

Dear friends and colleagues!

The biggest mountains of Murmansk region, Khibiny, urgently need your help to be saved from almost total destruction of their still intact nature.

Already in 1917, Khibiny Mountains were suggested by Russian famous scientists for a protected area of national park type. Every year about 50 000 tourists - Russian and international - come to see them. A national park project was created in 1999 by regional scientific institutes, and the Federal Government plan is to create Khibiny national park in 2015. Nevertheless, in contradiction with these plans, the mining company Akron has leased a deposit in the northern most intact part of Khibiny and this summer plans to start building a road through the massif, which may fragment and destroy a big part of the mountain area.

We ask you to appeal to our President V. Putin and Murmansk Governor M. Kovtun to prevent this destruction and to speed up the creation of the national park. Below you can find a model text of such a letter.

More information you can find on a special site <http://www.hibiny.info>, or from us: Kola Biodiversity Conservation Center ([ira\\_zaitseva@pochta.ru](mailto:ira_zaitseva@pochta.ru)) or Kola Environmental Center ([mik-ryzhov@yandex.ru](mailto:mik-ryzhov@yandex.ru)).

On behalf of Kola Biodiversity Conservation center and Kola Environmental center,

Irina Yokhna