mail to: antti.otsamo@metsa.fi

December 5, 2014

To the Head of Development and Environment, Metsähallitus, Mr. Antti Otsamo:

I join with a growing international network of governmental agencies, scientists, Indigenous and local communities and their organisations, led by the Snowchange Cooperative ([www.snowchange.org](http://www.snowchange.org)) to voice all our grave concerns regarding the looming clear cuts in the last boreal forests on the lot “Ostola” of Havukkavaara, village of Selkie, North Karelia, Finland by your state enterprise Metsähallitus**.**

Despite misleading claims on your website to the contrary, the Ostola forest in Havukkavaara area has become internationally known for its biodiversity, being home to large boreal mammals such as the European Brown Bear, Wolverine, Lynx, Boreal Wolf and EU Directive –relevant bird species, including several Owl species, the Greenish Warbler, Capercaillie and Forest Grouse. It is the last of the unprotected boreal forests in the area of Selkie. It is an international treasure and resource that belongs to all the peoples of the world and is not appropriately used by you for the sole purpose of reaping a profit at the expense of everyone else alive.

Although you claim on your website that “Metsähallitus is not planning any logging or other forest management measures for the Ostola forest during the next 15 years,” you have consistentlyand persistently logged large tracts of the remaining boreal forest of Scandinavia, going to far as to remove the stumps from the ground so that not even enough biological material remains to fuel the growth of new ground plants. Your track record clearly shows the trajectory of your intended actions in the immediate future: to clear-cut this forest with the impunity and arrogance you have displayed in all your actions so far.

Ostola forest is now a member of international, UN-recognized network of Indigenous and Local Community Conserved Areas. During the World Parks Congress held recently in Australia, the Head of the Conservation of Biological Conservation and Global Enviromental Facility of the United Nations listened with surprise and concern to the urgency of the situation of the Ostola forest and the planned Metsähallitusclear cuts. The world is now watching you with grave attention you may not wish to attract.

I join with the peoples of the world to demand that Metsähallitus:

1. *Stop all plans of economic forestry and clear cuts in the Ostola lot at once, and install a full MORATORIUM on this lot indefinitely.*
2. *NEGOTIATE directly and at once with the representatives of the Snowchange about protecting this forest.*
3. *PROTECT this forest immediately after these negotiations have been concluded.*

**I will continue to mount pressure on Metsähallitus enterprise and expand this letter campaign in solidarity with others around the world until such time as the forest is saved.**

*(Sign with your affiliations and address)*