Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and/or on the List of World Heritage in Danger.


Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands (Russian Federation) / Ensemble historique, culturel et naturel des îles Solovetsky (Fédération de Russie)

5 – 14 August 2013 / 5 – 14 août 2013

This mission report should be read in conjunction with Document:

Ce rapport de mission doit être lu conjointement avec le document suivant:

WHC-14/38.COM/7B
REPORT OF THE JOINT UNESCO-ICCROM-ICOMOS REACTIVE MONITORING MISSION
TO THE CULTURAL AND HISTORIC ENSEMBLE OF THE SOLOVETSKY ISLANDS

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

From 5 August to 14 August 2013
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. BACKGROUND TO THE MISSION (terms of reference, background documents, composition of mission team provided in Annex 1)

2. NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL POLICY FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
   2.1. Protected area legislation
   2.2. Legal framework
   2.3. Boundaries
   2.4. Protected zones
   2.5. Urban planning
   2.6. Institutional and management structure

3. IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES
   3.1. Understanding the Outstanding Universal Value of the property
   3.2. Capacity building
   3.3. Visitor management

4. STATE OF CONSERVATION
   4.1. Physical state of the property
   4.2. Conservation activities
   4.3. New developments

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ANNEXES:

1. Background to the mission:
   1.1 Terms of Reference
   1.2 Background documents
      - Inscription history
      - Inscription criterion
      - Examination of the state of conservation by the World Heritage Committee (extracts of working documents and WH Committee decisions)
   1.3 Composition of mission team

2.2 Maps, illustrations and photos

2.3 List of documents requested by the mission team
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The World Heritage Committee discussed the state of Conservation of the property during its 35th (Paris, 2011), 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012) and 37th sessions (Phnom Penh, 2013).

At its 37th session, the Committee noted the steps being made toward the development of legal measures and the establishment of a Committee for the conservation of the property, as well as the organisation of a training workshop for the religious representatives involved in the management and use of World Heritage properties. The Committee requested the State Party to submit detailed information on the Master Plan for the property as well as additional planning documents. It reiterated its concern about the possible reconstruction of monastery buildings and major interventions in the landscape of the property and requested the State Party to submit all project proposals for review. Lastly, it reiterated its request to the State Party to invite a reactive monitoring mission to the property to assess its overall state of conservation.

As requested by the World Heritage Committee, the joint UNESCO/ICCROM/ICOMOS monitoring mission to the Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands was invited by the State Party and was carried out from 5 to 14 August 2013. The objective of the mission was to review the overall state of conservation of all component parts of the World Heritage property of the Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1992, as well as progress made in the implementation of the Committee’s decisions.
Following numerous consultations with federal, regional, local authorities and site manager, and in light of on-site visits to the World Heritage property, and after a detailed introduction to a series of documents, plans and programs, kindly provided by the Russian authorities, the mission considered that the general state of conservation of the key components of the property is still satisfactory. However, the mission observed, at the time of the visit, that the authenticity and integrity of the property are in a very vulnerable state due to the extensive restoration/reconstruction works that have been carried out since the inscription of the property.

The mission is of the opinion that immediate measures should be taken, as a matter of urgency, at all decision-making levels for the protection and management of the World Heritage property as a whole and in conformity with its status, in order to increase the degree of its protection, as well as to prevent any potential loss of authenticity, deterioration of structures and planning coherence.

The World Heritage property of Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands can be considered a living heritage with its continuing function as one of the highest spiritual-cultural and natural place of the country and as a place of worship with the presence of the Solovetsky Monastery and many historic churches. Conservation and management of these living religious places poses greater challenges where balance between conservation and use has to be maintained with the greater participation of the religious community and all other stakeholders.

Furthermore, as a functional religious centre of the country, changes may be required within the physical spaces to cater to the new demands but these cannot affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The mission recommends that the authorities pay special attention to the living religious heritage and develop relevant activities to enhance the capacities of the decision makers and specialists, as well as include a broad community participation to deal with the integrated management of the property.

A comprehensive understanding of the World Heritage property and its Outstanding Universal Value including its authenticity and integrity, as well as its condition, context (including other heritage attributes) and interrelationships is the baseline for all development and management decisions.

The perception of the Solovetsky Islands World Heritage property as a cultural landscape, with the interaction of people and environment, is the guiding principle for all management decisions. For increased awareness it is necessary to undertake a comprehensive assessment of how the Outstanding Universal Value is demonstrated in the property through specific attributes. This assessment will also serve as a baseline for an integrated management structure and action plan and will also be essential for the drafting of the Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property.

The summary conclusions and key recommendations of the mission are as follows:

1. The mission notes the satisfactory general state of conservation of all component parts of the World Heritage property.

2. The mission notes that both a very ambitious development strategy of the Archipelago of Solovetsky and a Master Plan of the Solovetsky Monastery exist, and recommends that all these documents be revised in order to enhance the protection and management of the World Heritage property in relation to sustaining the OUV of the property, which is composed of six islands of the Solovetsky archipelago covering in total 300 sq km (Solovetsky itself accounting for 219 sq km, and the others 47.1, 19, 1.2, 1.25, and 1.1 sq km respectively).
3. The mission is of the opinion that a comprehensive cultural landscape assessment needs to be carried out to define how the OUV is expressed in the whole property and through which attributes. The study must additionally integrate the cultural landscape characteristics and the intangible values of the property into the conservation and management provisions. As noted by ICOMOS at the time of inscription, the natural values of the site should also be taken into account in planning tools.

4. The mission recommends finalizing, as a matter of urgency, a Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, as well as clarification of boundaries of the property within the Retrospective Inventory project and creation of buffer zone as a basis for orienting all protection and management efforts.

5. The mission notes the absence of an adequate juridical protection status, including Protected Zones and regimes for the entire territory of the property. Existing protection is only granted to some individual monuments and ensembles.

6. The mission expressed its concern about the absence of Regional Planning Project for the entire territory of the property, which is particularly risky in the conditions of growing tourist and entrepreneurial activities.

7. The mission was informed about ecological and engineering problem due to the deregulation of the canal system for water regulation. The water goes underground destabilizing the soil. A special programme is under development under State budget. The level of this threat is unknown – the researches are under way. The mission recommends that this work be completed as soon as possible.

8. The mission expresses its concern about the on-going new construction works presented as “regeneration of historical landscape”. Although the volume of reconstructions performed up to now does not constitute a danger to the property at this stage, the lack of an adequate regulatory framework including well defined Protection Zones for the monuments and ensembles situated on the Solovetsky Island create conditions for a significant expansion of this practice. The mission calls attention to Paragraph 86 of the Operational Guidelines which states, “the reconstruction of archaeological remains or historic buildings or districts is justifiable only in exceptional circumstances”. The mission considers that excessive creation of identical copies of the lost buildings and religious monuments represents a potential threat to the OUV of the property, in particular its condition of authenticity, and could create an unbalanced perception of the history of this site.

9. The mission also expresses its concern about potential development activities within the World Heritage property, including a proposal to establish a museum and visitor center complex, new infrastructures and enlargement of the existing airport.

10. The mission recommends that the following steps be undertaken by the State Party to ensure compliance with the 1972 Convention and to enhance effective management and protection of the property:

   (a) Approve an adequate juridical protection status of the World Heritage property the Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands composed of six islands of the Solovetsky archipelago;

   (b) Develop a Draft on Protection Zones, including regimes for the entire territory of the Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands in the framework of the Archipelago, based upon the study for defining its integral cultural values, the property’s new juridical status, and the detailed registry of the cultural heritage sites;
(c) Develop and submit to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for comments a Management Plan of the property, including a tourism management strategy. The Management Plan should be accompanied by an Action Plan, which should list all the activities and resources concerning the preservation of the property;

(d) Develop and submit to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for comments a Regional Planning Project for the entire territory of the property - the Solovetsky Archipelago - which should take into account its OUV and the foreseen system of Protection Zones and regimes;

(e) Develop, as a matter of urgency, a strategy for all on-going and planned developments within the boundaries of the World Heritage property composed of six islands of the Solovetsky archipelago, taking into consideration the outstanding universal value of the World Heritage property and its specific historic landscape setting;

(f) Develop a strategy for restoration, rehabilitation and regeneration of the historical buildings and landscape of the World Heritage property;

(g) Inform the UNESCO World Heritage Centre of any intention to undertake or to authorize restorations (regenerations), new constructions and developments within the boundary of the World Heritage property in compliance with the paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and submit all relevant documentation for review prior to granting approval for implementation;

(h) Carry out a Heritage Impact Assessment according to the ICOMOS Guidance for Heritage Impact Assessments (2011) for all planned developments and interventions including new buildings, infrastructure and cultural landscape;

(i) Transmit to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, a revised project of museum and visitor center complex that respects the religious-cultural and natural landscape values, as well as the visual qualities, and include a Heritage Impact Assessment, for review prior to authorizing the works;

(j) Suspend the granting of permits for new constructions/regenerations/developments within the property or in the surrounding areas prior to the preparation of the Heritage Impact Assessment for projects, the elaboration and approval of the adequate and effective protective juridical regulations of the World Heritage property and its future buffer zone, as well as the establishment of the effective control mechanism and institutional framework between all stakeholders involved in the management and protection of the property.

11. The establishment of a strong control and survey of all activities, including restoration, regeneration, construction and development will be crucial in monitoring the conservation and protection of the property and in sustaining its OUV. The mission recommends establishing a Site Management coordination Board by a formal agreement between all relevant Ministries and Federal and Regional authorities, including the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Moscow Patriarchate, so as to enhance the protection of the property. Each project should be regulated by a very precise timeline and the site management board should survey the compliance of provisions set forth in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention and the enforcement of regulatory and protection measures in works undertaken.

12. The mission noted the Moscow Resolution adopted by the participants during the capacity-building Seminar for the representatives of religious communities involved in the management and use of the World Heritage properties of religious interest, organized by the Ministry of Culture (Moscow, May 2013). The mission highlighted that one of the recommendations of this Seminar was the development of a capacity-building system to improve the qualifications of WH site managers and users in the domain of the World
Heritage. The mission recommends including these recommendations in the regional strategy for the development of a comprehensive capacity building programme as an essential part of the Management strategy.

1 BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION OF THE MISSION (terms of reference, background documents, composition of mission team provided in Annex 1)

The World Heritage Committee at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013) requested the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICCROM/ICOMOS joint reactive monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation.

The mission took place from 5 to 14 August 2013, and was conducted by Ms Anna P. Sidorenko, Programme Specialist in charge of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, UNESCO World Heritage Centre and Ms Katri Lisitzin, ICCROM representative. Mr Todor Krestev, ICOMOS representative, actively contributed to the preparation of this mission and in the development of the report.

2 NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL POLICY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

2.1 Protected area legislation

The observations of the monitoring missions to the Russian Federation in recent years show that some legislative reform is carried out in the domain of cultural heritage. Consequently, this mission’s attention was focused on both the enacted legislation and the drafts for its amendment. Below is a list of the important acts of primary and secondary legislation (either enacted or drafts) concerning the property on two levels: federal and regional.

