

**REPORT ON THE MISSION TO GOLDEN MOUNTAINS OF ALTAI
WORLD HERITAGE SITE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION**



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In the Altai Republic, the mission met with and was accompanied by Y. Antaradanov, Vice Governor of Altai Republic, I. Belehov, Chairman of the State Assembly of the Altai Republic, Mikhail Terekhov, Minister of Natural Resources of Altai Republic and many others. At each of the protected areas comprising the World Heritage site we were met by the respective staff - Igor Kalmikov, Director of the Altaisky State Nature Reserve, Sergey Ochurdyapov, Director of Ukok Quiet Zone, and Alexander Zateev, Director of the Katunsky State Natural Biosphere Reserve. The mission owes a debt of gratitude to all of them for the information and hospitality provided.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

This monitoring mission was the first after inscription of the site in 1998 and was undertaken in response to the World Heritage Committee decision 31 COM 7B.25. The main concern relates to reports about plans for construction of a natural gas pipeline between Russia and China passing through the Ukok highland of the site.

The site is a serial national property which includes the Altaisky and Katunsky State Nature Reserves protected under Federal Law, and the Ukok Quiet Zone Nature Park, Mount Belukha Nature Park and Lake Teletskoye Natural Monument protected under regional law by the Republic of Altai. The site was inscribed under criteria (x) for its outstanding universal value in protecting mountain biodiversity.

During the mission it was possible to speak to a variety of stakeholders of federal and regional governmental organisations as well as non-governmental and a representative of an indigenous organisation. The mission held a meeting with representatives of Gazprom and its subsidiary Tomsktransgaz, and Giprospeftgaz which is a joint stock company. This meeting was also attended by representatives of both the federal and regional governments. It also participated in a round table meeting at Ust-Koksa on 7 September. The mission team was able to visit all 5 protected areas of this serial site.

The site is well managed and conserved and its outstanding universal value and integrity are maintained. Nevertheless there are several issues which require further attention in order to deal with any existing and potential threat to its integrity and outstanding universal value in protecting the mountain biodiversity. The most significant issue, which has the potential to threaten the outstanding universal value of this site, is the proposal to construct a natural gas pipeline from Russia to China passing through the Ukok Quiet Zone Nature Park. These are summarised in the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: The construction of any gas pipeline passing through the World Heritage property would constitute a threat to the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property and would represent a clear case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Therefore alternative routes outside its boundaries should be explored. As soon as the feasibility study on the gas pipeline project is completed and a decision is made, the State Party is requested to provide full details including results of the EIA (considering both environmental and social/cultural impacts) to the World Heritage Committee, through the World Heritage Centre in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Recommendation 2: There is a need to complete the management plans for all individual components of the site and prepare an overall management framework for the property as a whole, setting out a common vision and objectives. While drafting the management plans, the plans for Altaisky Nature Reserve and Lake Teletskoye should be harmonised, as well as the plans for Katunsky Nature Reserve and Mt. Belukha Nature Park because of their functional interdependence.

Recommendation 3: A sustainable tourism strategy for the property should be developed as soon as possible, in partnership with the tourism industry, local communities and other stakeholders. This is essential in order to manage tourism sustainably and in a manner that is consistent with WH objectives. Mount Belukha Nature Park should also have a clear strategy on mountain climbing expeditions and lessons could be drawn from practices from other mountain World Heritage sites.

Recommendation 4: A coherent monitoring system for collection of tourism information should be established, including on tourist arrivals and activities in order to create reliable baseline data.

Recommendation 5: Management between the two systems of protected areas (federal and regional) needs to be better integrated. There is a need to clarify the legal status of Lake Teletskoe and to ensure that all legal provisions are in place for coherent control and inspection, including the legal provisions allowing nature reserve staff to act against infringements in the adjoining areas of Lake Teletskoye Natural Monument and Mt. Belukha Nature Park.

Recommendation 6: The number of staff in Ukok Nature Park should be increased from the present level of 5 to at least 11 in order to effectively control and manage the area. A similar increase in staff should also be considered for the Belukha Mountain Nature Park. The staff should be provided with adequate equipment and other means to carry out their duties effectively.

Recommendation 7: A joint World Heritage environmental education programme should be developed for all 5 protected areas and information should be disseminated on the World Heritage Site as a whole, as well as a joint research strategy including streamlined and coordinated monitoring system in order to complement activities and avoid duplication.

Recommendation 8: Transboundary cooperation between the different protected areas should be strengthened and provisions should be made for the Directors of the Nature Parks to attend the meetings of the Association of the Altai-Sayan Mountain Range.

Recommendation 9: To foster and expand the dialogue and cooperation with representatives from civil society, thereby taking advantage of their knowledge and abilities in the conservation and management of the World Heritage Site.

1 BACKGROUND TO THE MISSION

1. The Golden Mountains of Altai was inscribed on the World Heritage (WH) List at the 22nd session of the WH Committee in 1998 under the then criteria N (iv), now (x) for its outstanding universal value in protecting mountain biodiversity.
2. At the time of inscription, the WH Committee urged the State Party to complete management plans for all of the three areas as soon as possible and to start a co-operative process with neighbouring States Parties to consider a possible transboundary expansion. At that time the Observer Delegate of the Russian Federation had informed the Committee that his Government is continuing the efforts to complete all management plans.
3. At the 25th Extraordinary Session of the Bureau in 2001 the issue of the road construction through the property was discussed, following a visit by a UNESCO-UNDP mission to the site. The mission identified the need for technical and financial assistance to the Government of the Republic of Altai, but subsequently the road project was not progressed further.
4. The WH Committee discussed the state of conservation of the property again in 2006 at the 30th session, and expressed concern over reports about the plans for constructing a natural gas pipeline from Russia to China passing through the Ukok highland of the site. As no specific information was received

from the State Party about the plans for the development of the gas pipeline, the 31st session of the WH Committee in 2007 requested the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission to assess the state of conservation of the property.

