all stakeholders in the protection activities. Sincerely yours,...

Moreover, two types of post cards addressed to the president of Russia, Dmitry Medvedev, were distributed within the bike trip. The message on one of the post cards was the request to guarantee Constitutional law on safety of the Environment, promotion of realization of complex safety evaluation of SSGF development as well as set up a plan for sustainable development of the territory with responsiveness of the public opinion.

The other post card appeals to Dmitry Medvedev, as the guarantor of Constitution of the RF, to guarantee the right of a healthy environment and initiate changes to the New PP project in Sosnovy Bor (LAES-2), which is now under construction. This post card was printed with CCB support as well, within the CCB priority area "Harmful installations and transport".

Totally 1000 postcards were distributed during the bike trip. The people of the region are clearly concerned about the detriment to nature and people connected to the industrial development in the region and we hope that the Russian Government will start paying attention to the public opinion.

Additional information can be found on the Green World website: www.greenworld.org.ru

or from: **Oleg Bodrov**, Council chairmen: bodrov@greenworld.org.ru Mobile: +7 921 74 52 631

Vera Ovcharenko, member of Council: vera-ovcharenko@mail.ru Mobile:+7-921-921-7925

Vera Ovcharenko