

# CCB Newsletter

No. 1 - 2002

Coalition Clean Baltic

CCB News

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CCB Newsletter 1/02

# LUKOIL flirts with community

*Press-release*  
*April 30, 2002*

- On April 25, 2002, “LUKOIL-Kaliningrad-morneft” initiate public hearings on nature protection measures concerned with forthcoming exploiting of D-6 oilfield
- The greens consider it unethical to ask for people’s opinion on project currently in action
- There are no safe methods of oil transportation “by definition”.

On April 25, 2002, “Lukoil” oil company starts with public questioning concerning oil production on D-6 oilfield that is situated in 22 kilometers from Baltic coast in Kaliningrad region. According to Mr. A. Hubldikov, deputy director of “LUKOIL-Kaliningradmorneft”, public hearings on environmental aspect of installation currently under construction will be held for a month, and then, taking its results into consideration, environmental impact assessment will be worked out, allowing of forbidding exploitation of this oilfield. Oil industry decided to ask for public opinion in a situation without risk of loss: the project develops successfully without public agreement, it is considered the most important investment project in Kaliningrad region, and process of oil production is begins in 2003, regardless of public opinion.

“All state departments have already made their decisions concerning oil production on D-6 oilfield”, Alexandra Koroleva, member of Ecodefense! council says. “In connection with this we consider it unethical to ask for public opinion that is not to be considered anyway”.

Before saying “yes” to oil production on D-6, citizens of Kaliningrad should be clear in their mind that oil platform is located directly in front of the Curonian Spit (Kurshskaya Kosa) national park, which is an object of UNESCO world-wide heritage. So, in case of an accident, that can happen even on absolutely safe works (let’s remember Chernobyl), total cost of the oilfield resources cannot cover reparation of damages caused to Curonian Spit objects of Nature. In this instance we can confront with accidents that happen during oil production or oil transportation - in any case oil patches will cover Curonian Spit sands.

Before saying “yes” to oil production on D-6, citizens of Kaliningrad should keep in mind that Swedish monitoring services register 26 oil spills daily on their territory only. Kaliningrad region has no such services, but it is known that mean oil spill in the sea is about 5 metric tons. 5 tons of oil can form 50 square kilometers of oil film. It is enough to maim all Kaliningrad beaches 7 times.

Claim that it is safe to transport oil by pipeline laying on the bottom of the sea looks at least irresponsible, against a background of regularly occurring accidents on pipelines in Russia. It is enough to mention accidents happened last year: 2 blowouts of oil pipeline in Bashkirya (10 tons of oil leaked each time), blowout in Samara region (900 kg of oil eaked to the ground), blowout in Tomsk region (300 liters of oil escaped into Ob river), blowout in Vologda region (7.5 tons of oil escaped into rivers), blowout in Ryazan region (240 tons of oil escaped as a result of repair works technology violation), and blowout in Tatar republic (5 tons of oil escaped).

Head of Komi republic, A. Spiridonov, claimed that all LUKOIL group enterprises “has no system of measures to prevent and eliminate pipeline breakdown consequences”.

In addition we say that oil is to be transported by pipeline only to the loading terminal in Izhevskoye, and then - on board tankers to the destination point. Neither specialist, nor resident won’t have the heart to say it is safe to transport oil in tankers. Statistical report starts from 1967, when “” tanker crashed and became a herald of tankers era and era of the most serious environmental disasters.

Ecodefense claims: “Lukoil”, which is trying to look “green” could become “green” if declare its intention not to start oil production on D-6 because of actual danger to Curonian Spit, UNESCO world-wide heritage object.

## ECODEFENSE! in the New Century

**ECODEFENSE!** is an international, non-governmental, non-profit, environmental group founded in 1990 in Kaliningrad (former Königsberg) Russia

ECODEFENSE! stands on principles of deep ecology and biocentrism combined with social responsibility and justice.

ECODEFENSE! works to inform and involve more ordinary citizens to environmental and social activity through the organizing of an educational events, environmental campaigns, non-violent direct actions and the spreading environmental information.



ECODEFENSE! is working to stop violations over human rights and insists that the rights for a healthy environment and information are fundamental rights must be available for every single person.

ECODEFENSE! urge: We have not right for any compromises in the defense of our Mother-Earth, at least because this is only Earth we can live on!

Today ECODEFENSE! Kaliningrad has 6 staff persons and about 15 of volunteers and work at regional as well as national and international levels. ECODEFENSE! has several grassroots groups in Voronezh, Moscow (Russia), Dresden (Germany), Sofia (Bulgaria).

In present time Ecodefense! Kaliningrad has running following campaign and projects-

- Antinuclear campaign has coordinate the efforts to form the public movement against import of spent nuclear fuel to Russia. Antinuclear campaign has preparing the materials for Parliament Deputies including reports, organize protest actions, distribute information.



- “Save the trees” campaign has aim to optimize the green city plants management in Kaliningrad. The consequences of inadequate management from side of local authorities are deterioration and degradation of city plants, reducing of it’s diversity and green areas. From another side the air quality in Kaliningrad has sustainable trend to deteriorate. Amount of emission from cars and industrial sources still remain very high. In frames of campaign Ecodefense! organizing seminars for schoolchildren and teachers, running research programs, inform people about environmental rights and supporting citizens insisting those rights in courts.
- “No clean river – no clean Baltic” project. Project developing by Ecodefense! from 1999 started as public protest against oil-refinery installation in Kaliningrad. From 2001 the public attention attracting on industrial sources of pollution of Pregolya



River and Baltic Sea. During project implementation were issued three reports highlighting different aspects of industrial pollution of water in Kaliningrad. Beside this public hearing on this problem was

initiating by Ecodefense! and the result of this hearing became the “River Rehabilitation Program” adopted by City Council.

- “Right to know” project has mission to inform people about their rights to healthy environment and reliable information on it’s state. Understanding this rights as corner stone of democracy and strong civil society Ecodefense! work for ordinary citizens awareness on elementary civil rights. In frames of project were preparing and published the brochure “Right to know” containing address references on sources of environmental information in Kaliningrad.



- “Naturewatch Baltic” project. International project supporting by WWF Sweden include the monitoring of Baltic nature and human’s impact assessment. It is educational program, the tool for promoting the environmental education in schools. Ecodefense! organizing the research of forests, rivers and coast ecosystems and running the seminars for teachers and environmental camps and expeditions for schoolchildren. Beside this, many of methodic materials distributing among teachers. In year 2001 more than 50 of schools were involved in project.
- Ecodefense! Inform agency was established at year 1993 as informational division of Ecodefense! group for gaining and distribution of environmental information.

Current publications by Ecodefense!:

- Ecodefense! magazine, issued from 1994 and distributed free of charge in Russia and NIS. Magazine promote the values of biocentrism and deep ecology.
- “Nuclear monitor - WISE” – monthly bulletin issued from 1997, Russian edition of World Information Service on Energy Bulletin provide the unique and independent information on atom power.
- “Nature Protection Committee”- monthly magazine issued from 2001 containing environmental information mainly about Kaliningrad Region.
- “Time of Earth” – weekly program at local radio “Baltic wave”
- “Anti-Atom Press” – electronic bulletin issued from 1995, 3-5 issues monthly.
- Press releases, press-conferences and news – making activity at regional and national level.



## LITHUANIAN FOUNDATION WINS SWEDISH BALTIC SEA WATER AWARD

**The Lithuanian Housing and Urban Development Foundation (HUDF), which has developed innovative programs and projects aimed at protecting the environment of Lithuania and the Baltic Sea, is the winner of the 2002 Swedish Baltic Sea Water Award.**

The Foundation's projects have among other results contributed to the reduction of Lithuania's organic pollution to the Baltic Sea from approximately 1,500 tons to 100 tons per year within the actual projects. The overall approach can serve as a model for other regions in the Baltic Sea area. The Swedish Baltic Sea Water Award, a regional award for water stewardship presented by Sweden's Ministry for Foreign Affairs, recognizes direct and practical efforts which contribute to improved water quality in the Baltic Sea.

### **A Model for Strengthening Municipal Capacity in Environmental Infrastructure Projects**

The Housing and Urban Development Foundation (HUDF), which is a public foundation established by the Lithuanian Ministry of Finance, is honored for taking an overarching approach to reduce pollution loads in large parts of Lithuania. It has actively contributed to developing and coordinating the local municipal competence in particular while at the same time facilitating financing the establishment and operation of water and waste water works.

Together, these actions resulted in reduced eutrophication in water courses and in the coastal area and, in particular, within the Nemunas River basin, which drains over 75% of the country, to the benefit of the environment as well as the people living in the region. The efforts have also helped Lithuania in its efforts to achieve compliance with EU urban wastewater treatment standards.

### **Vast Array of Projects to Remedy Years of Inaction**

The Foundations mandate is to implement projects which improve the environment, enhances energy efficiency, water supply and wastewater treatment and solid waste management.

The Foundation has contributed to a better environmental situation in Lithuania through improved,

environmentally oriented infrastructure focused on wastewater discharges, clean water, and more.

Since its creation, HUDF has worked quickly and successfully to bring about improvements. It has in the highest degree contributed to implementing 20 municipal environmental infrastructure projects, six district heating projects and 121 energy efficiency projects with positive results.

In addition to its collaboration with local authorities, the Foundation has adeptly and efficiently worked with international financing agencies and donors, including the Nordic Investment Bank, European Investment Bank, World Bank, and aid agencies from several Scandinavian countries.

### **Case Study - Ignalina**

The town of Ignalina in Eastern Lithuania is adjacent to the Aukstaitija National Park. Ignalina's



original wastewater treatment plant was old and did not meet discharge standards, which led to pollution in the local environment, including the environmentally sensitive National Park. Construction of a new plant with HUDF assistance enabled the city to meet national effluent standards, protect the park and help Lithuania's efforts at EU accession.

### **Information Innovation**

In implementing projects, HUDF realized communication with stakeholders was important. The Foundation produces a variety of information pieces, including brochures, a quarterly newsletter, articles in local newspapers, Project Description Sheets, presentations at conferences and workshops, and other

public awareness activities. Such open dialogue on environmental issues was altogether uncommon in Soviet times but is becoming increasingly common due to activities like those of HUDF. It has raised awareness of the projects and the environment in general.

#### **Award Presentation in August**

The award will be presented to HUDF's Managing Director, Mr. Aloyzas Vitkauskas, on August 15 in conjunction with the Stockholm Water Symposium and the World Water Week. The Swedish Baltic Sea Water Award was founded in 1999 under an initiative by Minister for Trade Leif Pagrotsky, who is responsible for Sweden's collaboration with countries in Central and Eastern Europe. The award winner receives a 100,000 SEK prize sum, crystal sculpture, diploma and travel and accommodation to participate in the World Water Week in Stockholm. A jury appointed by the Swedish Government reviews the nominations and selects the winner, which



#### **Aukstaitija National Park**

can be an individual, a company, an organization or an authority in any of the Baltic Sea countries.

For more complete information about the 2002 Swedish Baltic Sea Water Award winner, please phone Ms. Ulla-Britta Fallenius, member of the Nominating Committee and Director Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, telephone: +46 8 698 11 69.