5. This mission report responds directly to the issues raised in the 2007 World Heritage Committee decision, as set out in Annex A. The mission was undertaken from 3rd to 8th September by Kishore Rao, Deputy Director, UNESCO-WHC and Jens Bruggemann, Consultant, IUCN. The detailed mission schedule is attached as Annex B.

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

1. The World Heritage property is a serial national site with the following components: the “Altaisky” and “Katunsky” areas, which have the legal status of Nature Reserves and are under the jurisdiction of the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources, and the “Ukok Quiet Zone” and “Belukha Mountain” areas, which are specially protected natural areas of regional level with the legal status of Nature Parks and are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Altai Republic. Lake Teletskoye Natural Monument, which is a part of the Altaisky component, is protected under regional law by the Republic of Altai.
2. The overarching protected areas legislation which applies to this property is the Federal law “On Specially Protected Natural Areas”, No. 33-FZ of 14 March 1995, but there are also several decrees and regulations specific to each area¹. A full description of the other legal instruments which apply to this World Heritage property is contained in the State Party report of 1997.
3. The Katunsky Nature Reserve is also a Biosphere Reserve under UNESCO’s MAB Programme. The legislation covering Biosphere Reserves in Russia is the same protected areas law of 1995 mentioned in the preceding paragraph, which has a specific Article 10 relating to them. The Katunsky Biosphere Reserve is also covered under special regulations of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia issued in March 1993.

3 IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES / THREATS

Achievements

1. In general, the state of conservation in all 5 protected areas of the serial site is favourable. Noticeable achievements since inscription include the up-grading of the legal status of Ukok Quiet Zone as a regional Nature Park in 2005, which was also countersigned by the Federal Ministry for Natural Resources and trans-boundary cooperation with Kazakhstan, China, and Mongolia towards a Trans-boundary Biosphere reserve for the whole Altai Territory. For example Katunsky Nature Reserve, which had been awarded the status of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1999, has established close cooperation links with the adjoining protected area in Kazakhstan.

¹ See “Protected Areas in Russia: Legal Regulation. An Overview of Federal Laws. WWF and UNEP. Edited by A. S. Shestakov. KMK Scientific Press Ltd., Moscow, 2003. xvi + 352 p.

2. Further achievements concern the setting up of monitoring and research programmes especially in the State Nature Reserves. Environmental education programmes are being implemented in the State Nature Reserves as well as at the regional level. The risk of large scale forest fires has been minimised through cooperation with the Federal Emergency Unit in detecting and combating forest fires, which also includes use of the fire aviation service, if required.
3. An indication of the conservation orientation of the Altai Republic is that over 25% of the territory has been designated as protected areas. Besides, even though according to Russian norms 3 million cubic metres of timber can be harvested annually from the forests of Altai, they harvest only 450,000 cubic metres. The forests are used mainly for recreational and tourism purposes in addition to their environmental conservation benefits. Forests are harvested on sustainable-use principles basis, only to meet requirements within the Republic and not for export. Local communities are given permits to collect non-timber forest products (mushrooms, grasses, herbs, fruits) and these are exported to countries like Japan where there is a good demand.

Plans for the Construction of a Gas Pipeline

4. The most significant issue, which has the potential to threaten the outstanding universal value of this site, is the proposal to construct a natural gas pipeline from Russia to China. During his state visit to China in March 2006, the President of the Russian Federation is reported to have announced that an agreement had been reached for building a gas pipeline from Siberia to China with an annual capacity of 30-40 billion m³. This pipeline project is commonly known as "Altai": in several reports it was stated to cross the western most direct border between Russia and China, also in the project description of Gazprom (see [Annex C](#)). In Urumchi (China) it could connect to the Chinese pipeline system which extends towards Shanghai.
5. If the proposed "Altai"-pipeline was to cross the direct Russian-Chinese border, it would necessarily have to pass through the Ukok Quiet Zone Nature Park. The possible routing of the pipeline as mapped by Greenpeace and WWF ([Annex D](#)) would pass through the Ukok Plateau and cross the international border at Kanas Pass. The mission visited the Ukok Nature Park and was able to also have an aerial view of the whole region through which the gas pipeline is intended to be aligned. The mission team could verify that no construction has taken place so far.
6. The mission team held a meeting with the project team led by Vitaliy Markelov, General Director of Tomsktransgaz (a subsidiary of Gazprom), Insaf Sayfullin, Deputy Director of the Ecology and Energy Conservation Department of Gazprom, and Igor Valiullin, Deputy Chief Engineer of Giprospeftgaz (a joint stock company). The project team stated that concerns about the gas pipeline construction appear to have arisen as a result of the ongoing construction of the regional gas supply pipeline from Barnaul to Gorno-Altaysk which is scheduled to be completed in 2008 and is in no way related to the proposed international project. Because of diameter and different pressure, this pipeline cannot be extended to China.
7. The representatives from Gazprom and its subsidiary informed the mission that no decision has been taken as regards the construction of an international gas pipeline to China. Currently only a pre-investment feasibility study is being

carried out by Gazprom and its subsidiary, and that so far no agreement had been reached with China on the issue of gas delivery. They also stated that no decision had been taken as regards the routing of the gas pipeline to China. Different options were being considered, including alternative routes transiting Mongolia and between Eastern Siberia and Northern China. The mapped route in Annex D could hence not be confirmed by the project team. It was further stated by the Gazprom team that the viability of the project can only be assessed once the feasibility study is completed. If the project is not considered feasible, Gazprom will not proceed.