Primary and secondary legislation on the federal level:

- Federal Law on the Cultural Heritage (Monuments of History and Culture) of the Nations of the Russian Federation (2002, later amended and supplemented) - the main special act of law concerning cultural heritage;
- Urban Code of the Russian Federation, which is amended or supplemented almost every year, thus causing amendments to other related legislation. The mission was advised that the Urban Code was going to be further amended so that existing contradictions with the 2002 Federal Act could be overcome;
- Law on Transfer to Religious Organisations of Assets Having a Religious Intended Purpose and Representing State or Municipal Property (2010);
- Federal Law on Protection of the Environment (2002);
- Land Code of the Russian Federation (2001);
- Regulations on the Protection Zones of Cultural Heritage Sites (Monuments of History and Culture) of the Nations of the Russian Federation (enacted by Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation, 2008);
- Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation concerning Change in the Name of the Cultural Heritage Site of Federal Importance “Ensemble of the Solovetsky Monastery and Individual Sites on the Islands of the Solovetsky Archipelago, 16th century - first half of the 20th century (27.09.2011);
- Instructions of the President of the Russian Federation concerning “Measures for Conservation and Establishment of the Solovetsky Archipelago as Natural and Cultural Site” (25.06.2012);
Decree of the Ministry of Culture concerning the approval of the Regulations on the Unified Public Registry of Cultural Heritage Sites (No. 954 of 19.12.2011);

Draft Law on the amendment of the 2002 Federal Law concerning the juridical status of “Site” (R: “dostoprimechatelnoe mesto”);

Draft Law “Concerning the Introduction of Amendments and Supplements to the 2002 Federal Law concerning the Order of Implementation of International Commitments Arising from the 1972 Convention”. This Law could play an important role, since it will determine the diversity in the status of the different types of WH properties (monuments, ensembles, historical settlements and sites); it will introduce a concept of “Buffer Zone”, and will determine its relationship to the established “Protection Zones”; it will approve provisions concerning the management of WH properties and the “Management Plan” tool.

Primary and secondary legislation on the regional level:

- Law of the Arkhangelskii Region Concerning Cultural Heritage Sites (Monuments of History and Culture) On the Territory of the Arkhangelsky Region (09.09.2004);
- Regulations of the Government of the Arkhangelsky Region on Delineating the Boundaries of Territories of Federal and Regional Importance as Subject of Urban Activities with Specific Regulation (No. 20 of 06.08.2010 and No. 34 of 16.11.2010).

2.2 Legal framework

The mission considered the three mutually related aspects of the property's protection arrangements: Juridical status of protection, Delineation of Boundaries and Protection Zones. One of the mission’s main objectives consisted in clarifying whether the property has a federal juridical status, which can protect it as an integral property considering the Archipelago as a whole.

In 1995, by Decree of the President of the Russian Federation, the Solovetsky Public Historical, Architectural and Natural Museum-Preserve 1 (covering the territory of the Archipelago) was included on the List of Cultural Sites of Special Importance of the nations of the Russian Federation. This is important for it can draw funds for conservational activities from the federal budget.

In fact, the only sites that enjoy juridical status of protection are the “Ensemble of the Solovetsky Monastery” and “Individual Sites” on the Islands of the Solovetsky Archipelago - a total of 225 monuments and ensembles (114 of federal importance and 211 of regional importance). Consequently, the federal legislation protects only the most valuable individual sites on the Archipelago and not the Archipelago as a whole.

Forests (which cover some 66% of the territory of the Archipelago) are protected as a forestry fund by means of a Forestry Regulation approved by the Government of the Arkhangelskii Region.

While appreciating the importance of such juridical status, the mission draws attention to the following drawbacks:

- There is no federal protection of the entire territory of the Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands, which is listed as World Heritage property within the borders of the Archipelago. Some individual monuments and ensembles are protected within their own limited protected territory (Fig. 1, 2). Also, in spite of the fact that natural environment is determined as a very valuable asset in many documents, it does not enjoy the status of a “Natural Preserve”. This drawback is recognised both in the Draft Retrospective Statement

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1 One should differentiate between the two aspects of the meaning of the term “Museum-Preserve”: on the one hand, it denotes the cultural status of the cultural heritage site; on the other hand, it is the title of the Administration that has management functions on that territory.
of OUV ("... there is no definition of the status of the site, which would ensure its effective protection in accordance with the laws of the country") and in the Development Strategy of the Solovetsky Archipelago approved by the Government of the Arkhangelsky Region ("the Solovetsky Islands, as an exceptional comprehensive cultural-historical and natural complex that needs a special regime of protection, have no juridical status").

Coordination between the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Natural Resources requires a legal definition of the Archipelago as a "Natural Preserve" under the Law n° 33 on regulation of special protected areas and approval of the amendment concerning the World Heritage to the Law n° 73 on Cultural Heritage. The research of possible interaction/coordination (under formal agreement) could start only upon approval of these legal documents and regulations.

- No studies exist that would identify the above-mentioned characteristics of the integral cultural value of the Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands.

- Some valuable sites do not have an adequate status of protection. For example, the Solovetsky village has not been assessed as an integral Historic Urban Landscape, although there is such a status in the federal legislation: "Historical Settlement" (R: "istoricheskoe poselenie"); recently found archaeological monuments do not automatically receive a status of protection;

- No complete, verified registry of cultural heritage sites exists; there is no comprehensive inventory (this is also acknowledged by the Regional Development Strategy of the Solovetsky Archipelago); no systematic archaeological studies have been carried out, nor is there an archaeological cadastre of the entire territory of the Archipelago. It is odd that the regulated List of Monuments and Ensembles on the Solovetsky Archipelago includes only sites dated in the period "16th century to the first half of the 20th century", without any mention of valuable archaeological sites dated earlier.

All of the above gives the mission grounds to affirm that the property has no adequate juridical status of protection pursuant to the federal legislation. Such protection is only enjoyed by individual monuments and ensembles, but not by the property's integral cultural heritage.

Consequently, the absence of an adequate juridical status of the property reduces the degree of its protection and will need to be urgently addressed.

2.3 Boundaries

The property is inscribed with boundaries covering the six islands of the Solovetskii archipelago, including the tidal zone of its aquatic area in the western part of the White Sea. They cover in total 300 sq km, Solovetskii itself accounting for 219 sq km, and the others 47.1, 19, 1.2, 1.25, and 1.1 sq km respectively. Maps from the nomination dossier (1992) are included in Fig. 3, 4. On the map of the White Sea, the property border is designated as "border of Solovetsky museum preserve". However, no buffer zone of the property was stipulated at the time of the inscription.

In 2005, the World Heritage Centre launched a Retrospective Inventory Project to identify gaps and omissions in all nomination files of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List between 1978 and 1998. The immediate goal of this project is to identify those sites that do not yet have clearly defined boundaries or maps, and to request the States Parties to provide improved maps and other necessary information. This will contribute toward better documentation of the World Heritage sites, which then will be used for the work of the States Parties to manage and monitor properties on the World Heritage List.
Within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory, the World Heritage Centre has requested the Russian authorities to submit the boundary clarifications for several World Heritage properties, including the Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands. The World Heritage Committee at its 36th session “requested the States Parties which have not yet answered the questions raised in the framework of the Retrospective Inventory to provide all clarifications and documentation as soon as possible and by 1 December 2012 at the latest.” (Decision 36 COM 8D, St. Petersburg, 2012).

The mission highlighted that there has been no change in the status of boundaries since the inscription of the property.

This gives rise to two issues:

- The first issue consists in the fact that the property boundaries around the Archipelago indicated upon inscription have no legitimate status of protection pursuant to the federal legislation. The valid boundaries are the only ones around the territories of the individual monuments and ensembles, which are included in the above-mentioned List of Cultural Heritage Sites, and are regulated by Decrees Nos. 20 and 32 of the Government of the Arkhangelsky Region. (Fig. 1). The territory of the Archipelago outside these boundaries lacks any protection status.

- The second issue is related to the property’s buffer zone that was not considered at the time of inscription. A draft Law “Concerning the Introduction of Amendments and Supplements to the 2002 Federal Law concerning the Order of Implementation of International Commitments Arising from the 1972 Convention” introduce a statut “buffer zone” equal to “protected zone”. In the case of the WH property The Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands, the protection zones are around specific monuments which are inside the property. A buffer zone, by definition is outside the property.

These issues are officially recognised by the State Party. The draft Retrospective Statement of OUV indicates, “Property borders have not been established pursuant to the law”. The 2006 Paper on State of Conservation of World Heritage Properties in Europe contains the assessment that the status of boundaries is “inadequate”.

The mission welcomed the information that the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation recently (2013) organized a working meeting on protected zones. The Federal Order on Protected zones of Solovetsky has not yet been approved.

The mission highlighted that the lack of clarification of the boundaries for the property and its buffer zones constitutes a crucial threat to its integrity.

2.4 Protected Zones

The Protected Zones and the protection regimes thereof are extremely important for the preservation of the property and of its OUV. Therefore, the mission paid special attention to the study of the matter. The mission succeeded in ensuring the latest available information by acquainting itself with the most recent Draft on Protection Zones, which has not been adopted yet.

According to the current federal legislation in force since 2002 and 2008 (see Chapter 1), three types of Protected Zones with a different level of protection must be enforced around the territory of a cultural heritage site, namely:

- **Protected Zone** (R: “ZO”) – immediate contiguous zone around the monument;
- **Development Control Zone** (R: “ZRZ”);
- **Protected Landscape Zone** (R: “ZOL”).
The zones regulate any urban, economic or other activities in the respective territories. To this end, every zone must have specific restrictive regimes for protection, which will regulate the parameters of new construction works, i.e. maximum admissible area and height, nature and density of constructions, etc. The above-mentioned draft concerning the amendment and supplement of the 2002 Federal Law will establish for the first time the conformity between Protected Zones under the federal legislation and Buffer Zone under the 1972 Convention.

The mission established the following chronology of activities in this area:

- In 1973, the Arkhangelsky District Executive Committee approved Protected Zones, but only around the Ensemble of the Solovetsky Monastery. No protection regimes were approved (Fig. 5);

- In 1992, a new draft on Protected Zones was submitted; the draft was prepared by the Institute for Urbanism in St. Petersburg, but was not approved;

- In 1995-1998, a draft was prepared on the territorial borders of the Solovetsky Museum-Preserve, which rather delineated the territory of the Museum-Preserve’s administrative management, but had no prescribed function of protection;

- In 2012, the Ministry of Culture commissioned the Specproektrestavraciya Research Institute in St. Petersburg to prepare a new draft on Protected Zones of the monuments and ensembles situated on the Solovetsky Islands, together with regimes thereof with urban controllers. By the dates of the mission, the draft had just been finished but had not yet been approved. On the request of the mission, the Specproektrestavraciya Research Institute submitted the draft to it. The mission familiarised itself with it, and did a preliminary assessment (Fig. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11).

The mission established the following positive aspects of the existing situation in this area:

- As early as in 1973, the territorial protection of the area surrounding the Ensemble of the Solovetsky Monastery was regulated, which contributed to some extent to its preservation;

- The new draft on Protected Zones (2013) is a professionally done product, which is in conformity with present-day normative requirements; it is developed on an actual topographic base. What matters is that it does not restrict itself on the territory around the Ensemble of the Monastery (as e.g. the 1973 draft), but also covers other monuments on the Big Solovetsky Island and on other islands (Anzer, Big Mucksalma and Big Zayatsky) (Fig. 6);

- The draft proposes a structure containing the following differentiated Protection Zones: (a) Protected Zone with two sub-zones; (b) Development Control Zones with six sub-zones; (c) Protected Landscape Zone (Fig. 8, 9);

- The draft introduces for the first time regimes for protection of each of the 9 Protection Zones, which will undoubtedly play a restrictive role on the present uncontrolled and chaotic construction on the territory;

- It is important that the zones and the regimes were developed on the basis of local historical-cultural studies of the individual monuments and ensembles, including the “visual basin” around the Ensemble of the Solovetsky Monastery (Fig. 10, 11). From this point of view, some “discordant buildings” which are in conflict with the cultural heritage were identified (buildings of negative impact on the monuments and ensembles due to their parameters: height, scale, size and others. Protection regimes recommend their destruction, displacement, transformation, etc.).
The mission acknowledged the progress made, and noted that the existing situation is characterised by the following problems:

- The absence of a Protection Zones and of regimes covering the entire territory of the property within the borders of the Archipelago stimulates the ambitions of various organisations and private persons to use the territory improperly. The situation could quickly deteriorate in terms of increasing tourism activity and development pressure.

