

Dear Sir/Madam,

Despite the protests from the public, scientists and environmental organizations, Nord Stream 2 AG continues to insist on building the gas pipeline through the territory of the Kurgalsky reserve – a unique natural territory which is a subject of two international conventions – [The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance \(Ramsar Convention\)](#) and [The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea](#). And the company is planning to use the most destructive trench method.

The territory of the reserve will be destroyed significantly. In the route corridor trees will be completely cut down, two pipes and a road will be built. At the same time the authors of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) materials confirm that the gas pipeline will pass through the sections of old-growth forests and a unique relict dune, which will be irreversible.

The plans for the gas pipeline construction will lead to the violation of valuable forest ecosystems. The forest is the most important climate regulator and the destruction of the most valuable sites in such a densely populated region as north-west Russia during the construction of the gas pipeline is an extremely dangerous precedent for such a treatment with forests for the implementation of a major international infrastructure project that also contributes to the expansion of fossil fuel consumption.

Nord Stream 2 AG says that in the most sensitive habitat the construction will be performed only within the narrowest feasible construction corridor with a width of 30 meters. But this figure is valid only for 1.3 km. The other parts of the corridor including the relict dune and Kader marsh will be of 40 and 60 meters. A 30-m-wide corridor above the pipeline will be maintained free of trees and natural vegetation.

The reduction in the width of the corridor does not fundamentally change the situation, since the continuous deforestation on this strip as well as construction work and the change in the hydrological regime will inevitably lead to the violation of the natural complexes of the reserve, which is prohibited even by the new Regulations on the reserve.

According to scientists, there is a large number of rare and endangered species of animals and plants on the one of the route sections. It is especially worth noting that next to the strip of the pipeline route a white-tailed eagle was found - a rare predatory bird listed in the Red Data List of the International Union for Conservation of nature. The nest is only fifty meters from the marked tracks and benchmarks. Even if the nest is not destroyed, the birds will leave it.

The construction of a gas pipeline may also affect key habitats of rare marine mammals - the gray seal and the Baltic Ringed seal. In case of the construction of the gas pipeline the habitat of rare animals and plants listed in the Red Books of different levels will be destroyed. The pipeline building follows the change of ecological character that means the violation of the Ramsar convention.

Nevertheless, the Russian Federal Supervisory Natural Resources Management Service has recently approved construction of the pipeline through the Kurgalsky reserve territory against the national and international legislation.

Thus, I demand to halt the Nord Stream 2 pipeline through Kurgalsky nature reserve. This project threatens the unique forest and peatland ecosystems of Kurgalsky nature reserve in Russia as well as it contributes to the expansion of fossil fuels consumption and climate change.