

Report on the State of Conservation of the UNESCO World Heritage Property «*Virgin Komi Forests*» (Russian Federation, N 719) in 2022

1. Response of the Russian Federation with regard to Decision No. 44 COM 7B.108

The boundaries of the World Heritage property "Virgin forests of Komi (subsequently referred to as the Property) within the boundaries of the National Park "Yugyd va" (subsequently referred to as the Park) have not changed. The control over the observance of the regime of the Park is a responsibility of the Federal State Budgetary Institution "National Park "Yugyd Va".

The boundaries of the Property within the boundaries of the Pechora-Ilychsky State Nature Biosphere Reserve (hereinafter referred to as the Reserve) and its buffer zone have not changed. Control over the observance of the regime of the Reserve is assigned to the FGBO "Pechora-Ilych State Reserve".

By Order of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation No. 547 dated 09.08.2021, the buffer zone of the reserve acquired the status of a protected zone of the Reserve and received a separate Regulations. Thus, the status of the buffer zone was upgraded to federal. At the moment, the Reserve within the boundaries of the protected zone has received the right to conduct federal state control (supervision) in the field of protection and use of specially protected natural territories, conduct scientific research, conduct state environmental monitoring, environmental education and the development of educational tourism, as well as to implement other functions in accordance with the Regulations and legislation of the Russian Federation.

Preservation of the Property is guaranteed by the federal law on protected areas, which is in force in the Park and Reserve territories, and is also controlled by the Committee of Forests of the Komi Republic, the Hunting Department of the Komi Republic and the Dvinsko-Pechora Territorial Department of Fish- inspectorate.

At the moment there is no data on the disappearance of species of fauna and flora from the Property.

As a result of scientific research of the Reserve's employees and third-party specialists, data on new species of fungi, lichens and mosses, fauna of invertebrates and birds of the Reserve were obtained.

No exploration and mining on the territory of the Property. There are no activities in the area of the "Chudnoye" field, workers don't live, there are no automobile and other special equipment. "Zoloto Inty" JSC (formerly "Gold Minerals" CJSC) equipment was removed from the site, the condition of the site is satisfactory.

2. Other current conservation issues identified by the State Party which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value

Regarding the cluster area of the Yugyd va National Park

In order to disseminate information about the Park and to popularize the World Heritage, the Yugyd Va National Park organizes and holds specialized exhibitions and expositions, participates in various projects, conferences of international, Russian

and republican levels, organizes other environmental events (expeditions, seminars, etc.). Every year the Park produces printed and souvenir products with the park's symbols (booklets, leaflets, calendars, etc.) creates and produces videos. In 2022, the film "Shchugor. From the Gray Peaks to the Pechora" took the 2nd place in the nomination "Documentary Film (Culture)" at the V International Festival-Competition "Divo of Eurasia".

In 2022, the Park continued to work within the framework of the WWF project on the topic "Study and preservation of the wild reindeer population in the Virgin Komi Forests", as well as work on the scientific topic "Study and preservation of historical and cultural heritage".

Factors affecting the object:

(i) economic development (development, adaptation, agriculture, mining) Forestry.

There was not Mass logging near the borders of the park in 2022.

(Ii) Environmental factors (natural pollution, climate change, desertification, etc.)

With the aim of monitoring long-term changes in the territory of the Park in 2022, monitoring work is continued in the following areas:

- Long-term series of observations: climatic, phenological;
- Monitoring of background species of the animal world;
- Monitoring of flora objects;
- Forest pathological monitoring;
- Monitoring of tourist flows and a regulation of recreational load.

According to the results of monitoring work, the populations of animals and plants on the territory of the P are in a stable condition; large damage and forest desiccation were not found. The average recreational load on the tourist routes of the Park does not exceed permissible limits.

(iii) Natural disasters (earthquakes, floods, fires, etc.) and preparedness for them.

Fires:

The Park is provided with the extinguishing equipment and fire fighting equipment. In order to monitor the fire danger in the forests, aviation patrols were carried out on the territory of the Park.

In 2022, on the territory of the Park (Patokskoye district forestry), the park employees, the GAU RK "Komi Regional Forest Fire Center", FBU "Avialesookhrana", a combined detachment of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, have extinguished 2 forest fires with a total area of 59.52. The cause of fires is thunderstorms.

Strong (hurricane) winds:

There were no significant winds in 2022 on the territory of the national park.

(Iv) Visitors/tourists

15 ecological routes have been developed and operate on the territory of the Park. The most popular are water routes along the Kozhim, the Kosyu, the Shchugor, the Podcherem rivers and hiking routes to the highest peaks of the Ural the Naroda, the Karpinsky, the Saber and the symbol of the Park - Manaraga mount. In 2022 more than 6,200 people have visited the Park.

In order to minimize the anthropogenic impact on the natural complexes of the Park, in 2022, activities of improving the routes and ecological paths were continued.