- A basic drawback of the new draft on Protected Zones is the fact that by following the Terms of Reference, it does not cover the entire territory of World Heritage property of the Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands, but only the areas around the Monastery and around some monuments and ensembles. The draft is not based on a comprehensive historical-cultural study of all the property territory and its OUV, but only on some local studies related to the territories of the selected monuments and ensembles (Fig. 7). Hence, the territories outside these monuments will continue to be devoid of any territorial protection in the future, too. The cultural heritage sites on the Archipelago are disproportionately covered by the draft: only ensembles and monuments of federal importance are included, while ensembles and monuments of regional importance are ignored; archaeological monuments are to some degree underestimated; small settlements, small and secluded monasteries and hermitages of regional importance are not included, etc.;

- The draft tolerates to some extent the violations of the 1973 Protected Zones, which are "fait accompli". For example, it grants a more liberal regime to the Airport, which was built in violation of the Protected Zone regulations, within the "visual basin" of the Ensemble of the Solovetsky Monastery ("Development Control Zone"), which legalises it in practice (Fig. 9). The draft also legalises to some extent the 2011 Master plan of the Solovetsky village (see Chapter 4) which is not in conformity with the Protection Zones in force at the time;

- Finally, the draft encourages the reconstruction of lost monuments by suggesting that it is the only possible new construction in the Protected Zone.

The mission noted that the current state of the property’s Protected Zones sharply reduces the level of its protection and it could represent, if not revised in conformity with the World Heritage status of the property, a potential threat to its OUV.

Bearing this in mind, the mission considered that these are serious problems on the Protection regulations, and that the property could be faced, in near future, with threats that could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics.

Therefore, the mission recommends that the following urgent measures be taken in the area of the property’s Protection arrangements:

(1) On the basis of the suggested comprehensive study of the property territory, a detailed inventory and registry of the cultural landscape key components should be compiled, as well as an exhaustive cultural heritage cadastre with special emphasis on archaeological monuments;

(2) On this basis, an adequate juridical status of property protection throughout the territory of the Archipelago should be imposed. Bearing in mind the above-mentioned legislative framework, the mission suggests that the following possibilities for granting specific types of status be considered:
In respect of the entire territory of the Solovetsky Archipelago, the status of “Site” would be the most appropriate (R: “dostoprimechatelnoe mesto”); in this regard, the federal law provides for “works created by man or joint works of man and nature … cultural and natural landscapes”. According to the above-mentioned draft legislation, the status can also include existing individual statuses of monuments and ensembles;

In respect of the territory of the Solovetsky historical village, the status of “historical settlement” would be most appropriate (R: “istoricheskoe poselenie”); the provisions of the federal law apply to “valuable historic urban-settlement buildings and urban historic structures, composition and silhouette, ratio between the vertical and horizontal centre-pieces and accents, cultural and natural landscape, visual-composition connections.”

(3) The proposed draft Law “Concerning the Introduction of Amendments and Supplements to the 2002 Federal Law concerning the Order of Implementation of International Commitments Arising from the 1972 Convention” should be adopted as a matter of urgency;

(4) In parallel with the regulation of the property’s juridical status pursuant to the federal legislation, its legitimate borders should be specified and marked on cadastral maps;

(5) The State Party should propose buffer zone borders around the property that would also cover part of the aquatic area of the Archipelago;

(6) A Draft on Protected Zones, including regimes for the entire territory of the World Heritage property of the Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands, should be further developed. The draft should be based upon the study for defining its cultural landscape value focusing on the integration between people and nature and its associative sacred and religious values, the property’s new juridical status, and the detailed inventory of all components of the property including a registry of the cultural heritage sites and its main natural flora and fauna components (forests, rivers, lakes etc.).

2.5 Urban planning

The federal legislation prescribes three stages of urban planning:

- General Plan (Master Plan), which offers functional zoning and disposition of sites of local importance;
- Land use and development rules (R: “PZZ”), including urban zoning maps and specific conditions for the use of the territory (incl. urban controllers related to cultural heritage);
- Urban spatial planning documentation, including a project for land parcelling and urban development plans for specific land lots (R: “GPZU”) as a basis for architectural projects and for construction permits.

Plans are approved on the municipal level.

The available strategic instruments are strategies for the development of territories and special-purpose programmes, which form the basis for determining the scope of conservation activities to be funded from the national budget.

The following plans and instruments are available for the territory of the Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands:

- General Urban Plan of the Solovetsky village adopted in 2012;
- Development Strategy of the Solovetsky Archipelago in its capacity as a unique spiritual, historic-cultural and natural heritage site, approved by the government of the Arkhangelskii Region on 16.07.2013;
- Federal Special-Purpose Programme “The Culture of Russia (2012-2018)” which envisages conservational activities at sites of federal importance;
There is also a series of dedicated programmes at the federal and regional level in the areas of tourism, infrastructure, transport, etc.

The mission was advised that in 2013, the Ministry of Culture intend to develop a Concept and a Federal Special-Purpose Programme for “Protection and Rehabilitation of the Complex for Spiritual, Cultural and Natural Heritage and for Infrastructure Development of the Solovetsky Archipelago in 2014-2019”.

The mission commented the following positive assessment of activities in this area:

- The adoption of the General Urban Plan of the Solovetsky village (2012) is a step forward in dealing with the unbridled process of uncontrolled urbanisation on the territory around the Solovetsky Monastery;
- The development of Regional Development Strategy of the Solovetsky Archipelago (2013) with a timeline up to 2030 is a contribution to mastering the complete absence of strategic planning on the territory of the Archipelago up till now (this was also stated in the analytical part of this Report). Another positive fact is the 2013 work on the Federal Special-Purpose Programme for the Archipelago.

While assessing this contribution, the mission noted the existence of the following problems concerning the strategic planning of the property:

> There is no Regional Planning Project of the entire territory of the World Heritage property within the boundaries of the Archipelago. Consequently, the property is devoid of the main physical planning instrument concerning its future development.

The mission foresees certain threatening effects due to town planning in the property, as follows:

- The General Urban Plan of the Solovetsky village violates the existing Protection Zones around the Ensemble of the Monastery (which were established in 1973), and is not co-ordinated with the new draft Protected Zones or regimes;
- The Plan does not take the property’s World Heritage status into account nor makes specific provisions to preserve the attributes that convey its OUV;
- The Plan raises significantly the territory’s level of urbanisation; it expands the settlement territory without a reasonable basis, and re-matches the residential areas (considering the fact that according to the Strategy, the population will grow from 917 in 2012 to 1000 in 2030) (Fig. 12, 13). The Plan envisages a substantial new construction to the north and south of the Ensemble of the Monastery, and development of coastal areas that may compromise the seaside and lake panoramas of the property. Vast new territory accedes to the settlement from the east; the Plan also envisages further development of the airport, which is situated in a protected landscape zone and in the visual basin of the Monastery. The Plan proposes the erection of new public buildings with inadequate parameters in close proximity to the Monastery (Museum complex), in a valuable landscape environment (Representative Office of the Administration of the Arkhangelsky Region), etc. All of this would have a negative impact on the property’s authenticity and integrity (Fig. 14, 15);
- The General Plan was approved on the regional level; the opinion of the central preservation body - the Ministry of Culture - about it is not clear.

Concerning the approved Regional Development Strategy of the Archipelago, the mission calls attention to the following:

- Nowhere in the Strategy is a mention of the importance of the World Heritage property status of the Archipelago, or of the need to preserve its Outstanding Universal Value;
The Strategy is not based on a comprehensive study of the property’s integral cultural-natural-spiritual resource, which defines the requirements and the managers for preservation of its OUV. Consequently, there is a risk of tipping the balance between Preservation and Development. For instance, it envisages a “full cycle of services”, development of tourism, infrastructure and “all types of transport”, “development of new tourist itineraries” etc., without taking account of the actual capacity of the environment or of the managers imposed on the cultural and natural heritage;

The Strategy does not envisage any development of the instruments for preservation: juridical status, regional and town planning, management system, etc.;

It is not envisaged to develop modern strategic instruments for the needs of the property, namely Management Plan and Conservation Master Plan, which are absolutely necessary for such a complex territory, which is rich in sites.

Consequently the mission noted that the state of the plans and instruments concerning the property, the lack of Regional Planning Project and the negative impact of town planning could represent potential threats to the property’s authenticity and integrity. These threats will grow in parallel with the increase in tourist and construction activities.

This provides sufficient grounds for the mission to make the following recommendations:

1. A Regional Planning Project should be developed for the entire territory of the property - the Solovetsky Archipelago - which should take into account the specifics of its OUV and the system of Protected Zones and regimes;

2. On this basis, the existing General Urban Plan of the Solovetsky village should be revised in order to avoid the above-mentioned negative impact. The development of the subsequent stages of urban plans should be speeded up.

2.6 Institutional and management structure

The institutional framework of actors involved in the property management corresponds to the existing administrative structure of the Russian Federation. Consequently, the Management Structure of the property includes three levels of management with the respective actors:

On the central level:

- **Ministry of Culture** - federal institution for preservation having the authority to preserve, popularise and provide State protection to the cultural heritage on the territory of the Russian Federation. The Ministry decentralised some of its control functions through its Administration of the North-Western Federal Region, which is where the property is situated;

- **Ministry of Natural Resources** - federal institution which controls the management of the forestry fund of the Solovetsky Archipelago through its main body, the Solovetsky Forest District;

- **National Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO** - federal co-ordinating body. Within the framework of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, it ensures, the cooperation between the government, the federal executive bodies, UNESCO and Advisory Bodies; it assists the implementation of UNESCO programmes
On the regional level:

- **Administration of the Arkhangelsky Region** - subject of the Federation, which exercises the powers of the Russian Federation in the area of preservation, use, popularisation, and protection of cultural regional heritage. The following bodies operate with it:
  - **Directorate and Agency of the Arkhangelsky Region for Development of the Solovetsky Archipelago**; their functions include co-ordination of the implementation of the Regional Strategy;
  - **Research Centre for Conservation and Use of the Monuments of Culture in the Arkhangelsky Region**;
  - **Institute for Design and Restoration of the Arkhangelsky Region**.

On the local level:

- **Saviour-Transfiguration Solovetsky Stavropegial Monastery** (163 men) which manages and uses the Ensemble of the Solovetsky Monastery and Small and Secluded monasteries and Hermitages on the territory of the islands. The Monastery participates in management and use of the property within the context of the 2010 Law on the Transfer to Religious Organisations of Assets of Religious Interest. The Monastery is directly attached to the Moscow Patriarch’s Office of the Russian Orthodox Church.

- **Solovetsky State Historical-Architectural and Natural Museum-Preserve Administration** (with a staff of 163 people), which is directly subordinated to the Ministry of Culture and manages the activities at more than 100 cultural heritage sites on the territory of the Archipelago;

- **Municipal Settlement Administration for the “Rural Settlement Area ‘Solovetskoe’”**, which includes the administrative centre of the area - the Solovetsky village - and 11 more villages on the Archipelago’s territory.

