

Attachment

English version of the report

(translated by V. Yatskovich)

To my mind, today the most important problems of environment of north of Baikal is flooding of the Yarki archipelago and its disappearance. The next important problem is the pollution of town Severobaikalsk, which influences on its attractiveness.

Yarki Island is a unique place of our region. It is a natural border of Upper Angara, Kichera River (flood plain) and the Baikal.

In the 70s the length of Yarki Island consisted 14km. and the width 250-300 meters, my parents remember it. But now the Yarki changed greatly. Today the length is only 10km. and the width is 5-15 meters. It means the island is disappearing day by day. If the island dies away, dirty organic water will rush to the north of Baikal.

At the end of 40s the area of the flood plain was about 23sq.km. Today it has been increased more than 5 times. We can imagine consequences of future tragedy.

Another significant fact will lead to reduction of fish population, because warm water of flood plain (+25C in summer) will be mixed with cold water of northern Baikal. Ecological balance will be broken.

How can we solve this serious problem?

My friends and same agers from Nizhneangarsk secondary school offer to plant willow branches and cedar pine on the island for the strengthening of sand soil of the island. On some areas of the land, that job had been done and positive result is observed. The soil became stronger.

Another project of shore protection is the construction of a dike. It means covering of the Yarki, the Millionyi and the Dagary with ground. But the result of

this project leaves much to be desired. As a fact, the unique countryside and Baikal landscape is spoiled.

If the project of dike construction is continued, the Yarki will be turned into stone embankment. As a result, traditional places of rest and charming attractiveness of the island will be disturbed. The government of Buryatia and local administration should find other ways of solving this problem. Noble ecological actions are held every year by volunteers from different countries and local school children. They collect rubbish along the coast of the lake, plant trees and bushes. But they can't solve the main problem.

One of the important reasons of this tragedy is the blocking of water at Irkutsk Hydro Electric Station. If water escape is done regularly, the level of the Lake will be stable, and the area of Yarki Island won't be lessened.

We sincerely hope that this problem of great importance will be heard by local administration, the government of Buryatia and not only.

Besides the problem of Yarki flooding another vital important problem troubles me as well. This is the pollution of Severobaikalsk territory with domestic wastes and technical trash.

According to the statistics, for today we know that 25% of the whole rubbish in our town is paper and cardboard, 20% is food wastes, 10% is plastic, 8% is old clothes, 6% is metal and so on. All these kinds of wastes are not sorted and taken away to the trash polygon. Which area is 5 hectares and situated only 3 km. from the town. The polygon is located higher than Severobaikalsk and this is the great disadvantage of this polygon. Any wind from that side brings to the town stinking smoke and covers its streets, parks and beaches. That smoke contains very harmful substances for our citizens. People with asthmatic diseases suffer from this poison smoke most of all. We essentially need a modern recycling plant. But construction of such recycling factory will require a lot of money. That's why we must carry away the location of trash polygon much farther to low land territory.

It is easy to find big and small heaps of trash in the streets of old town, because trash trucks do not collect garbage in time. This problem must be solved with the help of administration of our town.

Some words about the pollution of the shore of the Lake.

Every year, many volunteers from different countries and towns arrive to Severobaikalsk to collect rubbish along the coast of the Baikal. Pupils from all schools of our town participate in such noble actions regularly.

In conclusion I would like to put a vitally important question. What shall we inherit to our future generations? May be the hills of harmful trash? May be polluted coast of the sacred Lake, covered with broken glass, plastic bottles, aluminum cans and paper?

I sincerely hope and believe that the problems which I reflected in my report will make you feel them much more urgent. And we are sure to find some ways to save our holy land and sacred Baikal together.