The maintenance of guest houses, stopping points and equipped resting places work were carried out - 40, new information boards, signs and warning signs - 43 were installed, the marking of the trail to the mountain Naroda was carried out; the trail to the Tima - iz Mountain was cleared.

In 2022, 8 shifts of volunteer camps (expeditions) were held in the Park. In total, about 200 people took part in the volunteer campaign this year.

Object mode violation:

The number of security service is 23 people. This year, state inspectors of the Park carried out 135 on-site inspections of the territory of the Yugyd Va National Park for the protection of natural complexes. The institution carried out a set of measures in accordance with the State assignment to ensure the protection of forests from fires in protected areas, as well as preventive measures to prevent forest fires.

As a result of field surveys in 2022, 65 violations of environmental legislation were identified in the park, 28 illegal implements of nature use were confiscated, 2 criminal cases were initiated.

(v) Population on site

There are no permanent settlements on the territory of the Park.

Regarding the cluster area of the Pechora-Ilych State Nature Biosphere Reserve

The Reserve organizes expositions, exhibitions and participates in various projects for the organization of exhibitions (republican, federal and international level), which provide information about the Reserve, its biodiversity. Every year, a large number of printed and souvenir products (booklets, calendars, etc.) are produced. The Reserve positions itself everywhere as a biosphere Reserve and the first natural object included in the UNESCO World Natural Heritage List in Russia as part of the Komi Virgin Forest. At the moment the reserve's website is functioning <http://www.pechora-reserve.ru>, optimized for different types of user devices. In addition, the Reserve is represented in social networks, where a wide range of people are informed about the current life of the Reserve and work with citizens' appeals takes place. The Reserve also regularly performs on television, in print and electronic media. All this helps to significantly improve the image of the Reserve, both at the local and federal level.

Factors affecting the object:

(i) economic development (development, adaptation, agriculture, mining)

Forestry.

Mass felling in the immediate vicinity of the boundaries of the Reserve and its protection zone in 2022 was not conducted.

(ii) Environmental factors (natural pollution, climate change, desertification, etc.)

Annual monitoring of the chemical composition of the snow cover is conducted on the territory of the Reserve. An increased inflow of pollutants per unit area in the foothill part of the Reserve in relation to the plain was noted, which is related to long-range transport of substances and natural geochemical accumulation as a result of condensation due to the Ural Mountains.

In order to monitor long-term changes in the state of terrestrial ecosystems, a long-term monitoring of 112 parameters is carried out in the Reserve on a permanent basis.

(iii) Natural disasters (earthquakes, floods, fires, etc.) and the degree of readiness for them.

Fires:

In 2022, on the territory of the Reserve and its protection zone, one fire was recorded on an area of 0,5 hectares.

Strong (hurricane) winds:

Significant windmill phenomena in 2022 on the territory of the Reserve and its protection zone has not been canceled.

(iv) Visitors / tourists

7 ecological routes have been developed and operate on the territory of the Reserve and its protected zone. The most popular ecological route in the Reserve is the ecological route of the Source of the Pechora – Manpupuner plateau. Earlier, during the arrangement of the route, a temporary helipad was constructed and commissioned from special metal aerodrome plates on the Manpupuner Plateau. This allowed reducing the load on the main trail due to the helicopter casting of tourist groups directly on the plateau. In the summer season of 2022, 547 people in 46 groups visited the Manpupuner plateau in this way.

At this moment, a mountain camp of special demountable modules is equipped on the border of the reserve, which can accommodate 16 people for the night. Toilets are equipped in the mountain camp and near the inspectors' house on the plateau. In the middle of the trail there is a recreation area with a fire pit, benches and a toilet.

Since 2017, work has been carried out on the installation of capital decks and crossings over streams on the trail instead of temporary ones. Crossings over the river were built. Pechora and several streams with a total length of more than 50 m. In total, 3232 meters of the trail are currently closed with flooring.

To monitor the impact of tourism on tundra ecosystems in the Man'-Pupuner Plateau area, the Nature Reserve conducts monitoring works every two years, which were carried out in 2021.

Other popular routes, besides the route on the plateau, are routes on the plain section of the Reserve. There are plans for 2023 to carry out current repairs of decking, arrangement of entrance groups and signs, revision of the tour.

Property mode violation:

The main problem of protecting the territory of the Reserve was previously the control of the south-eastern part of the Reserve border. It was here that the largest number of violations of the Reserve regime were registered. As a result of increased protection of the southeastern part of the Reserve's border, the number of violations of the territory's protection regime decreased from 94 in 2015 to 29 in 10 months of 2022.

Facts of illegal hunting, fishing and other violations of the reserve regime associated with material damage have not been identified.

(v) The population on the object area and its buffer zone.

On the territory of the reserve there are 11 people (employees of the reserve on cordons). In the buffer zone - 15 people.

3. No significant changes within the World Heritage Property are foreseen for the near future at this time.