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## **A Criminal Case was Raised to Investigate the Mass Murder of Seal Cubs**

*Eesti Päevaleht 02.04.2002*

On the ground of Mart Jüssi's statement the Environmental Agency raised an unprecedented criminal case last week to investigate mass murder of 27 Grey Seal cubs on a small islet nearby Saaremaa Island, Estonia.

Slaughtered seal cubs were found by the scientists of the Institute of Zoology and Hydrology of the Tartu University while routinely researching the surrounds of the Abruka Island.

Usually when a dead seal cub is found, it has suffered from some kind of a disease. This time all dead cubs were in particularly good nutritional condition, commented the field investigators.

It was also pointed out that the seal cubs were found in unusual postures, never taken in normal circumstances.

More debatable facts were recorded, e.g. commonly seal carrions that are scavenged by birds, are found with intact bones and skulls, while this time the skulls were crushed.

***(Read more in the upcoming issue!)***

## **Quarries, Wind Parks, Long Bridges and New Geographical Discoveries**

Everyone, who has visited Saaremaa Island, the largest island in Estonia, some years ago, can remember long queues at the Virtsu ferry port, trying to make oneself on board. The memories could also include a sleepy village with a busy fisheries enterprise and never sleeping shops and bars, no particular traffic except the rush towards the ferry, enigmatic landscapes with luxuriantly blooming vegetation and flocks of birds flying to and fro. And of course the strait between the mainland and the archipelago -- the iridescent sea, a real Event for a child, born inland. And the ever-blowing wind.

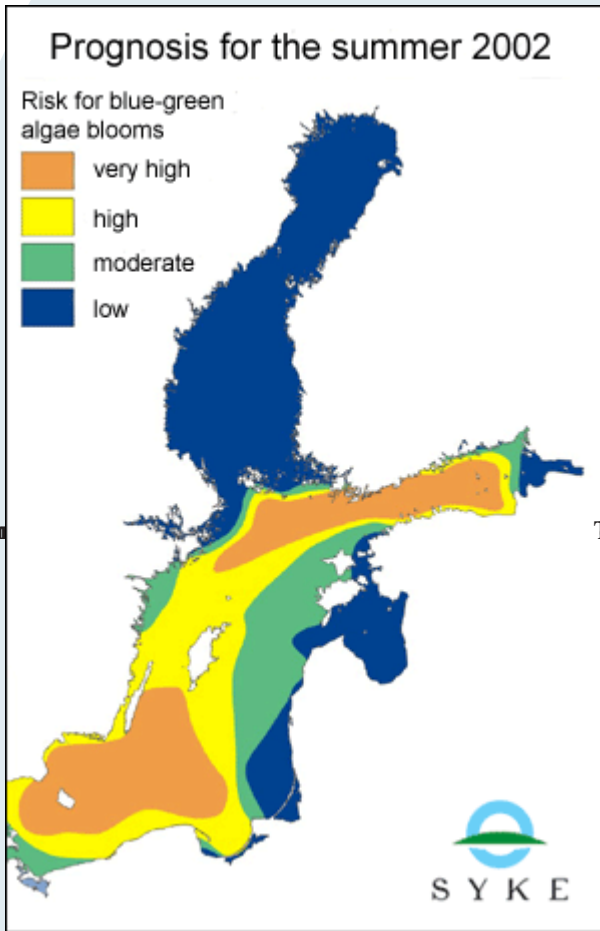
'Times they are a'changing'. Rather soon, perhaps already the next year the picture will be changed beyond recognition. The landscapes are all gone, carried away to Finland by hundreds of boatfuls of limestone gravel. Instead of alvars and wooded meadows there will be a steeply deep lake, right close to the coastline. The wind has been captured into the paddles of several enormous windparks. The village is vanished, extinct, with only perhaps two last houses and the never stopping traffic flow, disappearing towards Saaremaa along a 6-lined high bridge as if by some kind of vacuum suction. The currents of the strait are closed by the dam, while gathering heaps of bluegreen algae just begin their rotting process. And instead of the largest island there stands the Saaremaa Peninsula. From now on the largest island of Estonia will be Hiiumaa.

***(SciFi or reality? Find out by reading more from the upcoming issue!)***

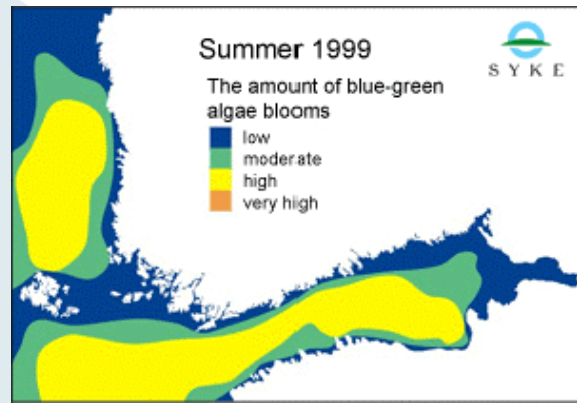
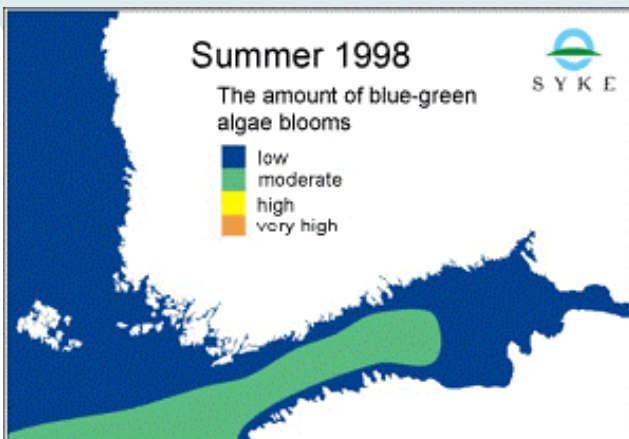
# Warm spring triggered algal production?

Press release  
7 May 2002

Warm temperatures could trigger intense blue-green algal blooms in the Baltic this

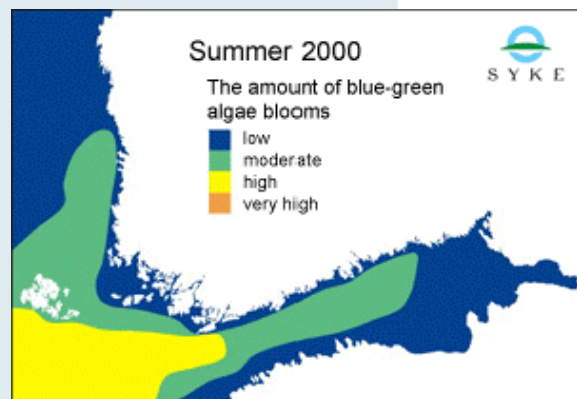


first forecasts for potentially hazardous blue-green algal blooms in the Baltic Sea this summer were today published by the Finnish Environment Institute. The forecasts are the first produced for the entire Baltic Sea by the Baltic environmental monitoring and modelling



programme, which is co-ordinated by the Helsinki Commission.

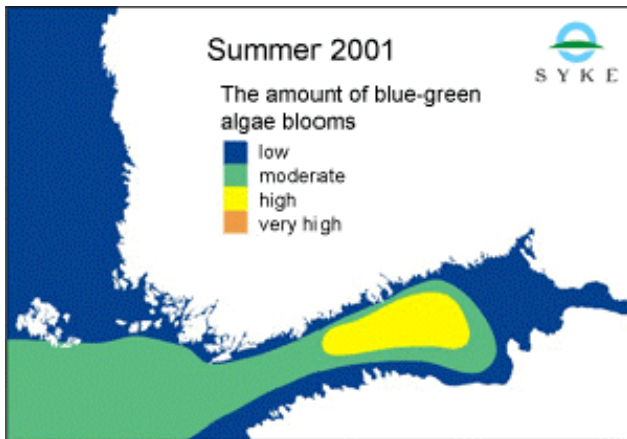
**Areas at risk**The risk of toxic blue-green algal blooms is very high in the entire Gulf of Finland, in the southern waters of the Archipelago Sea and the Åland Archipelago, and in the northern Baltic Proper. The risk is considerably lower in the northern waters of the Archipelago Sea and the Åland Archipelago, and in the Gulf of Bothnia. The southern waters of the Baltic Sea, between the islands of Gotland, Öland and Bornholm are also likely to face algal blooms this summer. Most algal



mats form in the open sea, before being blown towards islands or the coast by winds. Consequently, forecasts of areas to avoid can only be made a couple of days in advance.

**Timing**The Finnish scientists believe the first mats of blue-green algae will appear in late June or early July if the summer is warm, and peak in late July. Cold and windy summer weather conditions would probably postpone the climax to August, and blooms would be less intense.

**Background**The blue-green algae assessed in the report belong to the genera *Aphanizomenon* and *Nodularia*. Blooms of *Nodularia* can be poisonous to humans and animals. Blooms of other species of blue-green algae might occur in certain inshore waters and bays. The forecasts are based on samples taken at 360 locations by the Finnish Institute of Marine Research, the Finnish environmental administration, the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute and the City of Helsinki. The



Finnish Environment Institute's algae hot-line will operate on weekdays (9.00-16.00) during the summer (Tel. +358-1080 8898).

**Blue-green algae in the Gulf of Finland during the summers 2001, 2000, 1999 and 1998** [More information on SYKE's prognosis](#)

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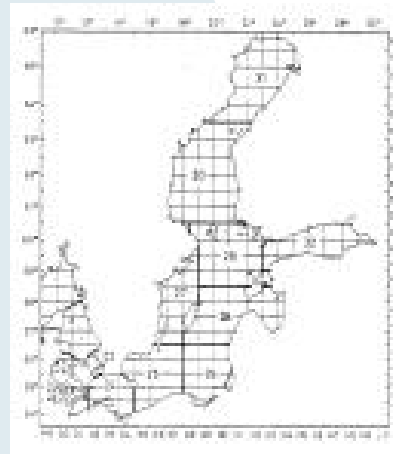
## Welcome word

Welcome to the Website of the **International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission** which has been conceived to provide information for the general public but also for journalists and students who want to know more about the fascinating life of the Baltic marine species and the way to manage them.

The International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission was established pursuant to Article V of the Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources in the Baltic Sea and the Belts (the Gdansk Convention) which was signed on the 13th September 1973.

On signing this Convention, the Contracting Parties undertook to "co-operate closely with a view to preserving and increasing the living resources of the Baltic Sea and the Belts and obtaining the optimum yield, and, in particular to expanding and co-ordinating studies towards these ends,..." This website has six fields to explain you how this task is achieved.

When you click on ["About"](#), you will learn more about the structure and operation of IBSFC and the type of regulatory measures it recommends. ["Participants"](#) informs you about all those involved in the discussions and the decision making process. ["Fish stocks"](#) is a very interesting chapter with a wealth of information on the marine environment and the state of the main exploited fish species. Under ["Documentation"](#) you will mainly find reference texts and factual information. Chapter ["Baltic 21"](#) finally informs you about the involvement of IBSFC in the



process to achieve a "sustainable" Baltic environment by the year 2030. Under ["What's New"](#) you will find the **latest decisions** adopted

during the **27th Session**, September 2001

We have still the ambition to add a chapter on "Cooking" to give you some tips and recipes for fish dishes made of Baltic species. We intend to do this for your pleasure and health, but also to influence your habits: by diversifying your selection and by refusing undersized fish, you can give a vital contribution to healthy fish stocks...

