

THE ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY GREEN SALVATION

The Ecological Society Green Salvation was founded in 1990 and is registered as a public organization of the city of Almaty. Green Salvation's goal is to protect the human right to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature, and to foster improvements to the socio-ecological situation in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Main Areas of Green Salvation's Activities Include

1. Defending the Human Right to a Favourable Environment

The organization defends rights utilizing pre-trial and judicial methods, seeking strict observance of national legislation and international agreements. On average, Green Salvation files ten lawsuits per year and conducts about 200 legal consultations.

In 2004 and 2007, it became necessary for Green Salvation to appeal to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee. In the case of two of the appeals, the Committee acknowledged noncompliance with individual Convention statutes by the Republic of Kazakhstan and violations of citizens' rights to participate in decision-making processes and to access to justice with regard to environmental concerns.

In 2013, together with representatives of the public, a new statement was filed due to violation of the public right on participation in the decision-making process. In June 2017, the Compliance Committee acknowledged violation of a number of the Convention's provisions.

2. Participation in the Development of Environmental Protection Legislation

Green Salvation participated in the official discussions concerning the law "About Protection of the Natural Environment in the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic" (1991) and the laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan "About Environmental Protection" (1997), "About Environmental Assessment" (1997), "About Specially Protected Natural Territories" (1997), "About Land" (2001), "About Tourist Activities in the Republic of Kazakhstan" (2001), the Forestry Code (2003), the Land Code (2003), Environmental Code (2007) and others. In 2002, at the request of the Committee for Environmental and Nature Management Issues of the Lower House of Parliament, Green Salvation conducted a public environmental assessment of the draft Forestry Code (2003).

In 2016, the organization took part in a discussion of amendments to the Law "About Specially Protected Natural Territories." Remarks and suggestions of the organization were submitted to the Parliament.

3. Environmental Awareness and Education

Since 1995, the organization has been issuing the *Green Salvation Herald*, with an English version since 2000. The Herald's thematic issues are related to environmental protection legislation and the protection of human rights, environmental education, the development of a network of national parks, and other socio-ecological problems. Special courses are developed and textbooks are published for students. More than 30 publications have been issued in Russian, Kazakh, and English to this date.

Green Salvation collaborates with the local and foreign mass media, participates in television and radio programs, and organizes exhibitions.

In 2016, more than 150 articles highlighting activities of Green Salvation or using materials of the organization were published in mass media.

In 2002, Green Salvation began a video program. The following films were created: "Legacy of the Nuclear Age" (2002), "The Wealth of Nature—In Whose Hands?" (2003), "Passengers in Forgotten Way Stations" (2003), "Canyon" and "The Earth Does Not Belong to a Man..." (2005), "Behind a Window" (2007), "Let Us Protect Kok-Jailau" (2013), "How We Defended National Parks" (2014), "Let Us Protect First Spring Flowers of Kazakhstan!" (2016), and others. Several of these films have been awarded diplomas at international festivals. Several films were given to the State Republican Archive of Cinema and Photo Documents and Sound Records.

In 2007, Green Salvation began a video discussion club "Green Lens." In 2002, Green Salvation launched a website in Russian and English.

4. Environmental Actions

Green Salvation actively participated in the anti-nuclear campaign conducted by public organizations opposing a plan to import and bury radioactive waste from other countries in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Green Salvation also participated in the following international campaigns: International Right to Know, Publish What You Pay, and Caspian Revenue Watch.

Green Salvation actively participates in actions to protect the integrity of the environmental system of protected natural territories. Green Salvation is collaborating with administrations of the Ile-Alatau State National Nature Park and the "Altyn-Emel" Nature Park. Video monitoring is regularly conducted on the park's territory.

In March 2009, Green Salvation launched a successful campaign against construction of high voltage electrical power lines on the territories of the national parks "Altyn-Emel" and Charyn.

Starting from 2011, Green Salvation supports the public campaign "Protect Kok-Jailau!" initiated against construction of a mountain ski resort on the territory of the Ile-Alatau State National Natural Park.

Starting from 2014, the organization conducts a campaign on protection of the World Heritage site—Talgat site of ancient settlement in Almaty oblast.

Green Salvation actively monitors projects financed by development banks and the activities of transnational corporations that have an impact on the environment.

5. Collection of Data on the Environmental Situation in the Republic of Kazakhstan

The electronic database and book and video library of the organization contain various documents, reference and educational materials. They are used by activists of non-governmental organizations, specialists, teachers, students, and schoolchildren.

The Ecological Society Green Salvation calls for collaboration to protect the Earth!