8. While the statements of the representatives of Gazprom suggest that nothing has been decided yet, State Duma member Vladimir Ryzhkov suggested in an analytical periodical that plans have already been completed, contracts have been signed as regards transit fees and that negotiations are ongoing to acquire the land needed for construction².
9. This issue has attracted a lot of national and international attention, and several non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have expressed their concern over the adverse impacts which the project is likely to have on the biodiversity, as well as on the scenic and cultural values of the site. Representatives of several civil society organisations met the mission and expressed their strong opposition to the project and also handed over written petitions (in Russian) to this effect. One such petition is attached as Annex E. The NGO representatives also noted with great concern that recent changes in Federal legislation have significantly reduced the legal requirements for Environmental Impact Assessment.
10. The Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON) also sent a written submission stating that the Golden Mountains of Altai is a territory of traditional nature use of the indigenous peoples of the Russian Federation, and that their participation should be ensured in any decision-making process with regard to its status.
11. The construction, operation and maintenance of a gas pipeline pose a serious threat to the biodiversity of Ukok Quiet Zone Nature Park and hence, the integrity and outstanding universal value of the World Heritage Site.
12. Environmental risks in the construction of a gas pipeline through the Ukok Plateau include, for example, extensive engineering, drilling and soil movements due to the mountainous relief, geological conditions and permafrost soils. The mechanical impact along the route (pipeline and construction road) as well as impacts relating to alterations in the hydrological system and construction related pollution is likely to cause damages to biodiversity that cannot be compensated by re-cultivation measures.
13. Further environmental risks concern the operation of any gas pipeline in the Ukok Plateau. These relate, for example, to alterations in the relief, landslides or seismic activity that may damage the pipeline. Damages to the pipeline could relate to explosions and may cause serious fires³.

² Ryshkow, Vladimir: Das neue Erdgaspipeline-Projekt Russland – China löst Kritik aus, in: Russlandanalysen 137/ 07, pp. 9-10.

³ Following a break in the ring connection of a 1.4m diameter 75ATM pipeline, an explosion occurred on 18/ 19 March 2007 near New Urengoj. See: <http://ecokom.net/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?p=3576#3576>

14. Any gas pipeline through the Ukok Plateau would require regular maintenance and hence the construction of a road to make the area accessible. There is an environmental risk in improved accessibility as it would open up other parts of the Ukok Plateau for exploration and could facilitate, for example, the distribution of alien / exotic species. Moreover, possible impacts relating to planned tourist resorts on the Chinese part of Kanas Pass, increased transit traffic and explorations of archeological and spiritual sites should be considered.
15. Considering the fact that the Ukok Plateau is designated as a "Quiet Zone", and the high reverence in which the area is held by local people, the building of a gas pipeline passing right through its heart (see map at [Annex D](#)) is, in the opinion of the mission, most inappropriate and could make a case for its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger. It needs to be mentioned that the mission considers the site also to merit the recognition of outstanding universal values associated with criteria (iii) and (iv) for its rich cultural heritage, (vi) for its spiritual values embedded in the Altai culture, and (vii) for its exceptional natural beauty. The spectacular and outstanding natural beauty of the Altai Mountains landscape is truly awe inspiring.

Recommendation 1: The construction of any gas pipeline passing through the World Heritage property would constitute a threat to the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property and would represent a clear case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Therefore alternative routes outside its boundaries should be explored. As soon as the feasibility study on the gas pipeline project is completed and a decision is made, the State Party is requested to provide full details including results of the EIA (considering both environmental and social/cultural impacts) to the World Heritage Committee, through the World Heritage Centre in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Management Issues

16. A commitment made at the time of inscription of the site, regarding developing management plans has not been honoured. So far only Katunsky Nature Reserve had a management plan for the period 1998-2003. A new plan for the period 2008-2013 is currently being drafted and is expected to be completed by the end of 2007. Work on a management plan has also started for the Ukok Quiet Zone Nature Park as a part of the UNDP/GEF project. So far there is no overall management plan or framework for integrated management of the World Heritage site as a whole. However, it is mentioned that the Directors of all the protected areas comprising this site do meet regularly to coordinate their activities.

Recommendation 2: There is a need to complete the management plans for all individual components of the site and prepare an overall management framework for the property as a whole, setting out a common vision and objectives. While drafting the management plans, the plans for Altaisky Nature Reserve and Lake Teletskoye should be harmonised, as well as the plans for Katunsky Nature Reserve and Mt. Belukha Nature Park because of their functional interdependence.

17. Lake Teletskoye in Altaisky Nature Reserve and Mt. Belukha Nature Park are currently the most visited part of this World Heritage site. The visitor numbers are not too high at present, but are projected to grow rapidly as greater emphasis is given to tourism promotion. Total number of visitors to the lake is about 80,000 per year. Varying data have been communicated as regards

tourist arrivals and activities on Lake Teletskoye. It is recommended to set up the same monitoring system in all the component parts of the site, so that data are collected coherently.