We sincerely hope you will enjoy our company,

Lauri Vaarja

IBSFC Chairman

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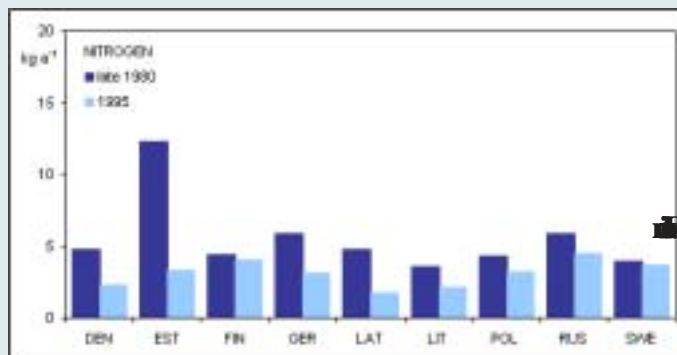
Broken links, suggestions? Webmaster Marc Vanbrabant (Jr.)  
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## ATTEMPTS TO HALVE NUTRIENT DISCHARGES ONLY PARTLY SUCCESSFUL (5.2.2002)

The Baltic is still burdened by excessive loads of nutrients, according to a report published by the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) today. The report summarises the results of a HELCOM project that investigated discharges and losses of the key nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus from 1987 to 1995, showing that measures to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus discharges have fallen short of their aims in most cases. While most countries curbed phosphorus discharges from point sources such as municipal and industrial wastewater outlets by 50%, they could not sufficiently control nitrogen

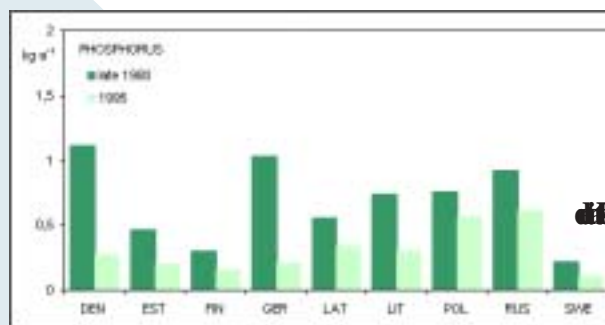


**nitrogen unit load per inhabitant (kg/y) from point sources in the late 1980s and 1995 in the Baltic Sea countries.**

### Prospects for the future

The report also outlines predicted trends until 2005. Municipalities and industries in the nine Baltic Sea countries should be technically capable of reaching the 50% reduction target for phosphorus and nitrogen emissions from point sources. The agricultural sector will face more difficulties in retaining nutrients. In Finland, Germany, Denmark and Sweden, for instance, phosphorus discharges have only been slightly reduced - despite various water protection measures. The intensive use of fertilisers over a

long period has widely saturated soils with phosphorus, and progress in reducing phosphorus loads will only be visible after a long time lag.



**phosphorus unit load per inhabitant (kg/y) from point sources in the late 1980s and 1995 in the Baltic Sea countries.**

### Clearly visible problems

The issue of excessive nutrient loads climbed the political agenda all around the Baltic Sea countries until 1988, when environment ministers set targets for 50% reductions in nutrient discharges. The HELCOM project "Evaluation of the implementation of the 1988 Ministerial Declaration regarding nutrient load reductions in the Baltic Sea catchment area" has received funding from the Commission of the European Communities and the Finnish Ministry of the Environment. National discharge figures have been collected from the results of the long-term monitoring programmes by national experts within the project team.

The report is available from 7.2. on the [Internet](#) or from Edita Publishing Ltd., Finland: P.O.Box 800, FIN-0043 EDITA, FINLAND, Phone +358 20 45005 ; fax +358 20 450 2380

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# KLUB GAJA

## For the Earth

I want to thank here all my teachers who awakened a warrior in me who now works for the Earth and all beings. Thank you to my parents, to Jerzy Grotowski, Joanna Macy, John Seed, Chogyam Trungpa and my wife.

### Jacek Bozek

founder and president of Klub Gaja

## The History of Klub Gaja

Klub Gaja was established by Jacek Bozek as an informal group in 1988. The common idea for the people connected with Klub Gaja was deep ecology and uncompromising protection of Mother Earth. Being aware that elements of the world around us are inseparable and that there is a necessity to satisfy our needs, we focused the activities of our club on individual development and group work.

The club was first mentioned when information was placed in the underground news-paper "Solidarność Podbeskidzia" on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 1989, which referred to a direct action to protect the trees in the city centre from being cut down. From the very beginning, workshops were factors which united Klub Gaja as a group of people who lived and worked together for the Earth. At first, these included "Workshop for All Beings" and then "The Way of Gaia's Warrior".

The strength of Klub Gaja consists of the possibility of sharing the experience of the sanctity of Life, as well as a profound contact with ourselves and the world, by means of various methods.

### Dear Friends

We are the ecological and cultural association Klub Gaja based in Bielsko-Biala, Poland.

We are an independent, fully registered, non-profit making, non-governmental organisation (NGO) founded in 1988.

We lead two national and increasingly international campaigns.

The first, "Teraz Wisła" ("Vistula Now"), is a campaign for the pro-ecological, pro-social development of one of Europe's largest, most natural and wild rivers, the Vistula.

The second campaign, in which we have had significant major success, is for animal rights. It is called "Zwierzę nie jest rzeczą" ("An animal is not a thing").

In addition we lead a selection of local activities under the title of "Local Earth".

Coalition work and co-operation with other groups and organisations, around the World, forms an important part of our activity and which we call "Our Belief".

"Art for the Earth" forms an important part of our work. We use many art forms such as theatre, happenings and graffiti-street art.

Klub Gaja believes in and uses only peaceful methods, we promote and demonstrate co-operation in our work.

Network building, publication of literature in Polish and English, leading workshops, creation of high profile events, lobbying, use of theatre, direct action, exhibitions, working with scientists, politicians, institutions, national and local governments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), interested individuals and the media, are all methods of our work.

Klub Gaja was founded through underground channels by its present day president Jacek Bozek, who is also a Fellow of the Ashoka Foundation for Social Entrepreneurs.

Klub Gaja has won many awards for its work as an organisation and for its campaigns.

## The national Polish campaign "Teraz Wisła" ("Vistula Now")

Travelling for many years around Poland, it became clear that the amazing river Vistula needs some thought and care. Due to its natural and cultural considerations the Vistula is unique, not only in Poland

but in Europe. It features priceless species of fauna and flora. Its landscape values are unparalleled.

Threats to the chance of a possible future in harmony with nature were not being challenged in an organised way.

**The Vistula, known as the Queen of Polish rivers, is over one thousand kilometres long, its basin covers over half of the territory of Poland.**

Every kilometre of this river needs some friendly attention. This is especially important now, when one

observes the plans to regulate the Vistula. This regulation includes the most important project, the Lower Vistula Cascade, which aims to construct seven more dams along the Lower Vistula. In the opinion of many Polish and foreign institutions, experts and environmental organisations, this project will destroy natural and cultural uniqueness of the Vistula river and valley.

In 1993, we started to prepare the national Polish campaign "Teraz Wisła" which was initiated on "Earth Day" in Warsaw, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 1994. The main motto of this "Earth Day" in Warsaw was the motto of our campaign: VISTULA NOW. The goals of the "Teraz



**Klub Gaja people who work together for themselves, the earth and all beings. They vary in age, education and come from different origins. They share experiences and create life together. They try to find a common world in their diversity.**

Wisła" campaign are the improvement of water quality, its rational use, protection of biological diversity and cultural values by means of ecological education and stimulating local communities to activity.

The Queen of Polish rivers possesses a huge economic and social potential, which should be a basis for any discussions about the future of this river.

**Vistula is one of Europe's largest rivers and one which remains closest to its natural state.** Vistula forms the ecological "backbone" of Poland allowing the dispersal of many species. In addition, Vistula is one of Europe's most important ecological corridors. It provides a very important link between Scandinavia and Africa.

Its close to natural river dynamics, sandy islands, floodplain forests and old river beds provide rare and unique habitats on an European scale for many species. These habitats include nesting and breeding grounds for many rare birds among them migratory species. Salmon breed on the Drwęża tributary of the lower Vistula and the river is home to a variety of fish species. Commercial fishery is still undertaken.

For many active environmental and social circles in our country the national campaign "Teraz Wisła" has become an example of a professional activity on the level of co-operation between local communities, politicians, social activists and mass media.

#### Long term objectives of the campaign

1. To create a network of information exchange, between co-operating organisations, institutions and interested parties.
2. To inspire and carry out local campaigns congruent with the goals of "Teraz Wisła".
3. To enforce protection (also legal) of the most interesting sites of natural and cultural heritage in the Vistula Valley.
4. To support pro-environmental Vistula basin development projects.
5. To create a foundation for the protection of the Vistula, the Vistula Valley and drainage area.

The campaign has brought the issue of the Vistula and the proposed new dams on the Vistula to the level of national debate and has delayed the building of a proposed new dam at Nieszawa over a number of years.

We organised a special conference in Parliament called "Vistula, the Way to the 21st Century". Politicians, scientists, institutions and government officials took part as well as a representative from the team working on the successful revival project for the River Loire in France. There was full media coverage.

Our exhibition "How to Save a River" has been shown all over Poland and was the first exhibition of its kind to be shown in the Polish parliament and in the Ministry of Environment.

Every year, we organise "Vistula Day" bringing to life the mix of the river, its natural environments and culture. We organise this with many different groups around Poland and many different happenings take place. We formed the coalition called "Water is the Spring of Life". Between the middle and lower Vistula is one large dam located at Włocławek. Built over 30 years ago and as part of a cascade of dams, this dam is causing many problems.



**Vistula the last big close to natural river in Europe. Her valley is not only the most important ecological corridor but also an historical cultural trail.**

Most recently, "Vistula Day" has taken the form of protest action and awareness raising about issues relating to the existing dam at Włocławek, the proposed dam at Nieszawa and general dam issues, due to the ever impending government decision of whether or not to support the building of a new dam on the Lower Vistula at Nieszawa.

In the last month of the year 2000 and in the first days of 2001, our government and parliament decided to formally support the plan to build a new dam on the Lower Vistula at Nieszawa.

What happens to the Vistula is an European issue. Our work aims to bring the threats to and opportunities of the Vistula to global attention. We organised the meeting "First International Meeting of Non-Governmental Organisations: Dams, Water and Life" Bielsko-Biala, which was held in our centre, attended by representatives from groups from all over the world who work with the issues of destructive dams.

The focus of this meeting was co-operation between NGOs in Europe, the northern

and southern hemispheres and with the World Commission on Dams (WCD). An European Hearing of Non-Governmental Organisations for the WCD was held in Bratislava at the beginning of the year 2000 where we presented a case study about the Vistula. Following the completion of the Final Report by the WCD, together with World Commission Fund (WWF), we organised a meeting in Polish parliament for a WCD representative to present the findings of the final report. Working with others in Poland who are concerned with water and its management we compiled a Vision for Water for Poland and represented Polish non-governmental organisations at the World Water Forum in the Hague in March 2000.

