



GREEN BELT OF FENNOSCANDIA – 2013

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
PETROZAVODSK
OCTOBER 7-12, 2013**

ORGANIZERS:

**KARELIAN RESEARCH CENTRE, RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT, RUSSIAN FEDERATION
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, REPUBLIC OF FINLAND
DIRECTORATE FOR NATURE MANAGEMENT, KINGDOM OF NORWAY
MINISTRY OF NATURE USE AND ENVIRONMENT, REPUBLIC OF KARELIA
FINNISH ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN FINLAND
METSÄHALLITUS**

Dear colleagues,

The concept of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia (GBF) emerged early in the 1990s, born through international cooperation and concerted efforts at implementation of the principles of sustainable development in border areas, implying a balanced combination of the interests of the society, economic development and nature conservation. GBF is a strip of territory stretching along the Russian-Finnish (in the north also Norwegian) border from the Barents to the Baltic Sea (comprising also the water, islands and coast of the Gulf of Finland within the Leningrad Region). The core areas of GBF are protected areas (PAs) of both federal and regional subordination, which are ecologically linked with the pan-European environmental network (Natura 2000) and with PAs of Norway. The 15-year stage of GBF foundation and development was rounded off by the large international seminar organized by Karelian Research Centre, Russian Academy of Sciences (KarRC of RAS) in Petrozavodsk (Russia) in June 2008. The seminar dealt with the results of the 15 years of studies into the natural, historical and cultural heritage of the Russian-Finnish borderlands. Alongside with scientists governmental bodies and NGOs from Russia and Finland were represented at the seminar. The resolution adopted by the seminar stressed the need for combining the efforts of authorities, science and NGOs from the stakeholder countries in promoting **GBF in order to generate a holistic social-environmental-economic domain along the Russian-Finnish and Russian-Norwegian border where unique northern nature will be conserved simultaneously with developing the border regions with regard to their historical, ethno-cultural and economic**

characteristics. One of the first steps towards fulfillment of the seminar resolution was the Russian-Finnish project “Development of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia” (2009–2010) implemented within the Development Programme for Conservation of Biodiversity in Northwest Russia.

Owing to the systematic and continuous activity the GBF idea has gradually expanded into the sphere of interregional and intergovernmental relations. The most seminal event in this regard was signing on February 17th, 2010 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Finland, the Ministry of the Environment of the Kingdom of Norway and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation on cooperation on the development of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia. The Memorandum rendered a new impetus to GBF development, leading to the emergence of numerous related projects within the ENPI CBC programme.

In view of the high interest that scientific, political, non-governmental organizations show for GBD development, and to celebrate 20 years of work on GBF establishment it has been decided to organize a conference. The Conference shall take place in **October 2013** at Karelian Research Centre premises **in Petrozavodsk**. It has been listed in the Government-approved National Environment Year Key Events Plan (RF Presidential Decree # 1157 of August 10th, 2012).

The Conference aims to discuss the matters and work out solutions based on existing international documents and treaties (Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation on the development of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia, Convention on Biological Diversity, etc.) to generate a common system of protected areas in the European North, and to join the efforts for comprehensively dealing with environmental, ethno-cultural and socio-economic problems of the border regions within GBF.

To this end, the following major themes will be discussed at the Conference:

- GBF – the backbone of the system of protected areas in the European North;
- GBF nature;
- GBF historical and cultural heritage;
- Socio-economic aspects of the development of the districts and municipalities in GBF territory;
- Development of the system of regionally-subordinated PAs.

The topics for the thematic sessions and roundtables will be finalized later on, after the applications for participation in the conference had been analysed. Provisionally, the thematic sessions will cover the following aspects:

- GBF natural heritage and protected areas;
- GBF historical and cultural heritage;
- Socio-economic problems of the border regions.

Following the suggestion from the Karelian Ministry of Nature Use and Environment, the meeting on the management of regionally-subordinated PAs in Northwest Russia will be integrated into the Conference framework.

Conference Organizing Committee

Titov A.F., Karelian Research Centre (KarRC of RAS) – **Chairman.**

Co-chairs:

Chikalyuk V.F., Ministry of Nature Use and Environment, Republic of Karelia;
Inamov N.R., Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Russian Federation;
Niikkonen K., Ministry of the Environment, Finland;
Hubert-Hansen J.P., Directorate for Nature Management, Norway;
Eglit A.A., Committee for Natural Resources, Leningrad Region.