18. In order to avoid the negative impacts of uncontrolled tourism development, which is beginning to become visible near the harbour villages at Lake Teletskoye, it is strongly recommended to jointly develop a sustainable tourism strategy with all relevant stakeholders including the travel and tourism sector. Examples from other World Heritage Sites and the IUCN network may be consulted. It is recommended to apply the “Guidelines for Sustainable Tourism Development and Biodiversity” under the Convention on Biological Diversity. UNESCO will also provide further materials to guide this process.
19. The mission was informed that three to four tourist facilities have been developed with the private sector outside the Altaisky Nature Reserve area on state forest lands. These have been given on lease of 49 years to the private sector, in accordance with Russian legislation. All boats operating in the lake are registered, of which 40 are registered in the lake and 30 in the Nature Reserve.
20. The Jailju settlement within the Altaisky Nature Reserve was formerly the headquarters of the reserve, but it now houses only a small visitor centre. Some 30 staff and a small settlement of 200 people. They are happy continuing to live here in harmony with the Nature Reserve. They have jobs with the meteorology station, school, and the Nature Reserve.

Recommendation 3: A sustainable tourism strategy for the property should be developed as soon as possible, in partnership with the tourism industry, local communities and other stakeholders. This is essential in order to manage tourism sustainably and in a manner that is consistent with WH objectives. Mount Belukha Nature Park should also have a clear strategy on mountain climbing expeditions and lessons could be drawn from practices from other mountain World Heritage sites.

Recommendation 4: A coherent monitoring system for collection of tourism information should be established, including on tourist arrivals and activities in order to create reliable baseline data.

21. The mixing of management control between Federal and Regional agencies in one World Heritage site poses challenges of coordination. For example, the boundary of Altaisky Nature Reserve runs along the middle of the lake, while the other half is protected under the Federal Laws of Forestry and Water Bodies. The lake is a Natural Monument of regional importance. The agency responsible for the management of Lake Teletskoye is the Federal Agency for Water Resources, under the Ministry of Natural Resources. They have transferred the management mandate to the Ministry of Natural Resources of Altai Republic. It was not explicitly clear to the mission team as to which specific regulations apply to the part of the lake which is outside the Nature Reserve and who is charged with its inspection and control.
22. Similarly, Mt. Belukha Nature Park lies in the buffer zone of Katunsky Nature Reserve. Both Nature Reserves, Altaisky and Katunsky have the capacity for inspection in adjoining areas, which could greatly enhance law enforcement. It was pointed out by the representative of the Federal Ministry of Natural Resources that at present the legal basis for this supportive activity is lacking.

23. Water quality monitoring of the Lake Teletskoye is carried out by the hydrology institute in Barnaul which has its branch in Gorno-Altaysky. It was mentioned that the water quality is good, with very little pollution from boats and that there are no industries which discharge effluents into the lake.
24. The mission was informed that the problem of poaching in Altaysky Nature Reserve usually emanates from the adjacent Tuva Republic, but is solved with the help of the police. Poachers are usually those who come to steal horses and consequently hunt wild animals also, and mainly musk deer is targeted for commercial purpose. However, the number of cases has decreased over the years and only 20 cases of poaching were detected and prosecuted in 2006.

Recommendation 5: Management between the two systems of protected areas (federal and regional) needs to be better integrated. There is a need to clarify the legal status of Lake Teletskoye and to ensure that all legal provisions are in place for coherent control and inspection, including the legal provisions allowing nature reserve staff to act against infringements in the adjoining areas of Lake Teletskoye Natural Monument and Mt. Belukha Nature Park.

25. Currently the Belukha and Ukok Nature Parks operate with 5 staff each. While for Mt. Belukha, the Katunsky Nature Reserve could and should complement inspection and control, the limited staff of the Ukok Quiet Zone Nature Park is required to manage an area of 254,000 hectares, which is located at the international border with Kazakhstan, China and Mongolia.
26. Altaysky and Katunsky Nature Reserves have ongoing environmental education programmes. A joint environmental education programme for all the protected areas in this World Heritage site could use economies of scale at the regional level and benefit all of them at the same time. Moreover, it would help overcoming the presentation of the World Heritage Site only through individual protected areas and enhance the understanding of the cluster as a whole. The plans for opening a World Heritage School in Gorno-Altai for training and information dissemination could be very helpful. Similarly, only Katunsky Nature Reserve has developed a research strategy, which should be a joint initiative under the overall management plan for the site as a whole.

Recommendation 6: The number of staff in Ukok Nature Park should be increased from the present level of 5 to at least 11 in order to effectively control and manage the area. A similar increase in staff should also be considered for the Belukha Mountain Nature Park. The staff should be provided with adequate equipment and other means to carry out their duties effectively.

Recommendation 7: A joint World Heritage environmental education programme should be developed for all 5 protected areas and information should be disseminated on the World Heritage Site as a whole, as well as a joint research strategy including streamlined and coordinated monitoring system in order to complement activities and avoid duplication.

27. Cooperation between Katunsky Nature Reserve and the adjoining National Park in Kazakhstan has significantly contributed to reducing hunting infringements. The two governments are expected to sign an agreement for transboundary protected areas establishment. Similar experiences are available from other parts of the site. The nature reserves of the Altai-Sayan Mountain Range meet twice a year. In Altaysky Nature Reserve there is need for closer cooperation with adjoining protected areas in Tyva and Khakassiya

Republics, particularly to deal with cross border poaching threats and better monitor movement of wildlife.