A special BBC World News programme about the Vistula helped to spread our message and our activity has been used in a film to lobby European politicians in Brussels.

#### Why we say NO to the proposed new dam at Nieszawa

1. A new dam will not solve the problems which exist but, only put off the solution, whilst creating problems of its own.
2. The new dam is estimated at a cost of over 400 million USD, the first 15% of which is to be funded by Polish public funds. Scientific expertise shows that a new dam will itself be suffering from problems of erosion after a number of years and could itself become a new and expensive problem.
3. No full environmental impact assessment or economic analysis has been carried out.
4. The decision making process has not been open and transparent.
5. The building of new dams on the Vistula will prevent the possibility of pro-ecological, pro-social solutions for the development of the Vistula and its valley from taking place.

6. The building of new dams on the Vistula will have negative consequences for one of Europe's most important ecological corridors. In 1995, at the Ministerial Conference in Sophia it was decided that one of the most important ecological corridors in Central Europe is the valley of the Vistula river.

7. The building of a new dam on the Lower Vistula will break international conventions to which Poland has signed including the Ramsar and Berne Declarations.

**The national campaign "Zwierzę nie jest rzeczą" ("An animal is not a thing")**

**Research laboratories, stockbreeding farms, slaughterhouses, hunting grounds, circuses and zoological gardens are all places which, in our culture, we have determined as appropriate for animals.**

The cruelty, ruthlessness and the large-scale character of these activities are the major reasons from which the protection of "our smaller brothers" became one of our basic tasks carried out since the beginning of Klub Gaja. We started from preparing an exhibition on the place of animals in our culture. The exhibition which has been shown since 1989, is accompanied by the motto "Why?"

We started our campaign "The Circus is Funny, but not for Animals" in 1991. Due to the activities of this campaign, in 1995 Bielsko-Biala became the first town in Poland and in Central and Eastern Europe in which circuses featuring the taming of wild animals are forbidden.

In our circus campaign the target is to introduce a ban on taming of wild animals for entertainment.

Also in 1991, Klub Gaja participated in a dramatic and spectacular obstruction of a bullfighting show at the Silesian Stadium. After this action any further bullfighting shows were cancelled, and so far, nobody in Poland has organised similar shows.

In 1994, we began making preparations for the publication of "The Anthology of Animal Rights". This was to be the first book in Poland presenting the history and philosophy of the movement, describing specific methods of taking unfair advantage of animals and, the possibilities and consequences of social activities. The book was published in 1995.

On the 24th of October 1995 Klub Gaja started the national Polish campaign "An Animal is Not a Thing".

On this day the largest action for the recognition of and protection of animal rights that has ever been organised in our country took place.

In several dozen towns (about 50) there were informative campaigns, which focused on the need to pass a new bill "On the Protection of Animals" as soon as possible. People could sign the letter to the Chairman of the Polish Parliament concerning the issues. In this campaign we obtained a petition of 600,000 signatures, the second largest petition in Polish history.

Within this campaign and at the suggestion of Klub Gaja, the first coalition for the rights of animals was created in Poland. Work relating to the changing of this bill including, for example, raising awareness of issues relating to animal rights through the Klub Gaja "An Animal is Not a Thing" Exhibition, led to a new law relating to Animal Rights to come into force on the 24th of October 1997.

The force-feeding of ducks and geese is now banned in Poland. This lobby was one of the strongest in blocking the law on animal rights from coming into force.

Since January 1999, we have been conducting a new chapter of the national campaign "An Animal is Not a Thing" in co-operation with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA).

We are conducting action on the transport of live animals for meat, mainly the transport of horses. We want to protect many thousands of animals from suffering during transport

through the ban on the transport of live horses for export for meat.

The problem is the export of live horses for meat, mostly to Italy, but also to France. Every year, from our country, we export about 100,000 horses.

Let us cite the excerpts of NIK (Main Control Chamber) from May 1998 confirming the cruelty of the practice:

*"After the check it was settled that, in every fourth of the checked units no proper sanitary conditions were guaranteed. In 95% of transports the load capacity was exceeded. Proper transport conditions to avoid the risk of traumas and wounds were not guaranteed by 40% of the companies. Holes in the floors, metal edges, leaking roofs. In some of the vehicles the animals could have fallen out during the transport."*

In Poland, horses have special status, they are special animals in Poland. In our history, horses have been a very large part of many important events such as battles and national ceremonies. There is no tradition of eating horses in Poland.

Horses are bred mostly in the eastern agricultural regions of Poland where people are poor. In Poland, in 1999, there were 36 companies which exported live horses.

We export live horses to Italy and France where they are slaughtered.

The Polish law is good at European level. The problem is that, in the most part, this law is not well respected by those who have to implement it.

#### Long term aim of the campaign

That the place of the horse in Poland returns to the positive one traditional in Polish culture through changes in Polish law, education and public opinion. That Poland will not export live horses for meat.

#### Short term aims

1. To find materials and documents, which present the problems in Poland relating to the export of live horses for meat. This information will then be put into our materials.

2. To inform public opinion about this problem through our actions, meetings, literature and co-operation with the media.

3. To build a network of organisations, experts, horse clubs and especially people who care about horses and use this network to help the campaign.

4. To obtain 500,000 signatures to the petition to stop the transport of live horses exported from Poland for meat.

5. To support and promote people and institutions who buy horses from the meat trade in order to save them.

#### The Centre "Bajka Klubu Gaja"

**"Bajka Klubu Gaja" is a beautiful old mansion house (900 m<sup>2</sup>), situated in over two hectares of parkland that merges with the forest of the Beskid Śląski Mountain Range at the foot of Kozia Góra, Szyndzielnia and Klimczok mountains, backing onto the Beskid Śląski Landscape Park.**

For 200 years, the area has been known as Cygański Las (The Gypsy Forest) and recently owing to the decision made by the City council of Bielsko-Biała it has become a protected natural enclave of the Beskidys.

The purpose of the activity of the centre is to present and implement pro-ecological technological educational and social opportunities, in accordance with the principles of eco-development and, through this activity, solve environmental problems both on the local, regional and national scales.

Reaching this goal is impossible without social consensus. The places where such discussion is possible, not only on a theoretical but also on a practical level, should be the centres which meet requirements to achieve such social consensus.

To build a practical example of how we understand eco-development, is one of the most important tasks we would like "Bajka Klubu Gaja" to achieve.

It is necessary to work out such a system of co-operation with businesses, the local government and the local community because otherwise each participant on the social scene will strive to reach only their own goals. Only specific technical and social solutions that minimise environmental losses can become an alternative for the existing model of development. These goals will be reached by long term activities, through education and supporting active social initiatives and through co-operation.

Housed in "Bajka" is our European library, which contains an interesting collection of ecological, cultural and animal rights material. We want to develop the Academy of Animal Rights in our centre.

Groups from all over Poland use our centre for a variety of different meetings and workshops. Here we also hold our annual congress for non-governmental organisations from all over Poland.

Our centre has been visited by groups and individuals from all over the world.

Excellent access to and from the town centre of Bielsko-Bia<sup>3</sup>a by public transport makes it easily accessible.

**"Bajka" can be used by different groups and organisations to hold their own meetings and workshops.**

#### "Bajka Klubu Gaja" centre rules

- .. **Only vegetarian food on the premises**
- .. **No drugs**
- .. **No smoking in the building**

#### Art for the Earth

Art is a wonderful medium of communication. Our art is done in our work for the earth, not as art for the sake of art. For those of us who are working together for the earth as a team what we do has to be inspiring for us too; if we make something inspiring together, this is good for our own inspiration and well being.

**Klub Gaja uses different art forms in its work for environmental protection and education, for animal rights and in its campaigns. We use different forms of theatre, happenings and graffiti-street art, music and poetry.**

Art is a beautiful way of raising people's attention and awareness and the attention of the media. Another method is developing our different exhibitions which we take around Poland. These have been shown in a wide variety of different venues including schools, art galleries, the Polish Parliament and Ministry of Environment.

The exhibitions are "How to Save a River", "An Animal is not a Thing", "Local Earth" and "Graffiti – Street Art".

We created at our centre with our partners from Yorkshire, England, a traditional

Yorkshire dry stone wall which is a wonderful example of art for the earth and a physical representation of our partnership.

We provide group activity for those interested in learning why art is used and how to use art, which includes hands on practical experience in using the different art forms. Such groupwork has been provided for many different groups around Poland and the UK.

Our happening about live horse transport formed part of a nationwide tour around Poland raising awareness about the transport of live horses for export for meat.

The street theatre performance "Wild River in the Heart of Europe" for the "Teraz Wisla" campaign is invited to different events and festivals and forms a major awareness raising tool in the campaign. It has been filmed and broadcast by television stations including BBC World News and used in a film for lobbying activity in Brussels.

Some of the volunteers who have helped us with our work have also gone on to prepare their own exhibitions, paintings, collages and sculptures.

#### Local Earth

Our series of local activities are called "Local Earth". Klub Gaja began with local activity. In addition to our work for animal rights, local campaigns have included the prevention of trees being felled in the old town square; stopping a tyre incinerator being built in the centre of the town; ensuring the inclusion of environmental protection equipment in a medical

waste incinerator which were not previously to be incorporated; a campaign for homeless dogs and cats in the wintertime and a campaign to reduce the number of frog deaths during their migration.

Jacek Bożek is the elected chair of the Community Eco-Development Committee of Bielsko-Biala. This committee was formed through a process following the principles of Agenda 21. The work involved those from different aspects of society such as farmers, business people, scientists, teachers and young people, to work on a vision for the ecological development of

Bielsko-Biala, based on principles of consensus. We have an official agreement with the foresters about the future care of the area of Kolowrót in the Beskidy mountains.



**Thanks to our spectacle "Wild River in the Heart of Europe" we can help people, rivers, animals and show our activity in the media. 14. 03. 2001 Ćwinna Porêba – The process of building the dam at Ćwinna Porêba is an example of the government's lack of respect for people and nature.**



**This blockade in the circus ring of Arena was one of the most important experiences in our work. We had to overcome our fear but circuses using wild animals are now banned in our town.**

Together with the foresters we have established special protection for this area and are working together to develop an education trail. Environmental education and awareness raising is a vital activity.

Our work includes co-operation with schools and colleges, such as giving talks, slide shows and workshops.

Many people contact us for help or to ask us to become more involved in matters relating to the environment where they live or relating to a cultural issue.

This work covers our whole region and can include sending official letters to different bodies and visiting places at the invitation of those requesting help. Helping in such cases forms a major part of our local activity. We organise a wide range of cultural activities and happenings as part of the European Week Against Racism and for Tolerance.

#### **Volunteering with Klub Gaja**

We work very closely with our volunteers who are involved in our activity.

We have full time volunteers who work on campaign activity, support the part-time volunteers and help in Bajka.

The full-time volunteers also have very specific roles and responsibility in the following areas: running the centre "Bajka Klubu Gaja"; international co-ordination; educational work, exhibition development, implementation and responsibility for part-time volunteers; artwork, design, graphics and publication layout.

**Volunteers are involved in planning, preparation and implementation.**

Weekly volunteer meetings every Thursday enable regular updates as to future happenings, events and campaign developments as well as the voicing of projects they would like to carry out.

This can be for actions, for planning, preparation and distribution of support material for local campaign activity.