Other local subjects who also have a stake on the property are the local population of the Archipelago (917 people) and 46 economic organisations, each with a different area of activities.

The ownership of the Archipelago’s land is distributed as follows: 96% is federal property of the State Forestry Fund, and 4% is municipal property and defence and security territory.

The mission was advised about processes of restitution to the Russian Orthodox Church of monastery lands, religious monuments and buildings.

The mission shares the following positive assessment of the existing management system:

- In respect of the property, a regulated management system has been put in place in which participate various actors at different levels; they have powers and competences to preserve, use, popularise and manage the cultural heritage;

- It is important to note that in recent years relations between the State and the Church have made progress. The 2010 Law defines religious communities as an important participant in the management of cultural heritage of religious interest. A Working Group with the President of the Russian Federation is in charge of religious monuments. In 2012, an agreement was signed between the Ministry of Culture and the Russian Orthodox Church for co-operation in the area of cultural heritage. The Regional Development Strategy of the Solovetsky Archipelago proposes the option of **Church-State interaction** as an optimal scenario of property management (without providing an explanation of the forms it may
In May 2013, a Capacity-Building workshop for the religious representatives involved in the management and use of the WH properties of religious interest in the Russian Federation was held in Moscow, and had great success. In its Resolution, the participants supported the decisions of the 35th and 36th sessions of the WH Committee on the establishment of a Coordinating Council on WH properties of religious interest with the participation of the Russian Orthodox Church, the Ministry of Culture and other interested actors. This creates an objective basis for inclusion of the Church as an equal partner in the property management.

Successful measures were taken to improve the management of the property; they were also included in the State Party’s 2012 state of conservation report, in particular:

- The Ministry of Culture was approved to act as investor/contracting party concerning conservation activities in the property;
- In 2012, a Joint Research & Methodological Restoration Board was founded with the Monastery and the Museum-Preserve;
- Architectural Art Board was set up with the Arkhangelsky Region Administration;
- Special Deputy Governor for the Arkhangelsky Region was appointed in charge of the development of the Solovetsky Archipelago.
- The draft Law on the Introduction of Amendments and Supplements to the Federal Cultural Heritage Act settles for the first time the establishment of a special coordinating body for WH properties management - “Managing Organisation” - with the participation of all the interested parties. The development of a property Management Plan is one of its functions.

The mission considers that although the management system operates, it is not efficient enough. In fact, this has also been recognised in both the draft Retrospective Statement of OUV and in the Regional Development Strategy of the Archipelago. The mission is of the opinion that the inefficiency is due to the following reasons:

- The inefficiency of management is largely due to the above-mentioned lack of stable management instruments, i.e. juridical protection status, clear boundaries, protection zones, regional and town planning projects, Conservation Master Plan, Management Plan, etc. Because of this, no objective basis exists to support an adequate property management;

- The above-said creates conflicts between the actors in the management system. In the conditions of rapid development of entrepreneurial activities with external acquisition in a tender process and of privatisation of cultural heritage sites, the absence of regimes encourages the unbridled ambitions of various organisations and private persons to use the territory of the Archipelago in an inappropriate way. This situation creates a contradiction between the preservation authorities and the owners of the monuments. The inadequate protection arrangements hinder the coordination between the central actors. For example, the absence of status for territory protection as natural preserve is an obstacle to the coordination between the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Natural Resources. On the other hand, the use of the land in the Archipelago is subject to the so-called “Forestry Regulation”, which is approved by the Government of the Arkhangelsky Region. This creates conditions for contradiction between the property preservation requirements of the Ministry of Culture and the ambitions of the regional authorities for fast-track development of tourist infrastructure. Sometimes the three local management players have opposing interests. As the draft Retrospective Statement of OUV points out, the integrity of the system for management is seriously threatened by the fact that different bodies manage individual components of the property, in the absence of a single leadership. The mission established that in these conditions the local population of the Archipelago has a small part to play in management. To some extent, it is even disinterested in property preservation. The Regional Strategy states that the participants
rather share “an ideology of heritage consumers than a desire for preservation and sustainable use”.

- One of the most serious weaknesses of the management system is the absence of single leadership in management and of coordination between the participating parties. Thus, the Regional Strategy defines the participants in the management as a mechanical gathering of actors with no coordination between them. It pays attention to the absence of a coordinating mechanism. The State Party’s 2012 state of conservation report contains an organigramme of the property management, which has no coordinating body. The mission noted that the coordinating and controlling functions of the State concerning the property are not sufficient. This, the State only controls sites of federal importance (114), whereas the sites of regional importance (211) are controlled by the Regional Administration. As a result, the monuments of regional importance are in a critical condition, and some of them no longer exist. However, all cultural heritage sites are an integral part of the WH property and require equal attention. The Regional Strategy points out that the public authorities regard the Solovetsky village as an ordinary village the maintenance of which is an obligation of the local population alone; however, the village is an integral part of the WH property and requires special attention.

The mission fully shared the concern, which is stated in the Regional Strategy, that in the absence of an efficient management system, the property becomes extremely vulnerable. The above-mentioned problems of the state of property management, especially in view of the inadequacies of the existing management instruments, could create potential threat for the property and for its OUV.

Taking into account this consideration and the decisions of the 35th, 36th and 37th sessions of the World Heritage Committee, the mission formulated the following recommendation:

- A Management Plan of the property should be developed to ensure the joint effect of all the instruments of conservation, along with a Conservation Master Plan of the property as basic strategic instruments for preservation of its OUV. The Management Plan should be accompanied by an Action Plan, which should list all the activities and resources concerning the preservation of the property. In this regard, the proposal put forward in the Draft Amendment to the Federal Law, namely to set up a “Managing Organisation” and develop a Strategic Management Plan, will be very useful.
- To put in place a unified property management system with the participation of all the interested parties to coordinate all activities concerning the preservation and use of the property.
- In line with the Resolution of the Capacity-Building Workshop held in 2013 in Moscow, the management system must ensure an effective partnership between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Ministry of Culture. In addition, it is important to create incentives for and ensure local community involvement.

3. IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES

3.1 Understanding the Outstanding Universal Value of the property

The preservation of a WH property by using the proper tools and management system can only be effective if it is based on the relevance of its acknowledged Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

In 1992, the property “Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands”, Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as the property), was inscribed on the WH List. The 20 years that expired since then show a remarkable evolution of our perceptions of cultural heritage in general, which inevitably reflects itself on our understanding of that property’s OUV.
According to the initial assessment of ICOMOS, the “Solovetsky Complex” is a “Cultural and Historic Ensemble” which had developed historically on the entire territory of the Solovetsky Archipelago. Its subsequent history is graphically illustrated by the wealth of remains of all types that have survived in the natural habitat of the entire archipelago. Quite rightly, ICOMOS emphasised in its evaluation the historical and cultural values of the Ensemble, which bear an indisputable priority compared to its natural qualities proper. ICOMOS recommended also that the natural aspects of the site be subject to a separate assessment by IUCN.

The above-mentioned evolution of our perceptions of cultural heritage has revealed the importance of territorial structures - combined works of nature and of man - that are similar to the Solovetsky Ensemble as a new category: Cultural Landscape.

Taking this evolution into account, an onsite monitoring mission headed by ICOMOS (Mr Herb Stovel) in August 1998 focused its attention on the specifics of the property as a Cultural Landscape covering the entire territory of the Archipelago. According to the 1998 mission, cultural monuments and ensembles are a natural and organic part of the landscape; therefore, the singularity of the Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands was determined by the integral wholeness of the cultural and natural phenomena. On this basis, the 1998 mission recommended a renomination of the property, either as “Cultural Landscape”, or as “Mixed Cultural and Natural Heritage”.

On the other hand, according to the property's federal status, the Archipelago's integral territory does not represent an entire object of protection. According to Decree No. 1662-p of 27.09.2011 issued by the Government of the Russian Federation, the property's official name is “Ensemble of the Solovetsky Monastery and individual sites on the Islands of the Solovetsky Archipelago” (16th century - first half of the 20th century). A list of monuments and ensembles situated on the islands is enclosed with the Decree.

Undoubtedly, each of the above-mentioned viewpoints on the property’s OUV supposes a different set of preservation tools and different strategies for its management.

This is why the mission considers that a retrospective definition of the property’s OUV will be necessary in order to assess its present-day state of conservation and to make decisions concerning its future preservation².

On the grounds of an analysis of the available information, and following an on-site visit, the mission considers that the 1992 ICOMOS assessment and the OUV, which was defined upon the property’s inscription, provide a sufficiently sound basis for approach to the property. At the same time, however, the property’s definition should be updated to meet the latest understanding of cultural heritage of this type in terms of management and conservation planning tools that should consider the Archipelago as a whole. Previous studies (including the latest ones) of the Solovetsky Archipelago show that its entire territory is an integral property having the characteristics of a cultural landscape that integrates monuments of culture and ensembles dating from very ancient times to the first half of the 20th century.

This corresponds to the historical structure of The Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands³, which covers the entire territory of the Archipelago, and includes a system of monuments,

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² The monitoring missions that were carried out in recent years had established a similar need in respect of other WH Properties (e.g. concerning the Natural and Cultural-Historical Region of Kotor, Montenegro; the Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments, Russian Federation).
³ The mission distinguished between the Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands (the integral property, which includes all the monuments and ensembles on the islands) and the Ensemble of the Solovetsky Monastery (the Ensemble of the property's main site - the Solovetsky Monastery).
ensembles, historic settlements, and networks of sites, natural and sacred landscapes, seascape as follows:

- The Ensemble of the Solovetsky Monastery as the system’s spiritual centre;
- The Solovetsky historical village which can be considered as an Urban Historical Landscape;
- A network of Small and Secluded monasteries and Hermitages; public, housing and industrial buildings and equipment related to them; chapels (30); sacral topographic signs (more than 3 000 memorial crosses), etc.;
- A unique ancient irrigation system consisting of 21 lake-and-canal hydro technical facilities;
- The rural landscape with forestry and farmland use defined by the Monastery
- A network of historic memorial roads
- Archaeological remains of the most ancient layers of the North of Russia (e.g. unique sanctuaries from the 3rd to the 1st century BC on the Big Zayatsky Island and the Anzer Island);
- Memorial traces of GULAG (1923-1939).

A symbiosis exists on the islands between cultural and natural heritage, tangible and intangible heritage, which creates a sacral landscape, a spiritual-symbolic space that has moulded throughout centuries the shape of the entire territory of the Archipelago, and that defines the property’s OUV today.

The draft Retrospective Statement of OUV, which was submitted to the mission, follows this logic. According to it, the sites on the Archipelago are “interconnected geographically and historically, and represent one inseparable whole”, the property reflects “the harmonious activities of humans in nature”, and is “a masterpiece of creativity discerned as a cultural landscape”.

The mission considered that such an approach to the property does not suggest its re-nomination but that OUV and associative value of the property need to be taken into account in conservation and management provisions.

The mission recommended that IUCN could be requested to assist the State Party through an Advisory Mission in the assessment of the natural values of this site, as it was previously recommended by ICOMOS, to ascertain whether it would warrant a re-nomination as a mixed property.

Consequently, the mission recommended the following:

A comprehensive study needs to be carried about retrospective definition of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Solovetsky Archipelago. The study must define the key elements of the visual, functional and associative integrity of the whole property focusing on the interaction between humankind and nature; i.e. the evolution of the historic landscape layers from pre-history until 20th century, the spiritual landscape marked with a network of monasteries, hermitages and symbolic signs in the landscape up to the memorial landscape of the 20th century; the functional monastic landscape with its land-use patterns, historic transport network on land and sea and the specific eco-cultural systems through, water-, forestry- and agricultural management and scientific botanic research.

