



# TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## U.N. IN ACTION

---

Release Date: April 2007

Programme No. 1068

Duration: 3'51''

Languages: English, French, Spanish and Russian

### KAZAKHSTAN'S FORESTS IN TRANSITION

#### VIDEO

#### AUDIO

FOREST FIRES

#### NARRATION

Kazakhstan's forests are continuously threatened by fires. Almost 70% of forest fires here are fuelled by lightning. (8")

TOWN OF SEMIPALATINSK

In the north-eastern part of the country, near the border with Russia's Siberia, Semey or Semipalatinsk has lost much of its pine forest to fires. But human activities like overgrazing and illegal cutting have led to pest infestation and land degradation, contributing significantly to the disappearance of forests. (22")

FIELD WITH TREE STUMPS

NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS  
(ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE)

Located 150 kilometres - or 100 miles - west of the city, the former Soviet government operated the Semipalatinsk Test Site, where almost 500 nuclear explosions were conducted. This negatively impacted the life of humans, fauna and flora alike. (19")

KAZAK STUDENTS / BOTANY  
CLASSES

Kazakh students are being taught how to care for and preserve their forests at school as part of their

curriculum. They learn to identify different species of plants that are commonly found in nearby forests. (13”)

YLENA WORKS THE LAND

Sixteen-year-old Ylena Bukhtiyarova is a keen and enthusiastic supporter of the reforestation process. (7”)

YLENA ON CAMERA

BUKHTIYAROVA: (Russian)

*“Almost one quarter of our forests has been burned out. We must restore our forests in order to protect our city from strong winds. And our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy them.”* (12”)

UNDP VAN / STUDENTS ON  
FIELD TRIP / LUDMILA WRITES

NARRATION

The United Nations Development Programme, UNDP, is working with a local non-governmental organization, ‘Istok’, meaning ‘water spring’. Ludmila Mikhailova heads Istok. (12”)

LUDMILA ON CAMERA

LUDMILA MIKHAILOVA: (In Russian)

*“We believe in the youth, the new generation, and from our experience we know that they are the force which can give rebirth, give aid and change things for the better. And it is our hope - by giving the children hands-on experience helping in the forests - that they will not grow up to engage in its destruction.”* (24”)

STUDENTS UNLOAD VAN

NARRATION

Istok arranges nature study trips for students like

Ylena and her classmates. Today is their class trip to the forest. They really enjoy the day out. Ylena loves trees and wants to be a botanist when she grows up. (14”)

STUDENTS WORK THE LAND

A recent fire destroyed many trees here. The students are clearing the land and harvesting cones. The plan is to replant twice the amount of trees that were eliminated by fire. (11”)

YLENA ON CAMERA

YLENA: (In Russian)

*"We heat the cones to a temperature of 50 degrees Celsius in a home environment. They begin to crackle and pop and the seeds fall out. We collect and turn them over to the Processing Station for sorting. Then we plant them in the soil."* (19”)

STUDENTS WORK IN SCHOOL GARDEN

NARRATION

These Kazakh students will follow the growth and rebirth of the forests for years to come. Hands-on experience in the school's garden and forests is a practical way to develop a bond between the children, the land, and all living things. (14.5”)

STUDENTS EXAMINE TREE

Later they will become guardians of the forest and help to preserve its incredible biodiversity for future generations. (7.5”)

This report was prepared by Chaim Litewski for the United Nations.

UN LOGO