Input also includes writing articles for Klub Gaja publications, support with the provision of Klub Gaja stalls at actions and events around the country; being part of main Klub Gaja actions and presentations which may take theatrical form; helping with the display of our exhibitions and giving talks around the country and abroad.

Around the country many volunteers collect signatures for the petitions and help with networking activity.

#### **International Co-operation "Our Belief"**

International co-operation is essential for the healthy future of our planet and international co-operation is essential in our work. We work with organisations, groups, institutions and individuals around the World who work for human rights, animal rights, for nature and our healthy environment. At focused campaign level, we especially work with those who oppose the mismanagement of water resources and who promote pro-ecological, pro-social solutions, especially with those who oppose destructive dams and river regulation. We

also work very closely with those working for animal rights and animal welfare.

For the Vistula river, we instigated and form part of the

international coalition with **World Wildlife Fund, IUCN, Birdlife International/OTOP** and **Wędkarski Ćwiat** (this is the national magazine "Angling World" which co-ordinates the input from anglers who wish to work for the Vistula). We are part of the **Coalition Clean Baltic**.

We have been visited by and run workshops with people from all over the World. We have hosted young activists from Kazakstan and Kirgistan providing a training programme for them. We have hosted and been part of a winter meeting of the **European Youth for Action Network**. In 1998, we hosted and organised the First International Meeting of Non-governmental organisations: Dams, Water and Life, Bielsko-Biala, organised specifically to address co-operation of non-governmental organisations who work against destructive dams and river regulation and which promote pro-ecological pro-social alternatives. The meeting focused on co-operation at the European level, between the northern and southern hemispheres and with the **World Commission on Dams (WCD)**. We presented the Vistula as a case study at the **European Hearing of Non-Governmental Organisations with the WCD** and represented Polish NGOs at the **World Water Forum in the Hague in March 1999**. In our centre, we have held international meetings of people who are in the Waldorf education movement. Exchanges have taken place with environmentally active young people from the UK, delivering concrete input from each participant in campaign and environmental education work. Our international partnership project with Kirklees Metropolitan Council and Enviro-youth in the UK continues to develop at many different levels.

We work closely with NGOs who are concerned about animal rights and animal welfare issues. Our focus is the transport of live animals for meat; in particular, the transport of live horses for export from Poland for meat. We are an **Associate of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)** and are invited as an observer to **Eurogroup for Animal Welfare** made up of representatives from NGOs in the **European Union Member States**. We are a member of the **Vegetarian Society** and **European Partners for the Environment**.

#### **National Co-operation**

National co-operation has been at the heart of our organisation since the beginning. We have worked to build connections, contacts and co-operation as a fundamental part of our activities.

**We work with scientists, politicians, government representatives and officers, institutions, groups and interested individuals.** This has been done through a variety of different methods, for example, through joint actions or working together to organise a series of events or a happening. We started the first coalition for the rights of animals in this country. We also instigated the coalition **Water is the Spring of Life** for all those in Poland who are interested in

working for Poland's rivers and for better water management.

Each year, we organise and host our annual congress **Earth Now** attended by representatives of groups from all over Poland meeting to discuss campaign strategy and co-operation.

Co-operation includes lobbying activity, signature gathering to petitions, education work (Klub Gaja also sends other groups information packs and materials), we work together with different groups to prepare workshops and exhibitions in many towns. We provide workshops to NGOs working with animal rights to help them in their activities, for example, **How you can help work for animal rights** a workshop which we lead uses experience from over 12 years of activity. In the annual congress of 1999, we put forward the idea to form a Federation and this is now progressing.

Co-operation with other organisations led to Klub Gaja being invited as a special guest to the **Woodstock Festival** in 1998 and 1999. Here we had our own area, displayed materials and part of our "An animal is not a Thing" exhibition, gathered petition signatures, talked to many people and addressed the festival from the stage and on the festival radio.

We are part of the **Coalition of Farm Animals** and the **Animal Rights Network**. We also form part of the coalition **Save the Carpathians** and work with other groups to oppose the Winter Olympics being held in the Tatra Mountains.

### Media

Our work involves substantial co-operation with the media. Coverage is received in local, national and international media.

For 5 years, we also broadcast our programme "The Way of Gaia's Warrior" on local radio "Delta". A number of films have been made about our work and campaigns. A special film called "The Space of Freedom" was also made about the founder of Klub Gaja, Jacek Bozek. These films and programmes are broadcast on national television.

The most recent examples are a programme on BBC World News broadcast on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2000 and information in Newsweek magazine on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2000.

### Groupwork and educational and cultural visits "The Way of Gaia's Warrior"

"The Way of Gaia's Warrior" is the project of ecology and social education contrived by Jacek Bozek. The project was inspired from spirituality, psychology and the social activity originated from the 1970's. It is connected with theatre (Laboratorium – Jerzy Grotowski), and from the life of communities based on non-violence to all beings.

We organise a variety of different group activities, carried out to suit the needs and level of those taking part.

You can also make an educational and cultural visit. We will take care of organising the programme to meet the needs of your group and work closely with the group leader to plan the programme in advance.

### Dancing with the River

Authored and led by **Jacek Bozek**, Founder and President of Klub Gaja.

We dance at different levels and to different rhythms. Sometimes we dance alone, sometimes with a partner, sometimes we have many people around us.

This groupwork is about the many different levels and meanings of – What is a river? – ecological biodiversity, valleys, cultural, spiritual and historical elements, ways of working with and saving a river. The level of ecological

biodiversity and river valleys, the cultural and historical levels, the level of its meaning for spirituality. The groupwork uses wonderful Polish nature as its venue.

### Saving a River

Authored and led by **Jacek Bozek**, Founder and President of Klub Gaja.

We are able to show possibilities to those who are interested in working with rivers on the campaign level. If you are really interested in working with rivers we will prepare an intense programme to show which way we work with rivers, our roots and what we want to achieve.

### Natural Kingdom – Human Management

Led by **Dr Zbigniew Wilczek** and **Roksana Krauser**.

Cygański Las or The Gypsy Forest is on the foothills of the Beskid mountains and is our local forest backing onto our garden gate. It is within the Beskid Slaski Landscape Park and forms part of the forest covering the Beskid mountains which, in turn, form part of the Carpathian mountain range.

Participants will learn about the most interesting natural areas of Cygański Las including the area called „Kolowrót”. This area now has special reserve status. As part of our "Local Earth" activity, an agreement has been reached with foresters for the protection of the area and an interpretation trail is planned.

This groupwork takes you into the foothills of the Beskid mountains walking along forest trails.

### Art for the Earth

Use of theatre and happenings led by **Jacek Bozek** and **Dariusz Paczkowski**. Graffiti-Street Art workshop led by **Dariusz Paczkowski** and **Adam Blazej Sobański**.

How to use art. Why is art used? This is all about the understanding of the application of art for the earth and not simply art for arts' sake including use of theatre and happenings and graffiti-street art. Klub Gaja uses art in its campaigns for environmental protection and animal rights.

Use of exhibitions are also included why we have them and methods and rules for success. Our exhibitions have been shown all over Poland in schools and art galleries, in Polish parliament and the Ministry of Environment. In the graffiti workshop the group can work together, for example, on a large design or on T-shirts which can be taken home.

Ceramic artist, **Remigiusz Gryt**, also leads ceramic workshops called the "Four Elements" for adults, young people and children.

### How to Act for the Protection of Animal Rights

Led by **Wojciech Owczarz**, co-ordinator of the national Polish campaign "An Animal is not a Thing".

We capture our experience of the work we have undertaken for animal rights. Looking at the situations in Poland and at what has been achieved, we cover how to work with the media and how to organise actions. We look at campaign strategy.

In addition, we also address how to engage others in your work to help you.

***“The techniques used during “The Way of Gaia’s Warrior” workshops do not aim to teach – they are just like we are.***

***They border on art, psychology, religion. They are a challenge. Can anything be achieved by applying them?***

***But you, what do you want to achieve? Where are you heading? Have you taken the Path?***

***We can spend together a few hours, a few days.***

***We may keep silent, or shout, or dance.***

***We need fire, water, space.***

***We need to be mindful.”***

***Jacek Bozek***

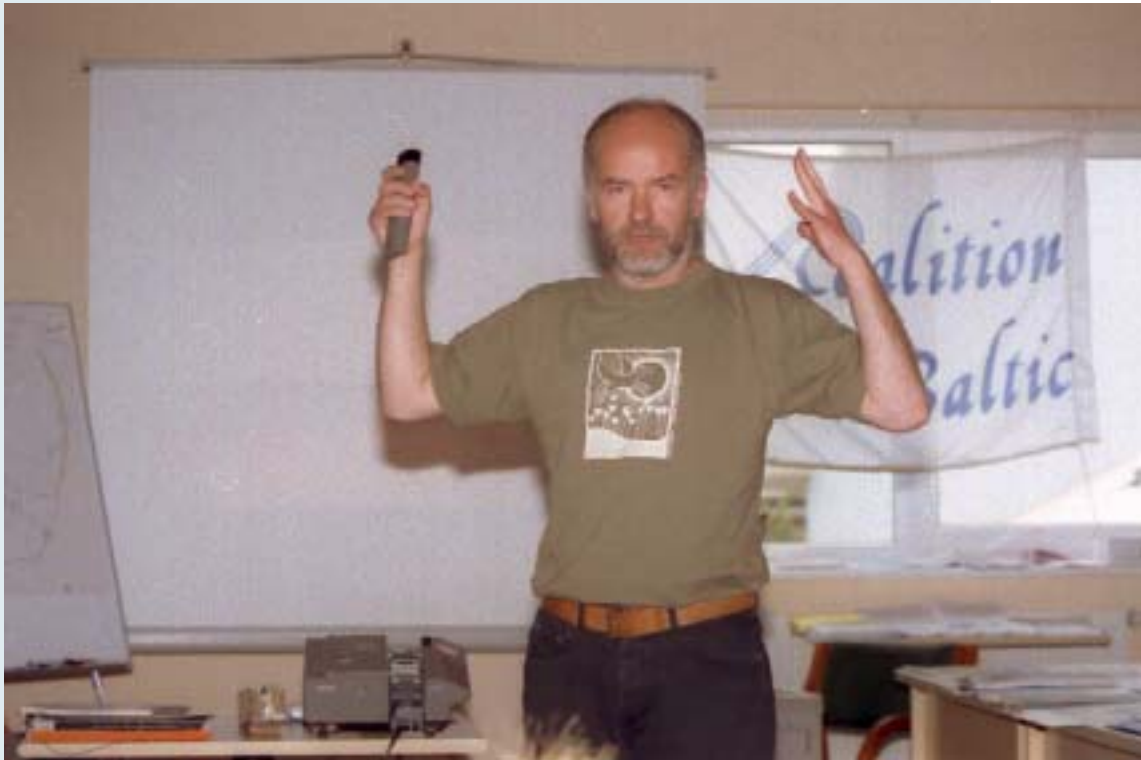
## Publications

Every year, we produce a number of brochures as part of our campaign activity: “Wisla Fax” (“The Vistula Fax”) for the “Teraz Wisla” (“Vistula Now”) campaign and “Współodczuwanie”(“Common Feeling”) for the campaign “Zwierzę nie jest rzeczą” (“An Animal is not a thing”). These are accompanied by a variety of leaflets and informational “fliers”. We have also authored and published a number of books entitled “The Way of Gaia’s Warrior”, “An Anthology of Animal Rights” and “Saving a River”.

