

## WHV – Heart of the Taiga

### Virgin Komi forests, Russian Federation

Natural property inscribed on the List of World  
Heritage since 1995

01/07/2017 – 14/07/2017



The Virgin Komi Forests cover 3.28 million ha of tundra and mountain tundra in the Urals and is as well one of the most extensive areas of virgin boreal forest remaining in Europe. This vast area of conifers, aspens, birches, peat bogs, rivers and natural lakes has been monitored and studied for over 50 years. It provides valuable evidence of the natural processes affecting biodiversity in the taiga.

#### Project objectives:

The objectives of this project is to involve international and local youth to the preservation of natural heritage, to improve the ecological state of the natural reserve, to raise awareness about the site's importance and to drag the attention of local authorities and communities, as well as international visitors towards the ecological issues at the site and its preservation. It will especially target the local youth in order to value and preserve their environment and heritage.

#### Project activities:

Volunteers will undertake an exploration of the taiga forrest by rafting and visiting different spots along the river where they will mark touristic paths with special signs, clean bushes and paths from natural wastes, cut grass, clean the riverside and tourist shelters from garbage. They will make a short video about the importance of forest preservation and conduct an ecological awareness-related lesson for local children.

#### Partners:

« Yugyd va » Natural Reserve, Ministry of culture, tourism, and archive keeping of the Komi Republic, Ministry of education, science, and youth policy of the Komi Republic

**SFERA Movement**

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