



INTRODUCTION from project leaders:

Lake Baikal is located in *East Siberia*, it is **the deepest** (1637 meters) **and the oldest lake in the world** - Its age is *more than 25 million years*, length of Baikal is 636 km, width is 80 km. Square of Baikal's water surface is equal to size of Belgium! **Lake Baikal contains 20% of fresh surface water on the Earth.** Biodiversity of its flora and fauna is unique, most of the plants and animals found there are *endemic* (unique species that can be found only there). Baikal natural territory (BPT) is 386.1 thousand. Sq km and is located on the territories of the three subjects of the Russian Federation: *the Republic of Buryatia, the Irkutsk Region and the Zabaikal Region.*



Although Baikal is located in Russia, water catchment area of the lake (Lake Baikal Basin) is more than 500,000 km² and is located on the territory of the two countries - **Russia and Mongolia** - including more than 300 rivers and streams. Baikal is world heritage protected by **UNESCO**.



Baikal Lake *attracts thousands of people annually* who come to see this unique place from all over the world. Tourist inflow has a **positive impact on the economic development** of the region, but at the same time the **ecological situation is increasingly worsening**.

The reasons for the problem can be summarised as follows:

- Absence of an efficient and controllable infrastructure for garbage collection and disposal, imperfect legislation in the field of waste treatment and nature protection, impossibility to reveal those guilty in arranging the unsanctioned dumps and to impose respective sanctions on them;
 - Negligent treatment of nature, low level of eco-awareness;
 - No control over the behaviour of the tourists and the representatives of the hospitality industry;
 - Insufficient amount of informational, educational and explanatory materials for the tourists in the designated area;
 - People's negligence of law and overriding of the rules for garbage disposal;
 - Harmful activities of private business;
 - Insufficient budget;
 - Absence of public control;
 - Lack of effective administrative supervision, lack of administration staff.
- As a result we can see this:**



«Save Baikal» was started five years ago by two people who cared. Our idea was (and still is): *If you don't like what is happening around you - don't sit and cry, stand up and do something good to improve the situation with your own hands! And do it smart!*

For past years **we had long and hard way from volunteers** that are far from ecology **to high qualification professionals** in sphere of *nature protection*. Our work is *100% civil lead*, which sertantly brings as to *many opportunities and threats in circumstances of Russian reality*.



Today **Save Baikal** is one of the biggest volunteer civil project in Baikal region.

Since 2011 year more than **40 different events** have been held, **around 3 000 volunteers taken part** and more than **800 tons of garbage** collected and removed from Baikal shores! Today our *active work territory* is **more than 150 square km**.





«Save Baikal» is aimed at *research, development and implementation of effective methods of maintaining the beauty of the shoreline* of Lake Baikal, including in the **field of waste management in specially protected areas**. In the project "SB" included a *wide range of organizational, educational and research activities*.

Each work season includes *block of one-day events and 30-days volunteer camp*. Volunteer camp is our special pride! It is called **Baikal Shore Service (BBS)**. During period of BSS we *work at Baikal shores as public inspectors, doing clean up, territory ennoblement, education and enlightening, patrol work*. We not only **inhibit environmental damage** but also **hold efficient preventing activity**.



We work at **most hard, popular territories as civil support to administration**. We also work at *barely reachable areas*.



Here at «Save Baikal» we try to clean Baikal lake and reform people's minds in order to save beautiful nature.

Unfourtantly, our project is **not supported financially by government**. We *hope it will change some day*, but for now **we have to search for commercial sponsors every season** as well as taking part at different *local and international contests and grant programmms*. **Each season is a challenge**. We are doing great work but *we do not show our maximum and do not actualize all the ideas we have*.

We hope to gain additional money so we can change that! We would like to **establish on-line stream** right from *our camps during «Baikal shore service» on Baikal in July of 2015*. We also would love to *improve our web site, translate it to different languages, create nice and interesting interactive web map* that would help to **establish efficient monitoring of environmental conditions**, *publish our methodological material* so **other people could use our experience, create agitation and enlightenment materials** for *hotels, administration and other interested groups*, **start forest protection and fish reproduction programmms! And lots more!**

We are also in need of money due to *increasing ammount of volunteers* and lack of essential supplies. We want to use **funded money** to *give more people chance to join us and to show the world what happends inside our camps* and hope to get **public attention on ecological issues**.



We invite everyone to attend **our camp and events**. Our movement includes lots of *interesting people from various countries and cultures* and we always are *happy to welcome* new members of **our growing society**. It is a truly unique experience that not only lets you *meet new people* but also allows you to **add your drop** to our goal. And when it comes to environment, **every drop matters**.