“Saving a River” is published in both Polish and English versions.

**“Klub Gaja, a group of ecology activists in southwest Poland. In 1997 he successfully lobbied for an animal-rights law and is fighting plans for a dam on the Vistula River.”**

Newsweek, 25 September 2000



**Appeal  
To The Parliament of Finland  
From The Environmental Conference Of The Second Baltic NGO Forum  
In St.Petersburg, 19-20 April, 2002**

We, representatives of environmental non-governmental organisations from the Baltic Sea Region, follow the on-going debate on construction of the fifth nuclear reactor in Finland with anxiety.

Nuclear power, besides causing immediate risks, is absolutely unsustainable. The problem of spent nuclear fuel has not yet been resolved in any country of the world. Reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel is an extremely dangerous process; storage of spent nuclear fuel is needed for thousands of years, which is uneconomical and is a problem for many future generations.

As a sustainable solution to the energy problem, many countries of the world have chosen the option of developing renewable energy sources and saving energy. Finland has been a good example in this way.

Making the decision to build the fifth nuclear power reactor in Finland would stimulate and support the construction of nuclear reactors in other regions of the world, especially in Russia (Karelia, Sosnovy Bor) and the Baltic countries.

We value Finland's general concern for the environment. To promote sustainable policy, the best Finland can do is not build new nuclear reactors.

We appeal to members of the Parliament of Finland to vote against the decision to build the fifth nuclear reactor in Finland.

*Oleg Bodrov, Green World, Russia*  
*Olga Senova, Children of the Baltic, Russia*  
*Alexey Milovanov, Ecodefense! international group, WISE/NIRS-Russia*  
*Jessica Calonius-Beliaeva, Luonto Liitto, Finland*  
*Saara Turkki, Dodo, Finland*  
*Pertti Siilahti, Suomen Luonnonsuojeluliitto, Finland*  
*Albert Caspari, INFOBALT, Germany*  
*Alexander Shkrebits, TEIA, Russia*  
*Richard Thompson Coon, Gulf of Finland Environment Society SULA, Finland*  
*Vadim Kirichenko, CAEcologie, Estonia*  
*Vladimir Mirotvortsev, Eesti LKS, Estonia*  
*Alexander Nikitin, Environmental Rights Center, Russia*  
*Janis Matulis, Friends of the Earth – Latvia*  
*Valdur Lahtvee, Coalition Clean Baltic*  
*Roustam Sagitov, St.Petersburg Naturalists Society, Russia*  
*Stella Miroshkina, Gatchina EcoNGO, Russia*  
*Johanna Wesnigk, Bund, Germany*  
*Ilka Peterson, FOJ-Betreuungsstelle Jugendpfarramt NEK, Germany*  
*Galina Tsvetkova, Keep St.Petersburg Tidy, Russia*  
*Olga Madison, Keep St.Petersburg Tidy, Russia*  
*Taina Peltonen, KYE (European Voluntary service), Finland*  
*Nina Ljungquist, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, Sweden*  
*Nils Margraf, Hohe Tied e.V., Germany*  
*Vladimir Gushin, All-Russia Nature Protection Society, Russia*  
*Erhard Janssen, Center for Applied Ecology, Estonia*  
*Tamara Zintsenko, Estimaa Loodusfond, Estonia*  
*Marina Janssen, Center for Applied Ecology, Estonia*  
*Alexander Fedorov, Green World, Russia*  
*Daria Postnova, Chudskoye Lake Project, Russia*

# Conclusions by the Environmental Conference of the Baltic NGO Forum – 2002

St. Petersburg, 18–21 April, 2002

**The Baltic Sea is a fragile and sensitive ecosystem. For more than 80 million people, who live around the shores and in the catchment area, the health of the Baltic Sea is important. Major environmental risks and negative trends in the Baltic Sea Area are well known by both the Governmental authorities and the public but are still poorly addressed.**

Environmental NGOs were the early stewards of the sustainability concept and the concept of equal environmental space. The NGO position was presented in 1998 by Coalition Clean Baltic in the Environmental Citizen's Organisations Vision on Sustainable Baltic Sea Region. The initiative of the Environmental Ministers at Saltsjöbaden in 1998 was thus welcomed and, jointly with governments, the Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Area was developed as an excellent example of NGO-GO co-operation. Today NGOs feel that this great Baltic Agenda 21 process has lost status following transference of the Secretariat to the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and that the process now lacks political strength and resources. NGOs urge Prime Ministers of CBSS to put power back into the Baltic Agenda 21 process and to ensure participation of the sector ministers in implementation of agreed actions. Of equal importance is the integration of environmental considerations into sector policies. Prime ministers should ensure that sector ministers and environment ministers organise cross-sectoral, joint meetings to implement Baltic 21.

Within this framework of strong commitment to sustainable development, securing the sustainable future of the Baltic Sea calls for cautious planning and comprehensive conduct of environmental impact assessments. NGOs are not against economic development but support development, which takes full account of environmental considerations.



There are still too many environmental **“hot spots” in the Baltic Sea Region** in need of mitigation at both the national and international level.

**Industry** strongly affects the Baltic environment by its emissions and deposits, by processes and products in use. NGOs call for a regional action programme to achieve a total phase-out of discharges, emissions and other losses of hazardous substances. The Baltic Sea Countries should implement the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants immediately.

In the sphere of **energy production and consumption**, the present trends of use of fossil fuels and nuclear power cause short and long-term damages and risks to the environment, which are in contradiction with basic sustainability requirements. We need to shape energy policy of the Baltic Sea Area in order to promote the use of renewable energy and energy saving. Long term aim should be the Nuclear Free Baltic Sea Area - phase out of the use of nuclear energy and until that ban for construction of new nuclear based capacities and ban for operation of existing reactors beyond design limits, as well transportation of spent nuclear fuel or wastes at Baltic. Along that also exploration and exploitation of uranium deposits in Karelian Republic should be banned.

**Unsustainable consumption patterns**, particularly on Western Baltic, have to be changed. Public awareness and strengthening of the consumers' responsibility should be encouraged. The governments must establish economic incentives for, fostering this shift. In connection of over-consumption, proper systems for waste minimisation, recycling and environmentally friendly management of residuals should be established in all Baltic Sea states.

Still existing areas as well as semi-natural and semi-cultural landscapes are housing enormous richness of **biological diversity** of the region thus ensuring ecological sustainability and providing basis for sustainable rural development – traditional agriculture, eco-tourism etc. NGOs call for stronger co-operation between the Governments to develop and preserve the Protected Areas Network in the whole Baltic Region. Sufficient resources must be allocated for conservation of semi-natural landscapes and securing sustainability of local development programmes.

Old-growth and undisturbed **forests** and well-developed secondary forests in the Baltic Sea Region are under severe pressure of domestic and international commercial interests. Also overall forest management practices often include violations of national legislation and good management habits. NGOs call for preservation of virgin forests, stop of illegal forestry activities and illegal timber trade. Old-growth forests at border areas in Karelia and secondary forests at Karelian Isthmus should be protected by establishment of cross-border national parks as planned by Russian and Finnish Governments recently.

**The transport sector** is the source of widespread pollution, congestion and health problems. New investments in highways are in deep contrast to concerns regarding climate change. NGOs call for a consistent set of policies within the transport sector, in particular, for conversion of public investments from highway systems into public transport and specially railways. We call for stricter fuel efficiency standards and rapid introduction of alternative fuels.

**Increased shipping and extensive construction of new ports, often close to protected nature areas, bring risks and damages to these areas**

**and to the Baltic ecosystem as such. NGOs call for careful planning and proper application of Environmental Impact Assessments for site selections and designs of these facilities with arrangement of public participation at all stages of development and consideration of public opinion. Number and impact of oil spills as consequence of oil-transit is continuously growing and NGOs call for significant joint efforts from governments to prevent and mitigate negative impacts of oil handling and oil transportation. Oil exploitation at Baltic Proper should be banned. NGOs welcome proposals to conduct independent international assessment of sea-traffic safety on Eastern Gulf of Finland.**

Water pollution due to over-fertilisation in **agriculture** causing eutrophication is an extremely serious problem, resulting widespread algae bloom, oxygen deficits and fish deaths at summer. This has led to significant changes both in shallow coastal waters and in the deeper basins with economically important fish species. NGOs call for adoption of agricultural policies, which secure decreased nutrient loads to river systems and to the Baltic Sea. Furthermore Governments need to install wastewater treatment plants in all major cities around the Baltic, to eliminate point-sources contribution to oxygen depletion, eutrophication and sanitary problems.

Over-catch, use of damaging **fishing** techniques and pollution of spawning habitats cause damage to fish population thus threatening viability of communities depending of coastal fisheries. NGOs call for fisheries policies that secure the growth and improvement of the threatened fish stocks, mainly cod, salmon and herring.

Serious concern have been expressed by the public, that pollution from **chemical munitions from II World War dumped to the Baltic Sea** may threaten the ecosystem and health of people. NGOs call for reopening of monitoring and assessment of seriousness of this problem by HELCOM.

Existing **international agreements and national legislation** provide a good basis for environment protection and nature conservation in the Baltic Sea Area. NGOs note that most of damages brought to the environment are connected with violations of these commitments, and call for their strict observance.

Better governance of societies, strengthening, and in case of Russian Federation even reestablishment of environment protection structures together with better enforcement of national environmental regulations and international conventions is urgently needed. NGOs call that Prime ministers should secure a rapid implementation of:

- The Baltic 21 actions, from 1998
- Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme, from 1992
- the 50 % reduction goal of discharges of nutrients, toxic substances and metals to the Baltic Sea, from 1988, and establish proper control mechanisms over the implementation of these programmes.

Ensuring application of proper **Environmental Impact Assessment**, including implementation of provisions of Espoo Convention in case of developments having trans-boundary impact, is essential to secure reliability of authorities and accountability of business sector towards public.

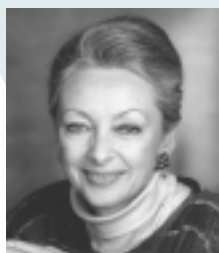
**Public awareness and participation** are prerequisites of decision-making and of implementation. Russia has not signed the Aarhus Convention on **access to environmental information** and public participation, and not all countries in Baltic Sea Region have ratified it. Consequently there are too many cases, particularly in Russia, when development projects are started

with no public awareness about them, or the public is not given the opportunity to participate in decision-making and thus not taking into account of public concerns. NGOs call for full implementation of provisions of Aarhus convention by all Baltic Sea countries.

Public awareness can be increased through co-ordinated efforts and through allocation of additional resources to improve **environmental education**. For that, existing structures and networking should be improved and new initiatives, like regional centres for environmental education, launched.

**Assaults upon environmental activists connected with their activities** become the issue of special concern. NGOs demand thorough investigation of all these cases and strict punishment of the guilty in accordance with the law.