Recommendation 8: Transboundary cooperation between the different protected areas should be strengthened and provisions should be made for the Directors of the Nature Parks to attend the meetings of the Association of the Altai-Sayan Mountain Range.

Dialogue with Non-Governmental Organisations

28. During the mission the team could sense a certain tension between Government representatives and members of non-governmental organisations / representatives of civil society. The mission welcomed the decision of the host Government to grant access to representatives of NGOs for the boat trip on Lake Teletskoye and to the Round-Table discussions in Ust-Koksa. However, several interested NGOs were unable to attend the Round-Table discussions because the venue was shifted at short notice. The interest of NGOs in the conservation of the site is a huge asset for the responsible government authorities. Dialogue with different representatives from society can significantly enrich activities and measures in favour of the World Heritage Site.

Recommendation 9: To foster and expand the dialogue and cooperation with representatives from civil society, thereby taking advantage of their knowledge and abilities in the conservation and management of the World Heritage Site.

4. ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY

1. The sustainable development of the Altai Republic as a whole and the Altai Mountains Region in particular is under-pinned by the various environmental preservation efforts, among which the World Heritage site plays a very important role. The natural and cultural heritage of the Golden Mountains of Altai is an exceptional resource to demonstrate and promote the concepts of sustainable development including the conservation of biodiversity, environmental preservation, participation of local and indigenous communities, communication and awareness raising etc.
2. A significant factor that needs to be taken into consideration in assessing the state of conservation of the site is the extreme sense of belonging and oneness with nature of the Altain people. The people venerate all elements of nature – the mountains, forests, lakes, rivers and animals and take great pride in its protection. All the local stakeholders met, be they high ranking functionaries of the Republic or simple citizens, expressed strong and sincere sentiments towards nature protection. The Head of the Parliament of the Altai Republic stated that “Elements of nature are a part of our spiritual life”. Hence, the spiritual / sacred aspect of nature conservation should also be an important determining factor when considering alternative land uses in the area. This aspect has to be borne in mind specifically when considering the gas pipeline development project through the Ukok Plateau.
3. The Biosphere Reserve designation of the Katunsky part of the site lends added advantage in terms of advancing the sustainable development agenda. The mission was informed of a proposal to make Belukha Nature Park a transition zone of Katunsky Biosphere Reserve to be used sustainably for mountaineering, spiritual tourism, controlled grazing, and limited hunting

practices. Sustainable livelihoods programmes are being implemented in cooperation with the Biodiversity Centre of Moscow University, including a micro-credit programme to promote sustainable livelihoods through apiculture and also deer farms, which are traditional practices for antler production for export to South Korea.

4. As noted in the previous section, the overall state of conservation of the site is rather good and the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property is maintained. The only major concern is the potential threat of the development of the gas pipeline through the Ukok Nature Park. This is a wholly undesirable development which militates against the notion of the World Heritage site and its management. Hence, the mission feels strongly that this development should not be proceeded with. In comparison the other issues relating to completion of management plans, preparation of visitor use plans, reinforcement of staff and equipment, etc are relatively minor and can be easily addressed.
5. The issue of debris from rocket launches in Kazakhstan affecting the Altai Nature Reserve was noted as a concern in the past. However, the mission was informed that the number of launches has decreased significantly and in 2007 there have been none so far. The management of the reserve is informed in advance about launches. Russia is also reportedly paying Kazakhstan to move its launch facility.
6. The Saiyugem area to the east of Ukok Plateau is proposed to be made into a Nature Reserve or a Nature Park and contains critical habitat of the snow leopard and argali. Ukok Nature Park is proposed to be its buffer zone and the process is expected to be completed in 2008. The local population is supportive of the idea after the proposed area was reduced from about 240,000 ha to 50,000 ha and their grazing areas were excluded. There is also a Nature Reserve in adjacent Mongolia, which will make for a large transboundary conservation zone. However, there are some concerns in the civil society that the idea of this nature reserve may be motivated as some sort of a compensatory measure to the building of the gas pipeline through the Ukok Plateau, which should not be the case.
7. The mission also participated in a round table meeting titled "The condition of World Heritage sites within the sustainable development system of Altai mountainous region", which was organised at Ust-Koksa on 7th September and which resulted in the adoption by the participants of a resolution on more effective management of the Altai mountainous region, with specific reference to the World Heritage site. The list of participants for this round table is at Annex F. This change of venue of this meeting from Gorno-Altai to Ust-Koksa was rather sudden and informed the previous evening only. This led to complaints from representatives of the civil society that they were not able to travel to the new venue due to this last minute change. However, Greenpeace Russia and WWF Russia representatives were able to attend the meeting and handed over a list to the mission showing names of 14 persons who also wanted to participate, but were unable to do so.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The mission makes the following recommendations to be considered for approval by the World Heritage Committee and transmission to the State Party for implementation:

Recommendation 1: The construction of any gas pipeline passing through the World Heritage property would constitute a threat to the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property and would represent a clear case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Therefore alternative routes outside its boundaries should be explored. As soon as the feasibility study on the gas pipeline project is completed and a decision is made, the State Party is requested to provide full details including results of the EIA (considering both environmental and social/cultural impacts) to the World Heritage Committee, through the World Heritage Centre in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

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Recommendation 5: Management between the two systems of protected areas (federal and regional) needs to be better integrated. There is a need to clarify the legal status of Lake Teletskoye and to ensure that all legal provisions are in place for coherent control and inspection, including the legal provisions allowing nature reserve staff to act against infringements in the adjoining areas of Lake Teletskoye Natural Monument and Mt. Belukha Nature Park.