On **Baikal** we are *admired by locals* and are supported by a variety of *Russian and international companies*. Sometimes they **help us with automobiles** or other **essential resources**. Here is a *video made by one of our major partners "UNDP" and "GEF"*. **Check it to understand why we love Baikal so much:**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLA603D1B5EB16E5B6&v=g_axjCkbhDY



Project Title: Save Baikal

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Geographical Scope of the Project: The Republic of Buryatia, Irkutsk Region, Moscow Region, Mongolia

Subject Area of the Project: protection of rivers and water bodies; environmental preservation; ecology; civil action; theoretical and practical research in the field of nature management; volunteer activities; forest protection and reproduction; promotion of ecological knowledge and skills (ecotourism); selective collection and recycling of solid domestic waste

Organizers:

The project is organized by the **Autonomous Non-Profit Organization “Development Center of Ecological and Social Projects”**

Organization Type – autonomous non-profit organization;

Year of formation – 2012;

Registration date and status: August 12, 2012, as autonomous non-profit organization;

Type of Activities – theoretical and practical scientific research, education, field activities

Ecological Projects:

Our ecological projects are currently held within the framework of the umbrella project *Save Baikal*, aimed at researching, developing, and introducing efficient methods for cleanliness preservation on the Baikal Lake coastline, incl. waste treatment in the specially protected nature areas frequented by tourists. The *Save Baikal* project includes a wide range of organizational, educational, and research activities.

Social Activities:

Our social activities are aimed at developing and promoting proactive and socially significant projects, as well as holding events and complex programs in the field of ecological education and awareness-raising, health, sports, and culture.



General Project Objectives:

1. Preserving the natural beauty and cleanliness of the Baikal Lake;
2. Reducing the amount of unsanctioned waste dumps around the Baikal Lake by means of creating and introducing a long-term Model for Cleanliness Preservation (Model for Efficient Garbage Collection & Recycling) in the specially protected nature areas

Project Tasks:

1. Organization of cleaning, agitation, and educational activities;
2. Development of complex programs for protecting and monitoring the environmental condition in the Baikal Nature Area;
3. Development of an efficient model for garbage collection (incl. the selective method) on the Baikal Coast and its phase-by-phase introduction in the popular tourist areas (Baikal District, Barguzinskiy District, The Republic of Buryatia; Listvyanka Settlement, Olkhon Island, Irkutsk Region); organization of planned one-day events and the Baikal Coast Service (BCS) Camp season sessions within the framework of developing and testing this model.
4. Drawing the local community into nature preservation, education, and other socially beneficial activities;
5. Development of methodical and educational manuals and materials;
6. Promotion of ecological knowledge and skills;
7. Exchange of experience, cooperation on interregional and international levels

Project Partners:

UN Development Program (Integrated Nature Resource Management in the Baikal Basin Transboundary Ecosystem); The Clean Coast of Baikal Project; Foundation for Baikal Lake Preservation (Rus. FSSOB); "Zapovednoye Pribaykalye" state federal budget-funded entity (the specially protected Baikal Region area; National Park, Irkutsk Region); "Zapovednoye Podlemorye" organization (the specially protected area of Podlemorye; National Park, The Republic of Buryatia); Ministry of Natural Resources of the Republic of Buryatia; Burprirodnadzor, Buryat Nature Protection State Entity; Burpriroda (Buryat Nature) state-funded entity; non-governmental organization "ZooZabota" (ZooCare); Amway Company; Start-1 Company; BASK Scientific & Manufacturing Company; PONY EXPRESS; Makita.

General Information:

The Baikal Lake in East Siberia is the deepest (1,637 m) and most ancient lake on the Earth. Over 25 million years old, 636 km long, and up to 80 km wide, Baikal contains 20% of the planet's surface water reserve. The biodiversity of its flora and fauna is truly one of a kind, and most of the plants and animals found in and around the lake are endemic, i.e. belonging to unique species that are restricted to this specific area. The Baikal Nature Area (Rus. BPT) amounts to 386.1 km² and stretches over the territory of three federal subjects of Russia: The Republic of Buryatia, Irkutsk Region, and the Transbaikalian Region. Although the lake is situated in Russia, its water catchment area (the Baikal Lake basin) covers over 500,000 m², including over 300 rivers and confluents, and lies in the territory of two countries, Russia and Mongolia. Baikal is listed as one of UNESCO World Natural Heritage sites.



Problem Statement:

Thousands of people annually come to see the unique Baikal Lake from all around the world. However, this tourist inflow, although having a positive impact on the economic development of the region, undermines its ecological situation.

The existing model of waste treatment and the underdeveloped tourist infrastructure can neither cope with the growing amount of waste nor prevent the negative man-caused impact on nature. This leads to the increasing emergence of unsanctioned garbage dumps that are steadily growing in volume, as well as deforestation, forest littering and spoiling, pollution of water bodies, exhaustion of the soils, etc.

The causes for the situation are: the absence of a well-developed system of state control and the low level of awareness in terms of responsible and ecologically safe nature management among the local community, tourists, and those working in the tourism industry. One of the most pressing issues on the Baikal coast is the collection and recycling of liquid waste and the oil product waste dumped from the ships. Another acute problem is caused by the old, out-of-date waste treatment facilities that, in most cases, cannot provide the due level of the polluted waters purification.

Maintaining sustainable development and ecological safety in and around the Baikal Lake requires a complex approach. On the one hand, there is a necessity to create regional infrastructure that would make possible the compliance with the norms of correct nature management; on the other hand, both the locals and the tourists need to be taught to maintain cleanliness on the coast, take part in the process of nature preservation, and care about Baikal.