### 3.2 Capacity building

For centuries, the Solovetsky Monastery has been a centre of excellence in training and capacity building. The restoration school of the Museum has assured high skills in conservation and restoration. The Botanical garden is still leading in its specific field in the
Arctic region. The mission learned that the Museum's restoration workshops are now closed, and conservation works are being undertaken by consultancies from outside through a tender system. Often these are only one-year projects, a fact that hinders the transfer of site-specific knowledge. Traditional work in conservation including landscape restoration and management has proven to offer job opportunities even for the local community. The possibilities of reconstitution of a training centre within the Monastery including arts, building and landscape conservation is recommended.

The mission could testify that the identity of Solovetsky Islands is high among the stakeholders and the community. However, it was not clear what being the designation as a World Heritage property means and which benefits and constraints it entails. The involvement of an increasing number of outside actors; developers, consultants and decision-makers in planned development projects, increase of visitors etc. calls for a clear and shared understanding of the OUV of the property.

The mission recommended including in the regional strategy the development of a comprehensive capacity building programme as an essential part of the Management strategy. This programme should be aimed at all necessary stakeholders including professionals, religious leaders, and the larger community.

3.3 Visitor management

The annual visitor number to Solovetsky has been relatively stable during the last years and the Monastery has set limits for visitor numbers. However, the new regional strategy focuses on visitor increase with better infrastructure, marketing and facilitation for foreign cruising ships, among other measures. The visitors are both national and international including both tourists and pilgrims. The Solovetsky Islands attracts even visitors from the region who come for its recreational values and camp in the nature without control.

The regional development strategy takes account of the cultural and natural values of the property, but a sustainable and integrated tourism management plan in compliance with the tangible and intangible value has not yet been developed. The carrying capacity of the property must be carefully defined jointly with all stakeholders. A risk preparedness strategy should be included regarding both visitor risks and environmental risks.

Bearing in mind the expected change of Solovetsky Islands as a tourism target the mission strongly recommends that a tourism management strategy should be developed as a priority issue and submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for comments.

4. STATE OF CONSERVATION

4.1. Physical state of the property

(Photos 18–31)

The mission considers that the structural state of the property is highly unequal.

Some of the monuments have been subject of conservation interventions; their state is very good or satisfactory. These are mainly components of the central monastery ensemble and some sites outside it.

At the same time, a number of sites and landscape components are in a poor, or even ruined state, namely:
• The state of the eco-cultural system of the whole property, the unique irrigation system of the Archipelago, and in particular the historical underground canals leading to the Holy Lake, is extremely critical. The destruction of the canals resulted in breaking the natural filtration and outflow of the surplus water. This has led to destruction of the soil at the foundations of the Solovetsky Monastery, which causes deformation of the very foundations. These serious deteriorations of materials and of structures represent a threat to the Monastery Ensemble, and require urgent measures;

• There are problems in the architectural monuments of the Monastery Ensemble: bad technical condition of the roofing constructions (Church of Assumption and Saviour Transfiguration Cathedral) and the cellar and service corpses (along the eastern monastery wall, the Annunciation and the Holy Corpus), the Hospital Pavilion, the Arkhangeska and White Towers, etc.;

• A number of Small and Secluded monasteries, Hermitages and the farm buildings thereto are also in a ruined state, especially the ones which are monuments of regional importance (e.g. Trinity and Golgofo-Raspyatskiy Small and Secluded monasteries on the Anzer Island, Trinity Sergiev Small and Secluded monasteries on the Big Mucksalma Island, Isakovskiy Hermitage (burned down), etc.). Some historical buildings are in a very serious state, and are intentionally destroyed in order to be reconstructed;

• The state of the historic monastery roads in the whole property is critical. While the road system is still in place, the lack of traditional maintenance of dirt roads has worsened their condition. Some have been modified to facilitate visitor access.

• The process of degradation of the landscape, its ecosystem and its cultural components (natural landmarks, and their interaction with the sacral topography, associative landscape elements, monastic use of the farmland and forests, etc.) is increasing due to lack of traditional maintenance and increased and uncontrolled tourism;

• A number of archaeological monuments are in need of better maintenance (e.g. the stone mounds on Labyrinth cap, the Kolguy cap labyrinth on the Island of Anzer, etc.);

• The Regional Development Strategy of the Archipelago contains information about the critical state of the technical infrastructure, which is also a threat to the sustainability of the cultural landscape and cultural heritage: 90% of the water supply network is in an emergency state; the central drainage system is missing and because of this 52 000 m³ of wastewater per year flows into the Gulf of Blagopoluchie, immediately in front of the Monastery Ensemble; the electric and heat transfer networks are seriously damaged; the problem of hard waste collection is serious, and waste is piling up along the roads.

The mission considers that the above-mentioned problems are due to the following reasons:

• The protection arrangements deficiencies which were mentioned above, namely the absence of an adequate juridical status of protection, protection zones with regimes, and a Regional Planning Project for the entire Archipelago;

• The ineffective management system, insufficient monitoring and control, planning and financing problems concerning the conservational activities;

• The inadequate economic use of the territory or the absence of appropriate contemporary functions which do not negatively impact the OUV, which dooms the buildings to degradation due to aggressive external conditions;
• The uncontrolled growth of anthropogenic loading in the middle of the Archipelago, which is also recognised by the Regional Strategy, etc.

The mission established that this situation could represent serious threats to the property’s authenticity and integrity, with a danger to its OUV.

4.2. Conservation activities

Until now, conservation activities have been carried out on a number of monuments on the Archipelago. In the nineteen sixties and seventies, conservation was carried out on the Saviour-Transfiguration Cathedral, the Church of Assumption with Refectory and the Church of Nickolas. In 1988, a General Design for Restoration and Accommodation of the Solovetsky Monastery was prepared. The 2012 Report on the State of Conservation submitted by the State Party contains information concerning conservational interventions on a number of monuments in 2011 (for the total cost of RUB 175 million), and in 2012 (for the total sum of RUB 300 million). The total sum necessary for conservation activities is estimated at RUB 1.75 billion. The Report contains a timetable of conservation activities with the participation of the Ministry of Culture, the Moscow Patriarch’s Office and the Solovetsky Monastery. The funds will be allocated from the national budget, pursuant to the Federal Special-Purpose Programme “The Culture of Russia” (2012-2018).

The mission established the following problems related to conservation activities:

• A strong disproportion exists in the distribution of conservation activities by sites, by territories, and by intervention types. An undisputed priority of the conservation policy is the central Monastery Ensemble and some key monuments of federal importance. A number of sites, particularly sites of regional importance (Small and Secluded monastery, Hermitages, archaeological monuments, historical roads, landscape elements, etc.) are neglected. The focus is mainly on restoration interventions (for the most part facades, walls and roofs) of selected monuments, and reconstructions, and much less on maintenance and permanent care for the monuments.

• Another issue is the shortage of projects, or the projects available would be obsolete (e.g. dating from 1988) and the lack of sufficient quality assessment in local tender proposals.

• There is insufficient control of the conservation activities by the federal preservation authority. The mission received information that in some cases it was preferable to destroy authentic monuments in critical condition and to reconstruct them (e.g. the old port of the Monastery). The draft Retrospective Statement OUV mentions an existing tendency towards reducing the requirements of credible restoration works complying with authenticity;

• The absence of a Conservation Master Plan is strongly felt, as it is particularly important to the complex and mutually connected structure of the cultural heritage of the Archipelago. Present faults in the planning of conservation activities are greatly due to the absence of a methodological consistency in the assessment of the state of the sites on the Archipelago’s territory, the classification of their importance, clear motivation regarding interventions, stage-by-stage planning that takes into account seasonal activities, building of production capacities, regular financing, etc.;

• The Regional Strategy also emphasises the lack of highly skilled workers in the area of conservation.

These conservation policy problems could represent a potential threat to the property and its OUV.
4.3. New developments

In view of the imperfect protection arrangements and the lack of regional or town planning in the last decades, the territory around the Solovetsky Monastery has witnessed a spontaneous process of uncontrolled expansion of the Solovetsky village and the assimilation of new territories, including seaside land. This is connected with new constructions, which are not always in conformity with the property’s OUV.

Regrettably, the new General Urban Plan of the Solovetsky village (2012) encourages this process to a large degree. For example, the Museum Complex project is a direct consequence of the Plan. An area of 220 sq. m. belonging to the Solovetsky Monastery, in direct visual connection to it, was allocated to this purpose (Fig. 16, 17). The proposed construction has the following dimensions: 56 m length of the façade, and 10.5 m height. If it is built on this area and has this size, the Museum Complex will compromise the central ensemble of the property, the Solovetsky Monastery. Another cause for concern is the planned development of the airport, which is centrally located in valuable landscape, and is in close proximity to, and with a visual connection with, the Ensemble of the Monastery. The mission considers that the possibility should be explored to move the airport outside the visual basin of the Monastery. There are also worries connected to other buildings and complexes envisaged by the General Plan (e.g. the Complex of the Regional Administration Office, which is situated in the protection zone of a protected landscape).

The mission paid particular attention to the growing practice to carry out reconstruction of extinct historical buildings. The 35th and 36th sessions of the World Heritage Committee expressed its serious concern over such practices.

In reality, reconstruction presented as regeneration is new construction, which is the only possible work that can be carried out in the territory of monuments and their protected zones according to the new Draft on Protection Zones (2013). According to the Draft, reconstruction must be done in line with existing plans/drawings or measurements or “pursuant to the method of “compensatory construction”, by historical analogy, provided there is a sufficient number of historical-architectural and archaeological data”. There is no doubt that such a definition is open to hypothetical reconstruction, with all the risks to the property’s authenticity. It is important to note that Paragraph 86 of the Operational Guidelines allows for reconstruction, only in exceptional circumstances which would not appear be the case at this property.

According to this logic, the 2011 and 2012 conservation programmes list planned reconstructions of the Rector’s Corpus, the Hospital and Mlechniy Dom in the Monastery Complex, the Golgofo-Raspyatskiy Small and Secluded monastery on the Anzer Island, etc. Reconstruction was carried out on the historical monastery port, the Monastery’s cemetery wall, and the reconstruction of the Church St. Onuphrius the Great has been planned. Also planned is the reconstruction of sacral topography elements, the canals network, some historical roads, etc. The 2012 Report on the State of Conservation of the property indicates that it intends to “reconstruct historical forms”, “restore lost elements of the Outstanding Universal Value”, “revamp magnificent buildings out of ruins” etc.

The mission regards this process of active substitution of the property’s authentic environment through reconstruction as a serious threat to its authenticity and to its OUV.

Bearing in mind the above-mentioned state of conservation, the mission has formulated the following recommendations:

(1) The State Party should submit to the WHC, as a matter of urgency, a hydrological soil analysis and action plan developed to immediately stop this degradation and to prevent any possible structural collapses and floods, including all relevant documentation illustrating the
availability of the necessary funding and management tools to insure the full implementation of
the restoration and repair works;

(2) A Conservation Master Plan should be developed covering the entire Cultural and Historic
Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands. The Plan should propose different types of conservation
activities, their gradual implementation, the necessary resources, etc., based on assessment
of the OUV of the property, the cultural landscape value, assessment of the actual physical
status of the landscape and monuments, and an accurate justification of interventions.