Recommendation 6: The number of staff in Ukok Nature Park should be increased from the present level of 5 to at least 11 in order to effectively control and manage the area. A similar increase in staff should also be considered for the Belukha Mountain Nature Park. The staff should be provided with adequate equipment and other means to carry out their duties effectively.

Recommendation 7: A joint World Heritage environmental education programme should be developed for all 5 protected areas and information should be disseminated on the World Heritage Site as a whole, as well as a joint research strategy including streamlined and coordinated monitoring system in order to complement activities and avoid duplication.

Recommendation 8: Transboundary cooperation between the different protected areas should be strengthened and provisions should be made for the Directors of the Nature Parks to attend the meetings of the Association of the Altai-Sayan Mountain Range.

Recommendation 9: To foster and expand the dialogue and cooperation with representatives from civil society, thereby taking advantage of their knowledge and abilities in the conservation and management of the World Heritage Site.

8 ANNEXES

- A. Decision of the World Heritage Committee
- B. Itinerary and programme
- C. Description of Altai Project
- D. Maps
- E. Statement of NGOs
- F. List and contact details of people met
- G. Photographs

Golden Mountains of Altai (Russian Federation) (N 768 Rev)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.19**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes that the State Party has developed comprehensive monitoring and education programmes for the property and that development of a transboundary biosphere reserve is ongoing;
4. Regrets that the State Party has not provided the specific information on its plans for the development of the gas pipeline as requested by the Committee at its 30th session
5. (Vilnius, 2006) and in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
6. Urges the State Party to assess, in consultation with the local communities, any impact of proposed development projects on the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property before implementing such development projects and to submit as soon as they are available to the World Heritage Centre the planning documents, including the Environmental Impact Assessment and a map showing the location of the planned routing of the pipeline in relation to the boundary and zones of the property;
7. Also notes that construction of a gas pipeline through this World Heritage property would represent a clear case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
8. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission to the property to assess the state of conservation of the property;
9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** a report on the state of conservation of the property including information on the status of the planned pipeline project for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

Annex B

AGREED with
Head of State Assembly
Al-Kurultai of the Altai Republic
I.I.BELEKOV

AGREED with
Deputy Head of the Government
of the Altai Republic
R.R.PALTALLER

21 August 2007

21 August 2007

PROGRAMME
OF THE UNESCO-IUCN MISSION TO THE WORLD
NATURAL HERITAGE SITE “THE GOLDEN MOUNTAINS OF ALTAI”
3-8 SEPTEMBER 2007

Flight # AF 2244 (Paris – Moscow)

DEPARTURE: 3 September 12.45 from Paris (Charles-de-Gaulle 2C)

ARRIVAL: 3 September 18.25 in Moscow (Sheremetyevo-2)

Flight # SU 715 (Moscow-Barnaul)

DEPARTURE: 3 September 22.30 SU 715 from Moscow (Sheremetyevo-1)

ARRIVAL: 4 September 5.35 a.m. in Barnaul

4 September
Tuesday

Time	Events
6.00	Arrive at the airport of Barnaul
6.30	Transfer from Barnaul to Gorno-Altai
10.30	Accommodation at the hotel “Golden Katun”
13.00	Lunch at the hotel “Golden Katun”
14.30	Meet the Deputy Governor of the Altai Republic, Head of Government of the Altai Republic and Head of the State Assembly-Al Kurultai of the Altai Republic
16.00	Visit the A.Anokhin National Museum, ethnographic concert

**5 September
Wednesday**

Time	Events
8.00 – 20.00	Visit World Heritage site – Lake Teletskoye, and State Natural reserve “altaisky”

**6 SEPTEMBER
Thursday**

Time	Events
10.00-	Helicopter trip to the World Natural Heritage sites “Ukok Plateau”, “Mount Belukha”, and State Natural Reserve “Katunsky”
19.00	Halt at Ust-Koksa, Regional Centre of Ust-Koksinsky Region

**7 September
Friday**

Time	Events
10.00-	Round-table “The State of World Heritage Sites in the System of Sustainable Development of the Altai Mountainous Region” at Ust-Koksa
13.00	Summing up of the mission and de-briefing meeting
19.00	Return to Gorno-Altai by Helicopter. Reception given by the Deputy Governor of the Altai Republic, Head of the State Assembly-Al Kurultai of the Republic of Altai
02.00 8 September	Depart from the hotel by road to airport at Barnaul
7.30 a.m. 8 September	Depart from the airport of Barnaul for Moscow

Flight # SU 716 (Barnaul – Moscow)

DEPARTURE: 8 September 7.30 a.m. SU 716 from Barnaul

ARRIVAL: 8 September 8.40 a.m. in Moscow (Sheremetyevo-1)

Flight # AF 2145 (Moscow-Paris)

DEPARTURE: 8 September 12.30 from Moscow (Sheremetyevo-2)

ARRIVAL: 8 September 14.35 in Paris (Charles-de-Gaulle 2C)

ALTAI PROJECT

<http://www.gazprom.ru/eng/articles/article22202.shtml>

Historical Background

On March 21-22, 2006, within the official visit of the Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin to the People's Republic of China (PRC), top executives of Gazprom and China National Petroleum Corporation signed the Protocol on Russian Natural Gas Deliveries to the PRC. The Protocol sets out the major accords on the gas supply terms, volumes and routes as well as the gas pricing formula principles. First shipments of Russian natural gas are anticipated to reach China in 2011.