Organizing Committee members:

1. Aspholm P.E., Bioforsk, Norway
2. Gromtsev A.N., Forest Research Institute, KarRC of RAS

3. Heikkilä R., Finnish Environment Institute
4. Hokkanen T., North Karelia Biosphere Reserve
5. Kovalyova T.V., St. Petersburg PA Directorate
6. Kryshen' A.M., Forest Research Institute, KarRC of RAS
7. Kuznetsov O.L., Institute of Biology, KarRC of RAS
8. Lindholm T., Finnish Environment Institute
9. Masloboev V.A., Kola Science Centre, Russia
10. Nemova N.N., Institute of Biology, KarRC of RAS
11. Saano A., Metsähallitus, Finland
12. Sagitov R.A., Baltic Fund for Nature, Russia
13. Saveliev Yu.V., KarRC of RAS
14. Stulov F.N., Committee for Natural Resources, Leningrad Region
15. Tarbaeva V.M., Pan-Russian Nature Conservation Society
16. Tikkanen O.P., University of Eastern Finland
17. Valdaev V.V., Ministry of Nature Use and Environment, Republic of Karelia

Several separate **editions** will be prepared within the conference framework and based on its results:

- A) Collected abstracts;
- B) Special volume of the Scientific Journal "Transactions of the Karelian Research Centre of RAS" with selected papers;
- C) Monograph or a volume of collected papers (given funding is available);
- D) Issue of the "GreenLeaf" newsletter (given funding is available).

Abstract submission guidelines

Abstracts up to 400 words are to be e-mailed at greenbelt@krc.karelia.ru as attached .rtf or .doc files before **15.08.2013**. The file name should be the last name of the presenting author in Latin symbols (e.g. smith.rtf). Abstracts should be submitted in English. Russian-speaking authors are to submit both Russian- and English-language versions. Tables, figures and references should be avoided in the abstract. The scientific names of fungal, plant and animal species are *italicized*.

Sample abstract format

TITLE OF PAPER

F.M. Lastname¹, F.M. Lastname²

¹Forest Research Institute, Karelian Research Centre, Petrozavodsk; *e-mail*

²Kostomukshsky Strict Nature Reserve; *e-mail*

Do not use hyphenation or special formatting.

Conference fee

A conference fee of RUR 1000 (EUR 25) will be taken at registration to cover part of the costs of organizing some events within the conference. University-degree and doctoral students will be exempted from the conference fee.

Each participant willing to attend the conference dinner/ice-breaker will be requested to pay for the event at registration.

Conference Administrative Team

Alexandr M. KRYSHEN', KarRC of RAS (Team Leader)

Nadezhda M. ALEKSEEVA, Committee for Natural Resources, Leningrad Region

Anna V. BALAKIREVA, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Russian Federation

Tatyana B. ILMAST, Ministry of Nature Use and Environment, Republic of Karelia

Anna KUHMONEN, Finnish Environment Institute

Nadezhda V. MIKHAILOVA, KarRC of RAS

Yuri V. SAVELIEV, KarRC of RAS

Igor N. SHEVCHUK, KarRC of RAS

Organizing Committee address:

Karelian Research Centre, Russian Academy of Sciences
11 Pushkinskaya St., 185910, Petrozavodsk.
E-mail: greenbelt@krc.karelia.ru
Tel. 8-8142-780109

For more **details about the conference** see <http://green-belt.krc.karelia.ru>

Key deadlines:

- Second circular – **March 15th, 2013**
- Registration begins – **March 15th, 2013**
- Third circular (providing accommodation, travel and other info) – **July 2013**
- Registration ends – **August 15th, 2013**
- Call for abstracts closed – **August 15th, 2013**
- Programme finalized – **September 10th, 2013**
- Fourth circular (incl. conference programme) – **September 15th, 2013**
- Layout of collected abstracts – **September 20th, 2013.**

REGISTRATION FORM

Last name _____

First name _____

Middle name _____

Affiliation _____

Scientific degree, title _____

Position _____

DOB _____

Postal address:

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Paper title: _____

Main speaker _____

Format of contribution: oral, poster