

LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

Editor in Chief, National Geographic Magazine, P.O. Box 98199, Washington, D.C.
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xxx, Czech Republic, 12 March 2017

Sir,

My relation to your magazine is very personal. Once, my father received a collection of several years' copies from his friend who had fled the country ruled by communists. Thanks to his gift, I could enter the world inaccessible to me at that time: all continents and countries, but above all, I could enlarge my perception of how our planet is beautiful. I learnt a lot from your pictures and articles. Among other also the truth of what had happened in Chernobyl, a truth no one would communicate publicly in our country in those days.

This leads me to your March issue and the article about trees for whose beauty and preciousness, role in our lives, in shaping the countryside and maintaining the climate I can hardly find words.

In the last 15 months, when the amendment to the environmental act has been discussed in the Parliament of the Czech Republic, many opinions have been voiced in the Czech media about the care for trees and nature in general, especially in case of Šumava - the most extensive forest landscape in the Central Europe, extending into Germany and Austria. What has not been shared with the public, however, is the truth. The holistic view. What was heard, were voices of the deputies in the Parliament, activists, mostly people who do not reside there. A little was said and shown about how people live in Šumava, how farmers work there, how the National Park has been evolving over time not only in places visible from villages or reachable by car but also on the tops of the mountain range alongside the national border, where few people go. Where during last years, thousands of trees have died and other are still dying on an estimated area of 200 square kilometres, making impact on how life will look like in the next tens of years in Šumava and the whole country.

Please cover this topic and write the true story of Šumava. Come and visit not only villages and their inhabitants but also explore the mountain tops of Polom, Zlatý stoleček, Třístoličník, Předěl, Plechý, the Laka lake or the springs of the Moldau river.

Please write the true story and keep the mission of your magazine highest possible.

Yours faithfully,

Podpis

Ekonom

Annex: Private pictures from the mountain tops of the Šumava National Park



Trail from Předěl, January 2016



Poledník, January 2016



Vaňkova trail, November 2016



The Czech-German border, view from Lusen mountain to the north, August 2016



Trail from Modrava to Březník, August 2016



Lake Laka, January 2017



Debrník/Plesná mountain, January 2017



View from Zlatý stoleček eastwards, January 2017