We can currently specify the following factors causing **ecological problems** in the area:

- absence of an efficient and controllable infrastructure for garbage collection and disposal;
- imperfect legislation in the field of waste treatment and nature preservation;
- impossibility to reveal those guilty in starting the unsanctioned dumps and impose appropriate sanctions on them;
- low level of ecological education;
- no control over the behavior of the tourists and those working in the tourist industry;
- low rate of the local community's participation in nature preservation activities;
- negligence of law, disregard of the rules for garbage disposal;
- harmful activities of the private businesses;
- *insufficient budget funding*;
- lack of explanatory and educational activities and materials;
- lack of administrative control and supervision;
- inefficient fulfillment of regional programs and unsatisfactory performance of local self-administration



Description of Project Activities:

The *Save Baikal* project contributes to the elimination of the above-listed factors by means of arranging events on cleaning and beautifying the area in question and activities aimed at preventing violations in the field of nature management. In addition, we organize research and data collection (statistics, map-making, analytics, etc.) in order to reveal the needs and perspectives of the areas we cover, as well as to maintain the monitoring—a regular observation system allowing to evaluate the changing tendencies and forming a foundation for the predictive evaluation of the observed areas' future condition.

Save Baikal annually arranges a series of events, including a month-long session of the patrol nature-preserving camp Baikal Coast Service (BCS). The BCS Camp maintains cleanliness on the lake coast, also rehabilitating the previously damaged environments, monitors the supervised areas, and carries out full-scale explanatory and educational work regarding the rules of conduct on the coast (maintaining cleanliness, fire safety measures, and the general rules for ecotourism). The camp also provides an additional workforce resource for the administration during the hectic tourist periods.

Within the framework of project activities, a Model for Cleanliness Preservation (a model for efficient waste treatment in the specially protected nature areas) is being developed. The Model's principle is based on **consistent, timely, looped, and interconnected action on the various stages of its functioning** that include the introduction of selective garbage collection, logistics, storage, recycling, and subsequent monitoring.

The project is currently operating in the territory of the Irkutsk Region in the Republic of Buryatia. Since 2014 we have also started cooperation with Mongolia.

The efficiency of the programs proposed by the project can be guaranteed only if the administration, the business community, the non-governmental organizations, the tourists, and the local inhabitants join together in synchronized effort. No less important for the cause of eco-system preservation is the control over the compliance with the rules, as well as efficient administrative and public monitoring.

The project organizers believe that the two crucial factors in forming the conditions for sustainable development in the Baikal Region are: ecological and educational activities and the promotion of ecological knowledge and skills and the principles and norms of eco-friendly tourism.

The *Save Baikal* project contributes to the cause of nature protection and natural heritage sites preservation. In fulfilling its civil mission, it brings forth the formation of ecological consciousness and facilitates a most rapid transition to green economy.



Our Work Experience:

The project exists for over 5 year already. The first few years were dedicated to researching and analyzing the condition of nature in and around the Baikal Lake, with the field work having first started in 2011.

Results of our activities on the Baikal Lake in 2011–2012:

- 15 various events were held;
- over 2000 people took part;
- 600 tons of garbage was collected, of which 60% was sent for recycling;
- Area of 47 000 m² was cleaned

The year 2013 saw 7 various events, including one month of the Baikal Coast Service Camp work in the Republic of Buryatia, with over 400 people having took part and ca. 80 tons of garbage collected.

Investigation of the territory designated for the BCS Camp work in the Baikal Region was conducted. The organizers covered ca. 13,000 km, collected lots of statistical data, and made a map of the territory.

In the 2014 season the *Save Baikal* project organizers held 11 events, having covered the distance of 17,000 km; about 500 volunteers took part; the area of coverage amounted to 110 km²; over 2,000 bags of waste were collected (plus oversize waste).

Two spots of the BCS Camp were arranged (the Baikal and Barguzinskiy Districts, both situated in the Republic of Buryatia); the territory belonging to the specially protected nature area Bezmyanka-Katkovo (25 km²) was cleaned of waste repositories (previous ecological damage); field activities training was held, including the hard-to-reach areas and remote territories; efficient preventive spot-check work was conducted.

The basis for further spread of the BCS coverage was prepared; for the year 2015, we are planning to start the work of the Service on the Olkhon Island and increase the number of field events.

The survey was held among the Olkhon Island inhabitants in order to find out their level of awareness and preparedness to take part in the programs on long-term cleanliness preservation on the island, as well as selective garbage collection and recycling.

Agreements with Mongolia were reached on international cooperation, exchange of nature preservation experience, and practices in the field of ecotourism.

A deliberative meeting was held in the Irkutsk Region that resulted in the plan for nature preservation activities for the years 2015–2017 in cooperation with the national parks of the Irkutsk Region and the Republic of Buryatia.

One of the main achievements of the 2014 season was the introduction of selective garbage collection in the Listvyanka settlement. As of now, glass collection is conducted in Listvyanka.

The *Save Baikal* project will continue its active work on preserving the Baikal Lake eco-system in 2015 and invites everyone willing to join!

Let's save Baikal together!