**The momentum of the progress towards sustainable development has ceased. NGOs call for a strong inter-governmental framework for the support of public initiatives and encouragement of Local Governments, particularly for establishment of Local Agenda 21. NGOs should be considered as equal partners to the GOs and sufficient support must be allocated for the work of the Third Sector. NGOs calls for a renewed and strengthened commitment to build up sustainable societies, allowing the Baltic Sea Region to realise its potential, becoming a global model for sustainable region. In order to reach this we call for the rapid implementation of the Baltic Agenda 21 as well environmental action programmes at national and regional level agreed already.**



#### CBSS Commissioner on Democratic Development H.E. Helle Degn:

*Let me therefore call for the Council of the Baltic Sea States and the Head of States of the Baltic Sea States, which will gather for a Summit here in St. Petersburg in June this year, to consider ensuring a stable source of funding for the NGO Forums.*

*NGOs co-operation is crucial not only at a national level, but also at a regional level. Let me finish like I started – this region can be a good example to other regions in Europe, and globally.*

*I expect from this CBSS NGO Forum, that a more institutionalised network of NGOs under the umbrella of the CBSS will be discussed. I would like to invite you to think about it when discussing institutional and structural preconditions for dealing with the problems in the region and identifying relevant actors. The CBSS has a great potential and possibilities, which has not yet been utilized entirely.*

# Who Controls the Great Byzantine Waterway

Spooky news have hit the papers' headlines, strangely enough not once the front page. Some brief lines about the environment:

## *Shipping channel project threatens Danube biosphere reserve*

*The transport ministry of Ukraine plans to build a shipping channel through the Danube biosphere reserve, threatening 1.500 hectares of protected territory. The Kiev Environment & Culture Center expects that the migration paths of several millions of birds will be broken and that crucial breeding grounds of the Danube herring will be lost. The project violates Ukrainian and international law as the Danube delta is Europe's largest wetlands area of international importance and protected under the Ramsar Convention. The exit to the Black sea through the Danube is especially profitable for the Ukrainian Danube shipping company and its ports - Ishmael, Kiliya, Reny, and Ust-Dunaysk.*

For more information, write to the Kiev Environment & Culture Center:  
kekz@carrier.kiev.ua

After some brief digging the homepage of the "Transit waterway the Daugava - the Dnieper" is found. Links are provided, no secrets whatsoever:

The homesite of the transit way project:

<http://www.transitwaydd.lv/>

The maps are situated there:

Daugava - Dnepr deep-water transit way on the Europe map:

[http://www.transitwaydd.lv/map1\\_e.html](http://www.transitwaydd.lv/map1_e.html)

Longitudinal section of the Black Sea – Dnepr – Daugava – Baltic Sea deep-water transport way:

[http://www.transitwaydd.lv/map2\\_e.html](http://www.transitwaydd.lv/map2_e.html)

Surfing through the URL it first seems to be an ingenious and witty way to refer to the past and revoke some ancient traditions. Just read the introductory story:

*The way "from the Varangians to the Greeks", the name of the water way in Kievskaya Russia, that connected the Baltic and Scandinavia with Byzantium, and the Northern Russia with the Southern Russia. It originated from the Varangian (the Baltic) sea up the Neva river into Ladozhskoe lake, then up to the Volhov river into Ilmenskoe lake, further up to the Lovat river, from where the boats were portaged into the Dnepr. For the first time this term met in "Povesti vremennōh let" ("Stories of time"). The way appeared in the end of the 9th cent. - beginning of the 10th cent. It was the most important in the 10th cent. - 1st third of the 11th cent. The Byzantines knew its southern part well. According to the reports of Constantine Bagryanorodny (10 cent..), krivichi and other dependent on Kiev tribes in spring brought big (for 30-40 persons) slotted boats - "one-wood" to Smolensk, Lubech, Chernigov and other cities, then boats were floated down by the Dnepr to Kiev. They were re-equipped, loaded there and directed down to the*

*Dnepr. Having left 7 rapids (the largest is Nenasitecky was passed by towing), as well as the rocky and narrow place “Crariyskaya crossing” (where pechenegi made ambushes), the merchants stood on Hortica island, after that, equipped the boats with sea sails (in Dnepr’s estuary), floated along the western shore of the Black sea up to Tsar-grad (Constantinople). The branches of this way existed on the Western Dvina river between the Lovat and the Dnepr, then from Smolensk region up to the Kaspla river; from the Dnepr to the Usyazh-Buk river, to Lukomlu and Polock.*

*Therefore, the economic life of the population of this area was directed by the powerful water-flow of the Dnepr, which cuts the area across the North to the South. As the rivers were of great importance as the most convenient communications of that time, the Dnepr was the head of economic artery: by its upper it comes close to the Western Dvina (Daugava) and to the basin of Ilmen -lake (at Novgorod), i.e. to two most significant ways of the Baltic sea. The Dnepr long before the Christ was a large merchant way, about what Herod knew and through it the Greeks got amber from the shores of the Baltic.*

*Rebirth of the idea of such transit way in the present situation, and it is real for today as never before, it - an opportunity to reestablish a natural and the least power-consuming and the shortest route on the axis - the North - the South, the South - the North.*

There is a hint on the same page, to refer on if a question might arise about the aims and goals:

*In 882 A.D. Oleg, a Kiev duke, took a military campaign to Byzante. It was neither a reconnaissance nor a merchant measure. It was thoroughly planned measure of the political system of the tribes living along the Dnepr. One of the tasks - a complete control after the Great Water Way, i.e. the control after the trade between the south and north.*

I’ll continue with downloading some documents with numbers but no names, to see if such literary style continues, but encounter a really serious drawer with official documents, including the **Enactment on formation a working group on evaluation of the new transit way Daugava - Dnepr**. Strategic Planning Department, Investment and Transit Policy Dept., Marine Dept. and Department of Law are involved. The issue is to evaluate “LAVERA” fund proposal regarding waterway formation from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea, using the Daugava and the Dnepr rivers. Also will be evaluated the conformity to the social and economic interests of the population of Latvia. Holding of the necessary measures between ministries, self-governments, public organizations and businessmen will be coordinated. Ministers have signed the paper.

From 2001 both the Ukrainian and Byelorussian part were involved as parties of joint working group, defining economic efficiency and possible sources for financing the project. It was decided to establish the branches of “LAVERA” public fund in Byelorussia and the Ukraine. The parties took into account the information and proposals of Latvian working group financial consultant “Investment&Advice” regarding organisational, legal and financial provision of the project. The parties resolved to authorise “Lavera” fund jointly with Byelorussian and Ukrainian parties to make and present till March, 2002 schedule of pre-project operations performance and volumes and stages of operations financing.

In relation with launch of the second share issue of JSC “Daugavas speks” (“Power of the Daugava”) and issue registration in the Register of Enterprises of the Republic of Latvia, all financial and other bargains that refers to the project “The transit waterway the Daugava- the Dnieper” are registered and listed in the Latvian Environment and power industry development fund “LAVERA” as JSC “Daugavas speks” (“Power of the Daugava”) 100% to shareholders.

For 2002 several joint meetings have been scheduled. I’m trying to imagine the transit volumes and the consequences, especially concerning oil transit. Due to partly closed environment of the river transport and the extreme closeness to the adjacent human populations and natural communities this fantasy is extremely dangerous and with highest risk level. This ambitious channel of up- and downloading oil is going far beyond the limits of the simple ancient transportation route as it used to be. Any accident would destroy a great amount of the river ecosystem.

After a week I meet Linas on a meeting. Linas is sitting behind the keyboard of a computer and is busy with a report on harmful installations. I ask him if the Daugava – Dnepr connection should be included in the report. Linas does not even raise his eyes from the monitor. He is barely shaking his head.

“It’s not serious.”

That’s all he says.

I’ve never heard a statement of such importance expressed so briefly, therefore I assume it must be true.

And yet everyone should keep an opened eye.

01.07.02

*the editor*



## The results of 10 years of Danish environmental support for water projects in Eastern Europe are reviewed in a report.

Danish Environmental Protection Agency. PRESS RELEASE  
28.01.2002

Results of 400 Danish water projects in Central and Eastern Europe

In the summer of 2001, the Danish Environmental Protection Agency initiated a review of the water projects in Central and Eastern Europe that received support via the Danish Environmental Support Fund for Eastern Europe in the period from April 1991 to April 2001. The review has been carried out by the Danish consulting firm COWI.

In all, 400 projects, the total support for which amounted to DKK 1.4 billion, have been reviewed. 80% of the Danish support was allocated to investment projects, particularly within wastewater treatment and drinking water supply. The total value of the projects is DKK 5.4 billion.

The projects have resulted in a reduction of pollution corresponding to pollution from 3-4 million people. For example, nitrogen discharges to the aquatic environment have been reduced by 16-17,000 tonnes per year, and discharges of organic matter by 60,000 tonnes per year. In both cases, 60-85% of the reduction relates to discharges to the Baltic Sea.

In Eastern Europe, the cost of removing nitrogen was DKK 135 per kilo per year. Of this, Danish environmental support provided DKK 22 per kilo, while the remaining costs were covered by co-funding by the countries themselves and other international donors. For comparison, costs in the Danish Action Plan for the Aquatic Environment were approximately DKK 360 per kilo nitrogen removed in Danish municipal water treatment plants.

Also the drinking water supply for approximately 800,000 people was improved via the projects that received Danish environmental support.

The report "Danish support to improved water quality in Central and Eastern Europe 1991-2001" can be read on the Danish EPA website [www.mst.dk/udgiv/publications/2002/87-7972-002-1/html/](http://www.mst.dk/udgiv/publications/2002/87-7972-002-1/html/)

For further information, please contact: Danish EPA, Michael Rasmussen +45 3266 0238, e-mail [mr@mst.dk](mailto:mr@mst.dk), or Morten Skovgaard Olsen, phone +45 3266 0245, e-mail [mso@mst.dk](mailto:mso@mst.dk)

## European Council's position on ICZM Recommendations published

In its issue of 5 March, the Official Journal of the European Communities published the Common Position of the European Council concerning the Recommendations provided by the European Commission to the Council and European Parliament on Integrated Coastal Zone Management on 8 September 2000. The Council would like to see a strategic approach to the management of the coastal zone based on the ecosystem approach, recognition of climate change, ecologically responsible coastal protection measures, sustainable socio-economic and cultural policies, and provision of public access to the coast. Some of the principles put forward are the need for a sound scientific basis, working with natural processes, and stakeholder involvement. The Council gives a detailed list of sectors and other elements to be considered in national stocktaking and proposes that each country can develop one or several strategies for the management of its coast or coastal regions. Member States are encouraged to cooperate with each other and with neighbouring accession countries and asked to report to the Commission and the public on the experience in implementation of this recommendation five years after its adoption (the Commission had recommended a three-year reporting period).

The document can be viewed on  
<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/oj/2002/ce05820020305en.html>

## Salmon breakout in Scotland threatens precious wild salmon populations

10,000 salmon escaped from a salmon farm in Orkney, Scotland recently. The strongest and fastest tide of the year broke their cages. This breakout could dilute wild salmon genes through mating and possibly spread diseases such as sea lice and act as carriers for diseases. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa), however, said the damage was less serious than it might have been because there are relatively few salmon in Orkney's rivers.