On June 21, 2006, the town of Gorno-Altaiisk hosted a meeting between the leaders of the Altai Republic and representatives of Gazprom and Tomsktransgaz, during which the parties discussed in-detail a plan of actions for the Altai gas pipeline construction.

On September 21, 2006, Alexey Miller, Chairman of the Gazprom Management Committee and Alexander Berdnikov, Governor of the Altai Republic inked at the Gazprom Headquarters the Agreement of Cooperation aimed at organizing joint work to expand the Unified Gas Supply System to eastern Russia and implementing large-scale gas projects, primarily the Altai gas pipeline construction project.

Importance and Prospects of Russian Gas Deliveries to China

The strategy of Gazprom as a global energy company can not be implemented without access to new promising markets. The demand for Russian gas has a considerable potential in Asia Pacific countries, with China in the first place.

The Protocol signing has outlined a whole range of strategic advantages for the Russian gas industry. The "Chinese vector" significance is tightly linked with Gazprom's programs targeted at establishing new gas production centers on the Yamal Peninsula, in Eastern Siberia and the Far East. The presence of China among the major consumers of Russian gas gives a clear idea of prospective gas supply volumes, terms and routes.

At present, the share of natural gas in the PRC's energy matrix is on a continuous rise, currently makes up 3 per cent and is expected to increase to 7 per cent by 2010. In 2004 domestic natural gas production reached 47.5 bcm in China and consumption was at roughly the identical level. At the same time, gas consumption rapidly grows and substantially outpaces extraction rates. According to the most conservative estimates, the PRC's gas needs will amount to 97 bcm and 103-120 bcm by as early as 2008 and 2010, respectively. It is clear that gas import is vital for China.

Russian gas is the most optimal and mutually beneficial option to satisfy the PRC's increasing energy needs and hence the parties are interested in shortly achieving the targets stated in the Protocol.

From a commercial view point, it is crucially important for Gazprom that gas will be supplied at prices formulated on the basis of petroleum prices. Certainly, there are some other benefits including a relative proximity of consumers (the transmission route to China is far lesser than to Europe) and the absence of transit countries along the supply route.

Gaining access to the Chinese market, Gazprom diversifies export directions, with gas supply commitments to China to have no impact on the execution of the contracts already in force with other countries acquiring Russian gas. Gazprom has sufficient gas resources and production capacities to meet these challenges.

Technical Features

Russian natural gas will be delivered to the PRC from the Unified Gas Supply System of Russia via the two routes: Western route, from the conventional gas extraction provinces in Russia and Eastern route, from the Sakhalin fields.

The annual gas supply volume is planned at 68 bcm, with the priority given to the Western route intended to supply 30 bcm of gas per annum. This route is prioritized due to the closeness of West Siberian fields to the existing gas infrastructure, which will enable to launch gas deliveries within a shorter period.

Phase 1 of the West Siberian gas supply project is planned to see a new Altai pipeline network created within the existing transmission corridor, with extensions to be laid through the mountains. 1,420mm pipes and state-of-the-art potent compressor stations will be used during the gas pipeline construction.

First gas will reach China via the Altai pipeline through the Western section of the Russian-Chinese border. The Altai pipeline will link West Siberian fields with the Xinjiang-Uyghur Autonomous Region in western China where it will integrate into the West-East pipeline extending to Shanghai. The gas main length is 2,800 km.

Environmental Aspect

Just like in case of Gazprom's other projects, special attention during the Altai gas pipeline construction will be paid to ecological aspects. All potential pipeline routes will be considered at the itinerary planning stage. The final route selection will depend on both the project economics and possible environmental effects.

Gazprom has a long-lasting and unique experience in engineering and constructing gas transmission networks in an extreme environment, with the most advanced and reliable environmental protection, control and monitoring systems applied. The Blue Stream, Yamal-Europe, Northern Tyumen Oblast - Torzhok and other gas pipelines have proven to be a multi-year success. The Blue Stream pipeline construction was much more complicated than the Altai pipeline construction and required applying non-standard, unparalleled technologies, including in terms of environmental safety. The Blue Stream construction experience has practically proven the possibility of safely laying the pipeline through special nature reserves, rugged mountain terrain, etc.

The Altai project will undergo not only all statutory public hearings and ecological expertise (industry and state), but also independent environmental auditing. The project will be prepared and executed with maximum transparency in partnership with the scientific and ecological community and mass media.

Social Aspect

Executing the Altai project will enable to supply sufficient gas to the population centers along the gas pipeline route, create new jobs and significantly replenish the regional and local budgets through appropriate tax payments.

Finally, the planned gasification process will make it possible to improve the environmental situation in Gorno-Altai and its suburbs where, at present, especially during winter periods, more than 40 coal-fired boilers fill the sky with soot and fumes.

The Agreement of Cooperation between Gazprom and the Administration of the Altai Republic calls for Gazprom to get financially involved in social projects in the region.

Particularly, the Agreement contemplates supplying gas to rural areas, reconstructing roads, bridges and the Gorno-Altai airport runway. Gazprom will train specialists at higher education institutions for further gas pipeline maintenance. Moreover, the Company also sets out to finance other social projects.