(3) All conservation, development or new construction projects that may have a current or
future impact on the OUV of the property should be submitted for assessment to the WHC,
together with a heritage impact assessment. In particular, a proposal should be made to cease
the activities on the Museum Complex until its location and Terms of Reference are clarified.

(4) The practice should be reconsidered of reconstruction of extinct historical buildings or
structures, bearing in mind the requirements of paragraph 86 of the Operational Guidelines.

(5) Risk preparedness (fire prevention, detection, alarm and suppression) as well as
environmental risk management and socio-cultural risk management are to be seen as an
essential part of management strategy.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The mission considered that the conservation policy on the property has the following positive
aspects:

- Based on sound legislation in the cultural heritage area, part of the property’s territory -
individual, most valuable monuments and ensembles - is protected, and enjoys a
regulated juridical status and protection zones. A new draft has been prepared (not yet
approved) on protection zones and regimes in respect of these monuments and
ensembles;

- A General Urban Plan of the Solovetsky village and a Regional Development Strategy of
the Solovetsky Archipelago were developed; they will introduce a certain order in the
heretofore chaotic and uncontrolled urbanisation process;

- A property management system with regulated actors with their respective functions is
operating. A certain progress has been made in the relations between the Russian
Orthodox Church and the State. The Training Workshop, which was held in May 2013, will
undoubtedly contribute to this end;

- A Special-Purpose Federal Programme exists, and serves as a basis for the
implementation of conservation activities on selected monuments and ensembles;

While assessing these positive aspects, the mission also states there are serious
problems in the conservation policy concerning the property, namely:

- A contradiction exists between the acknowledged OUV of the property and the perception
thereof, as formulated by the federal legislation. Whereas the property is inscribed on the
World Heritage List as an integral Cultural and Historic Ensemble covering the entire
territory of the Solovetsky Islands, according to the federal legislation its cultural value is
carried only by one part of the Archipelago, namely the Ensemble of the Solovetsky
Monastery, along with some individual monuments and ensembles. No comprehensive
historic-cultural study has yet been carried out of the Cultural and Historic Ensemble of
the Solovetsky Islands in order for the characteristics of its integral cultural values to be identified;

- The above-said has resulted in inadequate protection arrangements: only one part of the property (selected monuments and ensembles) enjoys a federal juridical status; no adequate Buffer Zone has been prescribed; there are no protection zones with regimes covering the entire territory of the property. These are prerequisites for potential danger to the authenticity and integrity of the property;

- There is no Regional Planning Project for the entire territory of the property; threatening effects have been established of town planning with potential danger to the authenticity and integrity of the property's most valuable territory: the space around the Ensemble of the Solovetsky Monastery. This type of regional and town planning is particularly risky in the conditions of growing tourist and entrepreneurial activities;

- There is no efficient management system that would provide co-ordination among the actors and would operate on the basis of a Management Plan;

- Because of the above, the situation in many monuments and ensembles is critical (particularly so at the foundations of the Monastery Ensemble because of destruction of the historical canals leading to the Holy Lake). A strong disparity exists in conservation activities, including planning errors in the absence of a Conservation Master Plan. At the same time, there is a growing practice of reconstructing extinct historical buildings and structures, which is a serious threat to the property's authenticity. The new construction can threaten the property's OUV. The new projects are not submitted to the WHC for preliminary evaluation.

- No heritage impact assessments were presented to the mission. A Heritage Impact Assessment is done in order to evaluate in a systematic and coherent way the impact of the potential development on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. It is a proactive tool that identifies both positive and negative impacts, which can be direct or indirect and regard both tangible and intangible heritage.

The mission noted the lack of a comprehensive and enforceable conservation policy for the property, which could represent a potential threat to its OUV.

While the general state of conservation of key components the property is still satisfactory, the mission is of the opinion that if no urgent measures are taken at all decision-making levels for the protection and management of the World Heritage property as a whole and in conformity with its status, in order to increase the degree of its protection, as well as to prevent any loss of historical authenticity, deterioration of structures and planning coherence due to the inappropriate regional planning projects, the property could potentially meet the criteria for its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The mission formulates the following detailed recommendations for urgent measures:

(1) A comprehensive study needs to be carried out to define the OUV of The Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands in the framework of the entire Archipelago. The study must identify the cultural landscape key characteristics and define the parameters for assessing the integrity and authenticity of the property. The study should include the visual and associative character of the whole territory; i.e. horizontal and vertical structure of the sacral landscape; stratification of the historical layers (3 000 years BC to the 20th century); systemic networks of sites: cultural itineraries, irrigation systems, etc.; silhouettes and embankment panoramas in particular; visual axes and interactions, etc.
(2) On the basis of the suggested comprehensive study of the property territory, a detailed registry of the cultural heritage sites should be compiled, as well as an exhaustive cultural heritage cadastre with special emphasis on archaeological monuments;

(3) On this basis, an adequate juridical status of property protection throughout the territory of the Archipelago should be imposed. Bearing in mind the above-mentioned legislative framework, the mission suggests that the following possibilities for granting specific types of status be considered:

- In respect of the entire territory of the Solovetsky Archipelago, the status of “Site” would be the most appropriate one (R: “dostoprimechatelnoe mesto”);
- In respect of the territory of the Solovetsky historical village, the status of “historical settlement” would be most appropriate (R: “istoricheskoe poselenie”);

(4) The proposed draft Law concerning the Introduction of Amendments and Supplements to the 2002 Federal Law should be adopted as soon as possible;

(5) In parallel with the regulation of the property’s juridical status pursuant to the federal legislation, its legitimate boundaries should be specified and marked on cadastral maps;

(6) The State Party should propose buffer zone delimitation around the property that would probably cover part of the aquatic area of the Archipelago.

(7) A Draft on Protected Zones, including regimes for the entire territory of The Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands in the framework of the Archipelago, should be further developed. The draft should be based upon the study for defining its integral cultural values, the property’s new juridical status, and the detailed registry of the cultural heritage sites.

(8) A Regional Planning Project should be developed for the entire territory of the property - the Solovetsky Archipelago - which should take into account the specifics of its OUV and the system of Protection Zones and regimes;

(9) On this basis, the existing General Urban Plan of the Solovetsky village should be revised in order to avoid the above-mentioned negative impact. The development of the subsequent stages of urban plans should be speeded up;

(10) A Management Plan of the Property should be developed to ensure the joint effect of all the instruments of conservation as a basic strategic instrument for preservation of its OUV. The Management Plan should be accompanied by an Action Plan, which should list all the activities and resources concerning the preservation of the property.

(11) To put in place a unified property management system with the participation of all the interested parties to coordinate all activities concerning the preservation and use of the property. In this regard, the idea put forward in the Draft Amendment to the Federal Law, namely to set up a “Managing Organisation” and develop a Strategic Management Plan, will be very useful. In line with the Resolution of the Training Workshop held in 2013 in Moscow, the management system must ensure an effective partnership between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Ministry of Culture. In addition, it is important to create incentives for the local population.

(12) The State Party shall submit to the WHC as a matter of urgency a hydrological soil analysis and action plan developed to immediately stop this degradation and to prevent any possible structural collapses and floods, including all relevant documentation illustrating the availability of the necessary funding and management tools to insure the full implementation of the restoration and repair works.
(13) A Conservation Master Plan should be developed covering the entire Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands. The Plan should propose different types of conservation activities, their gradual implementation, the necessary resources, etc., based on assessment of the cultural values, assessment of the actual physical status of the monuments, and an accurate justification of interventions.

(14) All major conservation or new construction projects should be submitted for review to the WHC, together with a study of their impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property according to ICOMOS Heritage Impact Assessment guidance. In particular, a proposal should be made to cease the activities on the Museum Complex until its location and Terms of Reference are clarified.

(15) The practice of reconstruction of extinct historical buildings or structures should be stopped, except in exceptional circumstances as outlined in paragraph 86 of the Operational Guidelines.
ANNEX 1 : BACKGROUND TO THE MISSION

1.1 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE JOINT UNESCO – ICOMOS – ICCROM REACTIVE MONITORING MISSION TO THE CULTURAL AND HISTORIC ENSEMBLE OF THE SOLOVETSKY ISLANDS, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, 5-14 AUGUST 2013

The World Heritage property of Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands (Russian Federation) was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1992 under cultural criteria (iv).

The property includes the Solovetsky archipelago which comprises six islands in the western part of the White Sea, covering 300 km².

At its 35th (UNESCO, 2011) and 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) sessions, the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a report on the state of conservation of the property, as well as to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property to a) review the existing management system and decision-making mechanisms, b) assess the overall state of conservation of the property.

In accordance with these decisions, the objective of the mission is to review the state of conservation of the property as well as progress in the implementation of the Committee’s decision 36 COM 7B.86.

In particular, the mission should review and assess the following key issues:

a) The overall state of conservation of all component parts of the property, including its landscape;
b) Progress in the clarification of boundaries of the property and its buffer zone and on the approval by all relevant national authorities of the project on the revision for the buffer zone of the Solovetsky Archipelago;
c) The current status of projects to undertake or to authorize major restoration interventions, including the possible reconstruction of the monastery buildings, and new construction proposals within the World Heritage property, its buffer zone and landscape setting which could affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
d) The status of the Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), prepared in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for World Heritage cultural properties, of the on-going and planned developments, particularly for the possible creation of a research centre, a tourist centre and other modern infrastructure on the island;
e) The status of the development strategy of the Archipelago of Solovetsky, of the Master Plan of the Solovetsky Monastery and any other planning documents to enhance the protection of and management of the property;
f) The status of the current management system for the property, including institutional frameworks, decision-making mechanisms, supervision and monitoring mechanisms and the establishment of a special board, including all stakeholders concerned and the representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church;
g) Progress in the establishment and enforcement of appropriate regulatory and protection measures to strengthen monitoring and management of this property of religious interest;
h) Other conservation issues currently affecting the property.

The mission should hold consultations with the Russian authorities at national and local levels and all other relevant stakeholders, including the Russian Orthodox Church. Based on the results of the above mentioned assessment and discussion with the State Party representatives, the mission team will propose recommendations to the State Party and the World Heritage Committee to further improve the conservation and management of the property. The mission team will prepare a mission report in English or French on the findings and recommendations for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session (2014).
The report should follow the standard format included in Annex III. The ICOMOS and ICCROM experts are expecting to submit the first draft to the World Heritage Centre’s representative for comments. The final draft should be submitted for comments and validation to the World Heritage Centre, ICCROM and ICOMOS Headquarters in hard copy and an electronic version.

The Committee had also requested the State Party and the Moscow Patriarchate to organise, in the framework of the mission, a special training workshop, in close coordination with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, for the religious representatives involved in the management and use of the World Heritage properties in the Russian Federation.

An International Seminar for the religious representatives involved in the management and use of the World Heritage properties of religious interest, was co-organised by the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation and the Russian Orthodox Church, in close coordination with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, ICCROM and the Russian National Commission for UNESCO prior to the mission and took place in Moscow, 13 – 17 May 2013. National authorities and religious representatives attended the seminar from the Russian Federation, as well as representatives from other CIS countries (http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1056/).