Further info: BBC News: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/uk/scotland/newsid\\_1905000/1905757.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/uk/scotland/newsid_1905000/1905757.stm)

## Production of wild Baltic salmon has increased

The Baltic wild salmon is going strong again after having faced extinction only a few years ago. In 2001 the production of young wild salmon has increased to up to 1.3 million. Eight rivers have reached the long term 50% production objective for each salmon river set by HELCOM and the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC). A few of the larger rivers have even reached above their estimated potential production levels. However, the salmon stocks in the smallest forest rivers in the Bothnian Bay and in the small Estonian rivers are still in an alarming situation and a lot of rehabilitation of spawning areas is needed in many Baltic Salmon rivers.

Further information: HELCOM press release:

<http://www.helcom.fi/helcom/pressroom/pressreleases/140502.html>

International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission: <http://www.ibsfc.org/>

## Finland plans further Baltic Sea emission cuts

Conditions at 22 Finnish and Swedish pollution hot spots were re-assessed during the Eighth HELCOM PITF (Programme Implementation Task Force) Regional Workshop in Stockholm on 27-28 May 2002, ten years after the launch of the Hot Spot Restoration Programme. The PITF preparatory group within HELCOM concluded that four pollution hot spots might be deleted from the list later this year, including metal smelters at Outokumpu in Finland and Boliden/Rönnskär in Sweden, Stockholm's wastewater treatment plants, and Finnish fish farms in the Archipelago and the Åland Sea. However, the farms still give rise to local eutrophication problems, and are currently the main source of nutrients in that area. Helsinki's wastewater treatment plant could also be removed from the hot spots list within the next few years, since further investments are in place to improve the efficiency of nitrogen-removal. Agricultural Hot Spots remain the significant source of pollution by nutrients. As Bluetooth News (<http://www.us-reo.dk/>) reported, the Finnish government has approved the Baltic Sea Protection program - measures to improve the state of the Baltic Sea and protect the marine life. The measures have been designated to halve Finland's own nutrient emissions into the Baltic. They will be carried out over the next 10-15 years and are expected to require investment amounting to EUR 300-370 million. Most will be spent on improvements in the removal of nitrogen, from municipal wastewater, on water protection in sparsely populated rural area, and on improvements in maritime safety and the capability to deal with oil spills. The largest sum consists of environmental subsidies for agriculture. A total of EUR 6.7 million is to be budgeted for the completion of construction work at St. Petersburg wastewater treatment plant over the period 2003-2004.

For further information, contact Claus Hagebro, PITF coordinator, [claus.hagbro@helcom.fi](mailto:claus.hagbro@helcom.fi), or Tapani Kohonen, Ministry of the Environment, [tapani.kohonen@ymparisto.fi](mailto:tapani.kohonen@ymparisto.fi)

## New virus outbreak in Danish seal population

The number of seals that have been found dead off the coast of the Danish islands of Anholt and Laeso has increased to over 225. A team of Danish and Dutch experts have concluded that the death is caused by the same virus that caused massive mortality among seal populations in Western Europe in 1988. This first outbreak of the Phocid Distemper Virus started in Danish waters and in about one year 60% of the Common Seals in the Wadden Sea died. Grey Seals suffered much less from the DTV epidemic.

In 2001, the total Danish population of Common Seals was estimated 2380, the population near Anholt around 250.

For background information on the Common seal: <http://www.coastalguide.to/commonseal>



*The Ninth PITF Regional Workshop of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) in Lvov, Ukraine, on 18-19 June, concluded that the municipal and industrial wastewater treatment at Lvov (Ukraine), Brest, Grodno and Vitebsk (Belarus) need to be improved urgently. Although Belarus is not a littoral country, its rivers drain partly into the Baltic, partly into the Black Sea, thereby effecting water quality in both Regional Seas. The Belarussian wastewater treatment plants of Grodno, Brest and Vitebsk are overloaded or run down due to lack of maintenance. A water price of 0.02 USD/m<sup>3</sup> is not unusual in these countries and at least in part to blame for a daily consumption of 300-350 litres per person - twice as high as in most west European countries. The workshop noted that proper water pricing is important in providing money for investment, operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment plants. At the same time, higher water prices will reduce water consumption and thereby the necessary capacity of the treatment plants. However, the social impact of water pricing must be considered and mitigated.*

For further information, contact Ms. Ulla-Britta Fallenius, Chairman of PITF Preparatory Group, e-mail: [ulla-britta.fallenius@naturvardsverket.se](mailto:ulla-britta.fallenius@naturvardsverket.se)

### Publication:

#### **Baltic Coastal Ecosystems: Structure, Function and Coastal Zone Management**

By Gerald Schernewski and Ulrich Schiwer (eds.) (2002, 398 pp). Springer Verlag Berlin Heidelberg. ISBN 3-540-42937-9.

This book reflects the current state and problems of coastal ecosystems in the entire Baltic region, highlighting obstacles and future solutions for integrated management. However, in particular the chapters "Coastal Zone Management: Tools and Strategies" and "Practical Experiences with Coastal Management" are of relevance not only for the Baltic, but for other coastal zones of Europe as well.

#### **Lithuanian Greens Demand To Assess Impact On Environment By Lukoil's Planned Oil Drilling In Baltic Sea**

**Baltic News Service, June 6, 2002** Vilnius -- Having familiarized themselves with the report on the impact of the planned oil drilling in the Baltic Sea on the environment, prepared by the Russian LUKoil company, Lithuanian Greens Movement called it "propaganda" and a work of "science fiction".

The Greens urged Lithuanian leaders to immediately launch negotiations with Russia concerning an independent evaluation of the project.

Representatives of the Greens movement participated at a public discussion of the LUKoil project in the Russian Kaliningrad region on Monday.

Linus Vainius, deputy Lithuanian Greens Movement chairman, told a press conference on Thursday that the report assessing the project's impact on the environment is comprised of several volumes; however, the public in Kaliningrad were

presented an "advertising leaflet" not reflecting the threat posed by the planned oil drilling to the environment. In the words of Vainius, the possible oil spillages the leaflet forecasts are very small. Also, LUKoil seems to be ignoring the interests of Lithuania, as the leaflet does not contain any information on either the possible damage to Lithuania or the compensation for it, Vainius said.

He called the position of the Russian company "science fiction" since, in his words, many cases of oil spillages at LUKoil's oil rigs have been recorded.

Vainius informed the Lithuanian Greens had sent letters to the Lithuanian president, parliament and government, urging to immediately launch talks with LUKoil's leadership on the possible impact of oil drilling in the Baltic Sea on the environment and request an independent evaluation of the project by taking into account the interests of

Lithuania.

“The Lithuanian government should interfere and express a firm position concerning the project,” Vainius said, also wondering at the inactivity of state institutions in the area. The representative of the Lithuanian Greens Movement rejoiced, however, that Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus was the first to react to the problem.

In an interview for the Russian new agency ITAR-TASS this week, Adamkus regretted that Lithuania had not yet been given any official information about the project by the Russian oil giant LUKoil to start oil drilling at the D6 deposit at the Baltic Sea. Adamkus also invited Russia to solve the problem of oil drilling at the Baltic Sea jointly with Lithuania.

LUKoil announced its plans to start the exploitation of the D-6 oil deposit off the region of Kaliningrad and Lithuanian maritime border in the Baltic Sea as of 2003.

The D-6 (Kratsovskoye) oil field is on the bed of the Baltic Sea, in a depth of 2.3 kilometers, 22 kilometers off the Curonian Spit, a long, narrow stretch of dunes spanning from Lithuania to Kaliningrad region and registered on the UNESCO World Heritage/Biosphere Reserve list of sites.

The D-6 oil deposit, the reserves of which amount to 21.5 million tons of oil, was discovered in 1983. LUKoil is intending to drill 21 oil wells in the deposit in two years. The company expects to increase annual oil extraction up to 600,000 tons of oil by 2005. This is the planned annual oil extraction volume for the first 10-12 years. LUKoil is planning to use the oil field for some three decades.

Russia’s LUKoil claims it will be exploiting D-6 while keeping to special ecological safety requirements. Russia has joined the Helsinki Convention on Environment Protection in the Baltic Sea, according to which it is to inform in advance the neighboring countries of any works it starts in the sea and present an analysis of the ecological situation.

Lithuania has not yet received any official information from Russia about concrete preparation works for oil drilling in the Baltic Sea.

Director of the Information and Culture Department at the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry, Petras Zapolskas told BNS Russia informed about the ecological examination of the project that is

currently underway and that Lithuania will be sent information on the examination results.

In the words of Zapolskas, the problem of oil drilling at D6 has been included into the list of issues supervised by UNESCO at Lithuania’s initiative.

The Lithuanian Greens Movement announced in late May it is launching an international campaign against the intentions of Russia’s LUKoil to start oil drilling in the Baltic Sea off the Curonian Spit.

The Lithuanian Greens addressed international environmental protection organizations for support, urging them to speak against the plans by LUKoil to start oil drilling at the open sea on the Baltic Sea shelf off Nida, western Lithuania.

According to the Greens, if the Russian oil giant LUKoil proceeds with its plans to drill oil at the open sea, one of the cleanest Baltic coastal areas will be facing the threat of constant pollution.

### Lithuanian President Concerned Over Utilization Of Oil Deposit In Baltic Sea

#### **Baltic News Service, June 3, 2002**

Vilnius -- Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus has urged Russia to jointly address the issue of utilization of an oil pool in the Baltic Sea near the Curonian spit.

In an interview to Russia’s ITAR-TASS news agency, Adamkus expressed regret that Lithuania still does not have official information about the project of Russian giant LUKoil to extract oil from the D6 deposit close to Lithuania’s Nida resort.

“We don’t know if new and reliable technologies will be chosen for extraction of the oil deposit,” said the Lithuanian president, calling the attention to the fact that the Baltic state has not yet received an evaluation of the effects of the utilization. “We have questions regarding safety and environment-friendliness of the utilization. Will efficient protection be offered to the Curonian Spit, an item on the UNESCO’s list of world heritage?,” the president posed a rhetorical question.

LUKoil announced its plans to start extracting

the D6 deposit, located close to the Lithuanian-Kaliningrad border in the Baltic Sea, in 2003.

D6 is based on the Baltic Sea shelf at a depth of some 2.3 kilometers, while the sea is 27-30 meters deep in the area.

The deposit, which was discovered in 1983, contains about 21.5 million tons of oil and about nine million tons can be extracted from there.

LUKoil plans to construct 21 extraction borings in the area over a period of two years and boost its annual oil extraction statistics to 600,000 tons before 2005. Such amounts of oil should be extracted in the first 10-12 years out of the projected extraction period of about three decades.

The company says that D6 would be utilized in keeping with all requirements of ecologic safety.

Russia has joined the Helsinki convention on environment protection in the Baltic Sea, which stipulates that any plans to start work in the sea

should be reported to all neighboring countries with an exhaustive analysis of the ecological situation.

The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry says the country has not received any official information from Russia about the actual start of extraction works in the Baltic Sea.

In the end of May, the Lithuanian Greens Movement said it was starting an international campaign against LUKoil's plans to start extracting oil in the Baltic Sea.

The Greens called upon a number of international environment organizations, urging to speak against LUKoil's intentions to extract oil in the D6 near Nida. They say that the extraction of oil near the Lithuanian border would threaten one of the cleanest coasts of the Baltic Sea.



*Protest action against the D-6 activities*