

About Local Nature Conservation Trustees, Public Servants and Trust in Nature Conservation

Do not spit into the old pit, ready for a new pole!

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All Began From Trust...

- Gustav Vilbaste, when he became the first and only NC inspector of Estonia in 1935, sent invitation to 1200 persons and asked them to become nature conservation trustees
- 588 of them accepted invitation



Clerks and trustees

- So had Estonia in 1936 one nature conservation inspector and 588 unpaid trustees.
- 70% of them were school teachers, 17% foresters and 13% local activists.
- Now there are appr. 2000 nature conservation clerks and no trustees.



Activities of Trustees

- The nature conservation trustees promoted nature conservation in the way that nature conservation should become everyone's natural obligation.
- The trustees were recommended to create nature conservation study circles, to organize study trips to nature conservation objects etc.



What happened to them?

- Many of the trustees were deported to Siberia or killed
- the trustees net got restart in 1957
- The net was reorganised in 1967
- Trustees were renamed to voluntary NC inspectors, who had right to write protocols
- The voluntary net of inspectors was terminated in 1990ies.



NC Officials in 2010

- They are found in:
 - ◆ Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation department
 - ◆ Environmental Inspectorate
 - ◆ Environmental Board
 - ◆ Local Municipalities
 - ◆ The State Forest Management Centre



How many they are and what are they doing?

- It is impossible to get exact data how many NC officials we have and how much money we spend to keep them active.
- Most of the time of nature conservation officials is filled with paper work and work with databases according to survey by Swedish Environmental Institute.



Short term officials

- The officials have been working in the system in average less than 5 years. [SEI survey]
- Permanent reforming of the nature conservation system has resulted in permanent changes in the posts.
- It is needed to invite experienced nature experts to help and to teach young officials.



NC NGOs

- Most of the nature conservation trustees are nowadays replaced with nature conservation NGO-s, there are more than 1000 of them.
- But often are the same persons members in 10 NGO-s, the network of organisations doesn't cover all Estonia.



Does it Work?

- The existing nature conservation system makes Estonian natural values vulnerable.
- Often is the Nature conserved only in papers, our legislation makes gives often rights to developers to damage nature values.



What should be done?

- The nature conservation control should be delegated down to community level.
 - ◆ Environmental Inspectorate has to be reshaped from punishing institution into anticipatory and supporting tool for nature conservation.



What should be done?

- ◆ Often can local people estimate the situation more appropriately than the official, who drove to the place from city.
- ◆ We should think about restoration of the system of nature conservation trustees, to create motivation system for them and to decentralise it.



What should be done?

- Nature Conservation has to become real.
 - ◆ It embraces all our surroundings, not only untouched nature and protected areas.
 - ◆ We have to stop talking about natural selection and about our incapacity to preserve nature from the results of human activities.



What should be done?

- Our state has to reassess our international obligations, our financial funds and people for nature conservation.

We should start with development plan for TRUST.