1.2. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

**Inscription History of the World Heritage Property**

The World Heritage property of the Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands (Russian Federation) was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1992, under *Criteria: Cultural site (iv)* during the 16th Session of the Committee.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:**
The Solovetsky archipelago comprises six islands in the western part of the White Sea, covering 300 km². They have been inhabited since the 5th century B.C. and important traces of a human presence from as far back as the 5th millennium B.C. can be found there. The archipelago has been the site of fervent monastic activity since the 15th century, and there are several churches dating from the 16th to the 19th century.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (STATEMENT OF THE STATE PARTY)**
Remarkable value of the historical cultural and natural complex "Solovetsky islands" can be defined as follows:

1. Solovetsky historical, cultural and natural complex is a unique whole body, a masterpiece of the creator that hasn’t got analogues.
   It is a multiform world, opening great achievements of primeval culture, material culture of Medieval Russia and New time, Russian spirituality, architecture, military engineering and natural landscape, changed by man.
2. The complex consists of unique primeval island monuments the oldest in Russian North: sanctuaries with sepulchres, stands and workshops having rich collection of artefacts of spiritual and economic origin. The earliest are Saam sepulchres, closed stone harbour of Big Zayatsky island, stone stews, system of drinking canals, stone cell-houses (Solovetsky island). Archaeological monuments of archipelago are extremely valuable as examples of ancient sea culture.
3. During four centuries Solovetsky monastery influenced a great deal to the development of history and culture of Russia and European North, being spiritual, economic, cultural and military centre of Northern-West region. It formed, popularized its economic, technical, fortificational, building experience. It was the pioneer in creating many innovations in architecture, hydrotechniques, navigation of Northern Europe.
4. Architectural ensembles of Solovetsky monastery are the only in the North collection of numerous monuments erected from boulders, brick and forged iron.
Integrity and architectural expression is reached by high concentration of bodies of the buildings on small territory. The fortress of Solovetsky monastery is the only Russian fortificational complex made from large boulders. The complex is a synthesis of cultural and natural forms.

5. Solovky are connected with the prominent persons and historical events in the World History: Ivan the Terrible, Peter the Great, metropolitan Phillippe, North War (1700-1721), Crimea War (1853-1856); in 1920-1930 one of the largest concentration camps located in the territory of Solovetsky monastery. Prisoners of this camp were distinguished men of culture and science, Father Pavel Florensky and D.S.Lihatchev and others.

6. Solovetsky islands as a natural phenomenon are of great value. Geological formation of the archipelago reflects all main stages of after glacial geological history of Northern Europe, the islands have been demonstrating the processes of compensational raise of the land and abatement of the water-level of the seas of the Arctic Ocean. Solovky is a unique example of harmonic activity of man in Nature. There are rare species of plants and animals registered in the International Red Books. Solovetsky archipelago is a region of wonderful natural beauty.

**ADVISORY BODY STATEMENT:**

ICOMOS recommends that this cultural property be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of Criterion iv, but that the description be amended to read "Solovetskii historie and cultural complex".

- **Criterion iv**: The Solovetskii complex is an outstanding example of a monastic settlement in the inhospitable environment of northern Europe which admirably illustrates the faith, tenacity, and enterprise of late medieval religious communities. Its subsequent history is graphically illustrated by the wealth of remains of all types that have survived.

ICOMOS, October 1992

**Extracts of Working Documents and Decisions: 37th, 36th and 35th sessions of the Committee**

**Working Document, state of conservation report**

37th session of the World Heritage Committee,
Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 16 - 27 June 2013
WHC-13/37.COM/7B.Add

**Conservation issues**

At its 35th (UNESCO, 2011) and 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) sessions, the World Heritage Committee had requested the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a report on the state of conservation of the property, as well as to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property to a) review the existing management system and decision-making mechanisms, b) assess the overall state of conservation of the property.

The State Party did not submit a state of conservation report as requested. Thus no information has been provided on the possible reconstruction of the monastery buildings and other major interventions in the landscape of the property for which the Committee requested information in 2011. During the last two years, the mission has continuously been postponed due to various reasons.

According to information available on the website of the Russian Orthodox Church, an agreement between the Ministry of Culture and the Russian Orthodox Church was signed on 3 May 2012, in order to establish cooperation in the sphere of culture and cultural heritage with a specific focus on the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

On 6 September 2012, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre that a Committee on the conservation of the spiritual, cultural and natural heritage of the Solovetsky Archipelago was established within the framework of the “President’s working group on matters relating to
the restoration of cultural heritage sites of religious significance and other religious buildings and artefacts”. The State Party also informed that within the framework of the Instruction by the President of the Russian Federation of 25 June 2012 “on measures to conserve and develop the Solovetsky Archipelago as a cultural and natural site”, the Ministry of Culture is working to develop and implement a range of mechanisms to safeguard and develop this site. An inspection visit to the site was carried out by the representatives of the Ministry of Culture.

Upon request of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, the World Heritage Centre jointly developed with ICCROM and ICOMOS a concept note for a special training workshop for the religious representatives involved in the management and use of the World Heritage properties in the Russian Federation. The State Party proposed to organize this workshop, which had been requested by the World Heritage Committee since its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011) in May 2013.

The World Heritage Centre was informed by the UNESCO Moscow Office that draft amendments to the Federal Law on Cultural Heritage of the Russian Federation have been introduced by the Russian Government following the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee, as well as that a Round-Table on implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Russian Federation has taken place on 21 March 2013 by the Cultural Committee of the Russian Duma in Moscow further to the request of the Committee to review the legal framework for the protection of World Heritage in the Russian Federation. The World Heritage Centre is in contact with the Russian authorities concerning further details on this issue.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies take note of the State Party’s efforts to develop a range of mechanisms to safeguard and develop the property but note as well that no state of conservation report has been submitted regarding the majority of the World Heritage Committee’s requests. They draw attention to the fact that, as no reports have been received for the past two years, no information has been provided on the possible reconstruction of the monastery buildings and other major interventions in the landscape of the property for which information was first requested in 2011.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies therefore recommend that the Committee reiterate all requests included in the decisions taken at the 35th (UNESCO, 2011) and 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) sessions of the Committee.

DECISION ADOPTED BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE AT ITS 37TH SESSION
Document WHC-13/37.COM/20

Decision: 37 COM 7B.82

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions 35 COM 7B.107 and 36 COM 7B.86 adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011) and 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) sessions respectively,
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a state of conservation report;
4. Takes note of the steps the State Party is making towards developing legal measures for the protection of World Heritage cultural properties, as well as for the establishment of a “Committee on the conservation of the spiritual, cultural and natural heritage of the Solovetsky Archipelago”;

33
5. Notes that the State Party decided to organise, further to the Committee’s request and in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, ICCROM and ICOMOS, a training workshop for the religious representatives involved in the management and use of the World Heritage properties in the Russian Federation;

6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre detailed information concerning the Master Plan of the Solovetsky Monastery and any other planning documents prior to the reactive monitoring mission;

7. Reiterates its concern also requests about the possible reconstruction of the monastery buildings and other major interventions in the landscape of the property in terms of the impact on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and the State Party to provide detailed information to the World Heritage Centre prior to the mission;

8. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre all project proposals that may threaten the OUV of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, as well as to submit alongside all new proposals Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for World Heritage cultural properties;

9. Further reiterates its request recommends to the State Party to invite, as a matter of urgency, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property to assess the overall state of conservation of the property and that the mission be scheduled as soon as possible;

10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2014, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014.

Working Document, state of conservation report
36th session of the World Heritage Committee,
Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, 24 June – 6 July 2012
Document WHC-12/36.COM/7B.Add

Current conservation issues
The State Party did not submit a state of conservation report as requested by the World Heritage Committee. In a letter dated 9 April 2012, the President of the Russian World Heritage Committee within the National Commission for UNESCO explained that the delay of the report and the implementation of the Retrospective Inventory for some World Heritage properties in the Russian Federation, which were transferred to the Russian Orthodox Church, is due to organizational management issues concerning the interaction between the State authorities and the Russian Orthodox Church. He further indicated that the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation is currently engaged in finding an appropriate solution and as soon as the solution is found, the State Party will submit the necessary documents to the World Heritage Centre. No further information was provided by the State Party.

According to information available on the website of the Russian Orthodox Church, the issue regarding cultural heritage of religious interest in the Russian Federation was discussed on 22 February 2012 during a special Board on Culture. Also, according to information available on the website of the Solovetsky monastery, on 23 March 2012 the Governor of the region of Arkhangelsk visited the monastery together with the newly appointed Vice-Governor of the Arkhangelsk region in charge of the development of the Archipelago of Solovetsky and with other high-level state representatives. According to this information, during the visit, the delegation discussed the approved Master Plan of the Solovetsky monastery with all concerned stakeholders, including the representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church. The information also highlights that the development strategy of the Archipelago of Solovetsky was
discussed in detail and appropriate measures regarding revitalisation of the cultural monuments have been identified.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies have informed the State Party that the joint reactive monitoring mission, requested by the Committee, could be carried out in July 2012. At the time of the preparation of the report, the State Party had not provided feedback concerning the dates of the mission.

**Conclusion**

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note, from the available information, that some measures towards the revitalisation of the Solovetsky monastery and the development of the Archipelago of Solovetsky are developed by the local authorities in coordination with the Russian Orthodox Church. It also appears that a Master Plan for the Solovetsky monastery was approved. Since this information has not been communicated by the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies recommend to the Committee to State of conservation of World Heritage properties WHC-12/36.COM/7B.Add, p. 166 Inscribed on the World Heritage List request the State Party to provide relevant details concerning the Master Plan and the revitalisation projects.

They recommend that the Committee reiterate its concern regarding planned reconstruction of the monastery buildings mentioned by the representative of the Moscow Patriarchate during the Kyiv Seminar in November 2010. They consider that all project proposals should be accompanied by detailed heritage impact assessments, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for World Heritage cultural properties and submitted to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review and comments prior to their approval.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies recommend that the Committee reiterate all requests included in the decision taken at the 35th session of the Committee (UNESCO, 2011), considering that no information has been provided by the State Party regarding those requests.

**DECISION ADOPTED BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE AT ITS 36TH SESSION, Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, 24 June – 6 July 2012**

Document WHC-12/36.COM/19

Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands (Russian Federation) (C 632)

**Decision: 36 COM 7B.86**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision 35 COM 7B.107 adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),

3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a state of conservation report and has not otherwise provided information on the implementation of its decision;

4. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre detailed information concerning the Master Plan of the Solovetsky Monastery and any other planning documents prior to the mission;

5. Reiterates its concern about the possible reconstruction of the monastery buildings and other major interventions in the landscape of the property, in terms of impact on its Outstanding Universal Value, and also requests the State Party to provide detailed information to the World Heritage Centre prior to the mission;

6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre all project proposals that may threaten the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, as well as to accompany all new proposals
by Heritage impact assessments, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for World Heritage cultural properties;

7. Also reiterates its concern about the apparent lack of monitoring mechanisms and adequate management structures and urges the State Party to develop and implement appropriate legal measures and rules for conservation, restoration and management and use of religious World Heritage properties, as well as to develop a joint management system by establishing a special board including all stakeholders, as well as representatives of the Patriarchate of Moscow and All-Russia;

8. Also reiterates its request to the State Party and the Moscow Patriarchate to organise a special training workshop, in close coordination with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, for the religious representatives involved in the management and use of the World Heritage properties in the Russian Federation;

9. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property to:

   a) Review the existing management system and decision-making mechanisms,

   b) Assess the overall state of conservation of the property;

10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2013, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013.

