

# 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 favorable environment

The organization defends rights utilizing pre-judicial and judicial methods, seeking strict observance of national legislation and international agreements. On average, Green Salvation files eight lawsuits per year and conducts more the 150 legal consultations.

In 2004, 2007, 2013 (with representatives of the public) it became necessary for Green Salvation to appeal to the Aarhus Convention's 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.

### 2. Participation in the development of environmental protection legislation

Green Salvation participated in the official discussions concerning the Law "On Protection of the Natural Environment in the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic" (1991) and the laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Environmental Protection" (1997), "On Environmental Assessment" (1997), "On Specially Protected Natural Territories" (1997), "On Land" (2001), "On 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).

### 3. Environmental awareness and education

Since 1995, the organization has published the "Green Salvation" Herald, with a supplement in English, since 2000. The Bulletin'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. To date, more than 30 publications have been produced in Russian, Kazakh and English.

Green Salvation collaborates with the domestic and foreign press, participates in television and radio programs, and organizes exhibitions.

In 2013 more than 250 materials and articles highlighting activities of Green Salvation or written using materials from Green Salvation were published in mass media.

In 2002, Green Salvation began a video program. The films include: “Legacy of the Nuclear Age” (2002), “The Riches of Nature – In Whose Hands?” (2003), “Passengers in Forgotten Way Stations” (2003), “Canyon” and “The Earth Does Not Belong to Man...” (2005), “Behind a window” (2007), “Let us protect Kok-Jailau” (2013), “How we defended national parks” (2014). Several of these films have been awarded prizes at international festivals.

In 2007, Green Salvation began the 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 the successful campaign against construction of high voltage electrical power lines on the territories of the national parks “Altyn-Emel” and Charyn.

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

From 2011 the Green Salvation supports of 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.

**The Ecological Society Green Salvation is ready to collaborate on efforts within aforementioned areas.**