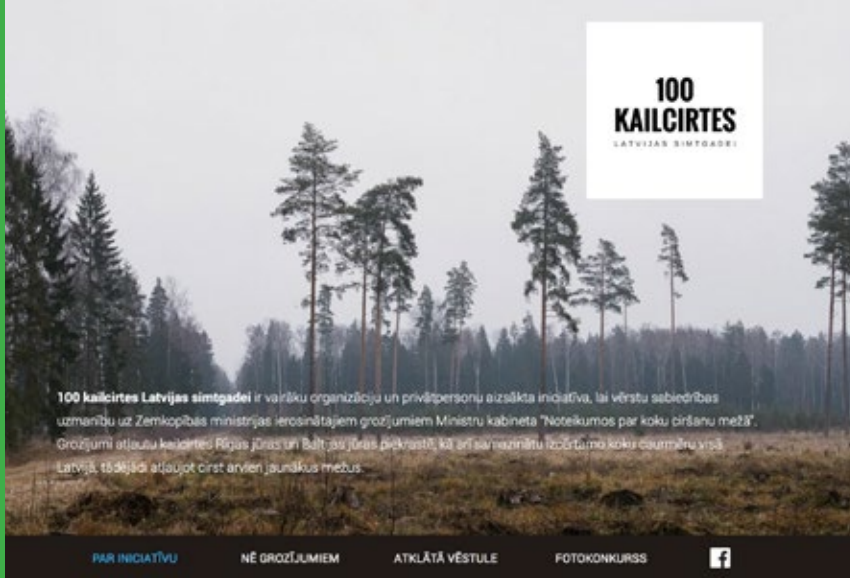




Zane Ruģēna,
Friends of the Earth



100 kailcirtes Latvijas simtgadei ir vairāku organizāciju un privātpersonu aizsākta iniciatīva, lai vērstu sabiedrības uzmanību uz Zemkopības ministrijas ierosinātajiem grozījumiem Ministru kabineta "Noteikumos par koku piņšanu mežā". Grozījumi attiecas uz kailcirtes Rēgas jūras un Baltās jūras piekrastē, kā arī savvaļainā apdzīvotā koka caurumu un šīs Latvijas, tādējādi atļaujot cirst arvien jaunākus mežus.

PAR INICIATĪVU NE GROZĪJUMIEM ATKLĀTĀ VĒSTULE FOTOKONKURSS

ZANE RUĢĒNA is an environment activist with experience of more than 10 years of active participation also in the association Zemes draugi [Friends of the Earth]. Her passion of being active and working for the benefit of the society is based on her vision of life, in particular, that upon seeing injustice the environment should be created for searching a solution.

The top goal of the initiative “100 clear fellingings for the centenary of Latvia” was to encourage adoption of democratic decisions on the forest resources owned by the state by involving the society and by defending the values of the nature within a broader context.

There were proposals for amendments of legal enactments allowing clear fellingings in particular areas on Riga Gulf and the Baltic Sea coast and reducing the mean diameter in the whole territory of Latvia. These amendments proposed by the Ministry of Agriculture did not contain sufficient environmental impact assessment, objections by environmental organisations were listened to in a minimum scope and even the economic assessment was not sufficient by considering the part of the forest outside the felling area and the benefits for it.

The campaign was implemented at the same time as preparations for the celebration of the centenary of Lat-

<http://www.100kailcirteslatvijai.lv/akcija>

via, when the values and the beauty of our nature are in the centre of focus, when hundred years old trees are searched. And in parallel to this, there was the proposal for amendments which could considerably impact both the landscape and the ecology of Latvia. A logical question emerged: “Are these new clear fellingings a present to the centenary of Latvia?”.

The campaign expanded as a co-operation platform among various organisations and activists by forming task forces, plans. The campaign was developed from nothing and it was aimed at involving the society in decision making. Seven NGO’s joined forces and increasingly more volunteers whose daily life is not related to environment protection applied. Active people who truly care found each other and worked together!

The Friends of the Earth, being an environment organisation for which the issue of democracy and environment law is also important, emphasized in this campaign that the forest does not only mean cubic meters and profit, these are our rights to have clean and safe environment and natural resources. We are the owners of the state forests, but how much do we know about their actual status and to what extent can be participate in taking decisions on their maintenance? One person associates this with the

landscape, another as picking mushrooms or walking in the forest. The forest presents the environment which is important for the society being a unique value of nature at the same time, possessing its own ecosystem which should be preserved and sustainably cared for and maintained.

“It is not our goal to go out to the streets and to initiate any disturbances, or to destroy the national economy, instead it is to provide and to promote balance between economic and public interest, by encouraging involvement of the society in the matters which directly affect its entitlement to the environment and obligation towards protection of the nature. The forests of this country are owned by you, me and all of us! These are our rights and our responsibility because forests present the nature that needs to be protected.”

- ZANE RUĢĒNA

GOAL 15: Life on land

15 LIFE ON LAND