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<th>Working Document, state of conservation report</th>
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<td>35th session of the World Heritage Committee,</td>
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<td>Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, 19-29 June 2011</td>
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<td>Document WHC-11/35.COM/7B.Add</td>
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Conservation issues

The World Heritage Centre had requested the State Party in three letters dated 18 January, 23 April and 23 November 2010, to provide the World Heritage Centre with a detailed report on the state of conservation of several World Heritage properties with religious meaning in the Russian Federation, including information on development projects and on the intention to change the management system and use of these World Heritage properties. Concerned by the lack of information on the state of conservation of the property, by the challenges faced due to the change in the management system, and taking into account that a new Federal Law on the transfer of State or Municipal properties of religious origin to religious organizations has been recently approved by the President of the Russian Federation (2010), the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies considered necessary to present a state of conservation report of this property for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session and requested the State Party to submit a state of conservation report by 1 March 2011.

The State Party did not submit a state of conservation report as requested. It explained in a letter of 13 April 2011, that in accordance with this new Federal Law on the transfer of State or Municipal properties of religious origin to religious organizations, the procedures for the transfer of the property are currently being developed by representatives of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO and the Patriarchate of Moscow and All-Russia. The State Party provides no further information and states that after the transition period the World Heritage Centre will be informed.

It is to be noted however, that during the international seminar on "The role of religious communities in the management of World Heritage properties" organized in November 2010 by the World Heritage Centre in Kiev, Ukraine, the representatives of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate (DCER) actively participated and State
of conservation of World Heritage properties WHC-11/35.COM/7B.Add, p. 157 inscribed on the World Heritage List informed in a presentation about the elaboration of a special state programme dedicated to the development of this property including the reconstruction of the monastery buildings, the creation of a research centre, the regeneration of the environment, the construction of a tourist centre and modern infrastructure on the island. They also informed that the property, both the monastery complex and the museum-reserve, are presided over by the monastic superior, a representative of the Russian Orthodox Church.

**Conclusions**

The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies note the apparent lack of monitoring as the State Party did not provide information on the state of conservation of the property. The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies note with concern the information transmitted by the religious representative during the Kyiv Seminar regarding planned reconstruction of the monastery buildings. Furthermore, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, the State Party should inform the World Heritage Centre of any project that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of a World Heritage property before irreversible decisions are taken, including those which are part of the special state programme. The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies consider that all project proposals should be accompanied by detailed heritage impact assessments, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for World Heritage cultural properties and that submitted to the World Heritage Centre in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies further stress the importance of setting up an adequate management system for the property. As for all World Heritage properties of religious meaning in the Russian Federation, the State Party has been invited by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010) to establish a special board, including all stakeholders concerned, including representatives of the Patriarchate of Moscow and All-Russia, in order to develop and implement appropriate legal measures and rules for conservation, restoration and use, a joint management system for the religious World Heritage properties in the Russian Federation, and specific measures appropriate for each religious property.

Due to the huge challenges faced by religious heritage and sacred places world-wide, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies recommend that the World Heritage Committee request the State Party to actively participate in the development of a Thematic Programme on Religious and Sacred Heritage. This Programme seeks to create an action plan for the protection of religious and sacred heritage world-wide aiming to enhancing the role of communities and preventing any misunderstandings, tensions or stereotypes.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies suggest that the World Heritage Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property to review the existing management system and decision-making mechanisms, and to assess the overall state of conservation of the property.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies also suggest that a special training workshop for the religious representatives involved in the management and use of the World Heritage properties in the Russian Federation be organised by the State Party and the Moscow Patriarchate to take place during this reactive monitoring mission.

**DECISION ADOPTED BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE AT ITS 35TH SESSION, Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, 19-29 June 2011**

Document WHC-11/35.COM/20
Decision: 35 COM 7B.107

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/7B.Add,

2. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a state of conservation report;

3. Expresses its concern about the apparent lack of monitoring mechanisms and adequate management structures and urges the State Party to develop and implement appropriate legal measures and rules for conservation, restoration and management and use of religious World Heritage properties, as well as to develop a joint management system by establishing a special board including all stakeholders, as well as representatives of the Patriarchate of Moscow and All-Russia;

4. Also expresses its concern about the possible reconstruction of the monastery buildings and other major interventions in the sensitive landscape of the property, in terms of impact on its Outstanding Universal Value;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre all project proposals, including those which are part of the special state programme, that may threaten the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and also requests that all new project proposals should be accompanied by heritage impact assessments, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for World Heritage cultural properties;

6. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property to:

   a) Review the existing management system and decision-making mechanisms,

   b) Assess the overall state of conservation of the property;

7. Invites the State Party and the Moscow Patriarchate to organise a special training workshop, in close coordination with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, for the religious representatives involved in the management and use of the World Heritage properties in the Russian Federation, to take place during the joint reactive monitoring mission;

8. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2012, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012.

1.4. COMPOSITION OF MISSION TEAM : MEMBERS OF THE JOINT UNESCO-ICOMOS-ICCROM MISSION TO THE CULTURAL AND HISTORIC ENSEMBLE OF THE SOLOVETSKY ISLANDS

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ANNEX 2 : MAPS, ILLUSTRATIONS AND PHOTOS

1. Part of the territory of the Big Solovetsky Island with the Ensemble of the Solovetsky Monastery. The protected zones of the monuments (marked in red) are the only protected zones. There is no federal protection of the entire territory (Draft on Protection zones, 2013, Specproektrestavraciya)
2. Protected zone of the Golgofo-Raspyatskiy Small and Secluded monastery on the Anzer Island (Draft on Protection zones, 2013, Specproektrestavraciya)
3. Map of the White Sea with the Solovetsky Archipelago (WH Property Dossier, 1992, and WH Retrospective Inventories). The borders of the property are indicated; they include the entire territory of the Archipelago
4. Property map (WH Property Dossier, 1992, and WH Retrospective Inventories)
5. Protection zones of the Ensemble of the Solovetsky Monastery approved in 1973
6. Draft on Protection zones (2013, Specproektrestavraciya). Location of the cultural heritage sites having federal importance, with ensured Protection Zones. No Protection Zones are provided for the remaining part of the property
14. Chart of the built-up territories of the Solovetsky village in the 1980’s (in red). The border of the 1973 Protection Zones of the Ensemble of the Solovetsky Monastery is marked in blue
15. Chart of the built-up territories of the Solovetsky village according to the General Urban Plan, 2012 (in red). The border of the 1973 Protection Zones of the Ensemble of the Solovetsky Monastery is marked in blue
16. Location and area of the lot allocated to Museum Complex envisaged in the General Urban Plan (2012) in proximity to the Ensemble of the Solovetsky Monastery (the projected height of the Complex is 10.5 m)

Photos (August 2013)
18. Central Monastery and Solovetsky Village from the sea
19. Central Monastery from the Holy Lake
20. Central Monastery and Solovetsky Village towards South
21. Central Monastery restoration works
22. View from Central Monastery towards the main road from harbour
23. Solovetsky Village and Gulag Museum (left)
24. New pilgrim house under construction at minor monastery of Golgotha Crucifixion
25. Church of Holy Ascension in lake landscape
26. Holy Trinity Monastery on Anzeris land (volunteer restoration camp in the foreground)
27. Restoration and new construction at Holy Trinity Monastery
28. Monastic landscape with roads and meadows around Church of Holy Ascension
29. Landscape from Sekirmaja hill
30. Canal system
31. Archaeological site with labyrinths on Bolshoj Zayatskyis land
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ИСТОРИКО-КУЛЬТУРНЫЙ ОПОРНЫЙ ПЛАН ОБЪЕКТА КУЛЬТУРНОГО НАСЛЕДИЯ
ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОГО ЗНАЧЕНИЯ МАКАРЬЕВСКАЯ ПУСТЬНЬ (Хутор Горка)
М 1:2000

Условные обозначения

Элементы планировочной структуры
- дороги исторические сохранявшиеся
- дороги исторические утраченные
- исторические луга, огороды

Характеристика застройки
- объекты культурного наследия федерального значения
- объекты культурного наследия регионального значения
- объекты культурного наследия выявленные
- номер памятника по списку ОКН СГИАПМЗ
- памятные камни

Система визуальных и композиционных связей
- основные наземные оси дистанционного восприятия
- граница бассейна видимости комплекса
- основные оси фрагментарного восприятия комплекса
- главные композиционные связи между архитектурно-ландшафтными комплексами

Примечание:
NN 154, 155, 156 и 157 - ОКН
муниципального значения (см. Приложение 2)

СРАВНИТЕЛЬНАЯ СХЕМА ГРАНИЦ ЗОН ОХРАНЫ ПРОЕКТОВ 1973 И 2013 ГГ.


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18. Central Monastery and Solovetsky Village from the sea

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30. Canal system

31. Archaeological site with labyrinths on Bolshoj Zayatsky island
ANNEX 3

Список документов запрошенных представителями ЮНЕСКО/ИККРОМ/ИКОМОС в рамках миссии на объект Всемирного Наследия «Культурный и исторический ансамбль Соловецких островов»

1 Список Федеральных и региональных законодательных документов (охрана наследия; охранные зоны; территориальное развитие и др)
2 Федеральные, региональные и муниципальные правила землепользования и правила регулирования ремонтно-строительных работ на территории объекта всемирного наследия состоящего из шесть островов
3 Положение о воссоздании памятников
4 Предложение о введении поправок в закон № 73 «Достопримечательное место религиозно-исторического значения»
5 Блок-схема взаимоотношений между Федеральными (Мин. Культуры, Мин. Природных Ресурсов, Мин. Территориального Развития и др.), Региональными (Архангельская Область) и Муниципальными властями (Муниципальное образование Соловецкий) по охране, управлению и пользованию культурными и природными ценностями
6 Генеральный План Соловецкого архипелага принятый в сентябре 2011 г.
7 Положение о зонах охраны объектов культурного наследия от 26 апреля 2008 г. № 315
8 Режим использования земель и градостроительные регламенты в границах объекта всемирного наследия
9 Проект «Особо Охраняемая Территория»
10 Карта лесоустройства Соловецкого архипелага
11 Документ утверждающий статус «Исторического Леса» и регламент по его охране
12 Состояние Озерно-канальных гидротехнических и водохозяйственных систем
13 Состояние гидрогеологической системы Святого озера Большого Соловецкого острова
14 Состояние фундаментов Спасо - Преображенского Соловецкого монастыря
15 Исследования ОАО «РусГидро», проведенные совместно с Ленгипроводхозом и Российской Академией наук в 2010 году
16 «Федеральная целевая программа «Культура России (2012 - 2018 годы)» (Постановление Правительства от 03.03. 2012 г. № 186.)
17 Документ определяющий приоритеты выбора объектов для реставрации и воссоздания памятников
18 Программа воссоздания памятников истории и культуры Спасо - Преображенского Соловецкого ставропигиального монастыря
19 Отчет о состоянии памятников Соловецкого Архипелага (290 объектов, включая объекты природного наследия) подготовленный Инспекцией по надзору за сохранностью памятников истории и культуры Архангельской области
20 Отчет о работах уже проведенных в рамках программ ФЦП «Культура России» и «Культура Русского Севера»
21 Отчет Полпредительского Совета Спасо-Преображенского Соловецкого монастыря «О реставрации исторического наследия Соловецкого монастыря и программе реставрационных работ осенне-зимнего периода 2010-2011 г.» с данными о состоянии памятников
22 Историко-опорные планы обозначающие археологические объекты и отчет об археологических исследованиях
23 Региональный План развития Архангельского региона, включая Стратегию развития туризма
24 Поэтапный план и график работ по реализации стратегии развития Соловецкого архипелага, уникального объекта, духовного, историко-культурного и природного наследия, как компонента Стратегии социально-экономического развития Архангельской области до 2030 года
25 Базовое соглашение между участниками