Current Status

At present, the project sees a feasibility study on supply routes being performed, with the decision taken to shift over to the investment justification stage. The ongoing commercial talks are due to be finalized already in 2006.

“GAZPROM IN EASTERN RUSSIA, ENTRY TO ASIA PACIFIC MARKETS”

Eastern Siberia and the Far East are a strategic priority for Gazprom in the long term.

The state policy targeted at shaping a gas industry in eastern Russia is defined in the Program on setting up an integrated gas production, transportation and supply system in Eastern Siberia and the Far East, taking account of potential gas exports to China and other Asia-Pacific countries. The Program was considered and approved at the June 15, 2007 meeting of the Government Commission responsible for fuel & energy sector and mineral resource base replenishment issues.

The Government appointed Gazprom as coordinator of the Program implementation and stressed the need to prioritize gas deliveries to Russian consumers.

Under the Program, by 2030 gas consumption in Eastern Siberia and the Far East is projected to amount to 32 bcm (including needs in gas for gas chemicals production purposes – 46 bcm/yr), exports to Asia-Pacific in the form of pipeline gas – 25-50 bcm/yr and in the form of LNG – some 28 bcm/yr. The Program execution will enable to meet current and prospective gas requirements in Eastern Siberia and the Far East, and launch export deliveries to Asia-Pacific of both LNG and pipeline gas.

To achieve these targets, the Program identifies the development sequence for regional gas resources. Commercial gas production in Eastern Siberia and the Far East is underway in the most prepared for operation offshore fields on the Sakhalin Island (Sakhalin-1 and Sakhalin-2 projects).

Gasification of the Sakhalin Oblast and Khabarovsk Krai is planned to be initially stepped up through gas deliveries from Sakhalin-1 fields, including by the existing gas transmission system. To gasify the Primorsky Krai, an extension to Vladivostok is planned for the Sakhalin – Khabarovsk gas transmission system.

In parallel with the development of Sakhalin's offshore fields follow-up exploration and pre-development activities are underway in fields in the Yakutsk gas production centre, including creation of gas processing and underground helium storage capacities.

Gas from fields being taken into operation in the Irkutsk and Krasnoyarsk gas production centres is projected to be used for gasifying these regions and, if necessary, the Unified Gas Supply System. To process gas from fields in the Irkutsk Oblast and Krasnoyarsk Krai (including to remove helium), a gas processing plant construction is planned for both regions.

The actions set out in the Program as regards the gas transmission system development have been optimized with account of the Eastern Siberia – Pacific Ocean oil pipeline system route. The Program also takes into account associated petroleum gas volumes.

Gazprom has de facto started implementing the measures set forth in the Program.

Work is underway on the creation of a resource base in Eastern Siberia and the Far East.

As a result of the Company's actions aimed at obtaining subsoil use rights, Gazprom owns a whole set of licenses and performs geological exploration in the Irkutsk Oblast and Krasnoyarsk Krai. In particular, prospecting in the Irkutsk Oblast resulted in the discovery of the Chikanskoye gas and condensate field, with C1 and C2 gas reserves endorsed at 16.5 and 81.7 bcm, respectively.

Prospecting operations are planned to be continued both on the territory of the Irkutsk Oblast and Krasnoyarsk Krai, and in other East Siberian and Far Eastern regions.

As part of the actions aimed at stepping up gasification and creating in eastern Russia an integrated gas production, transportation and supply system, memoranda of interaction have been inked with plenipotentiary envoys of the Russian Federation President to the Siberian and Far East Federal Districts, and gasification accords were signed with the authorities of the Primorsky and Khabarovsk Krai, Sakhalin and Irkutsk Oblasts.

Gazprom devised and started implementing the General Gas Supply and Gasification Scheme for the Irkutsk Oblast, which envisages first gas deliveries to regional consumers in 2007. The Scheme also contemplates gasifying over 800 populated areas with the use of small and mid-sized field gas as well as associated petroleum gas being sufficient for meeting regional needs. First gas is to reach Bratsk in late 2007. The General Scheme is approved by the regional Governor and its implementation is fully funded by Gazprom.

On the example of the Irkutsk Oblast, the Company is working on a scheme of interaction with small and medium gas producing companies when gasifying Russian Federation regions. Gazprom inked Memoranda with ITERA, (Bratskoye gas and condensate field), Irkutsk Oil Company (Markovskoye and Ayanskoye fields) as well as Urals Energy (Dulsiminskoye oil, gas and condensate field). Under the Memoranda, Gazprom will purchase gas from these companies (to gasify the Irkutsk Oblast) at an entry point to a gas transmission system being established now in the Irkutsk Oblast.

In June 2007, Gazprom, BP Group and TNK-BP entered into the Agreement on the major terms of cooperation. The Agreement contemplates establishing a strategic alliance between the companies for long-term investment in joint energy projects as well as asset swaps both in Russia and third countries. Pursuant to the Agreement, TNK-BP will sell Gazprom a 62.8 per cent stake in Rusia Petroleum, which is the license holder for the Kovyktinskoye field, as well as a 50 per cent stake in East Siberian Gas Company, which is implementing a regional gasification project for the Irkutsk Oblast.

Gazprom developed the main provisions of the General Gas Supply and Gasification Scheme for the Far East Federal District.

At present, the Company is studying options for gas supply to the Primorsky Krai, including through expansion of the Sakhalin – Khabarovsk gas transmission system to Vladivostok. At an initial stage a resource base for the gas pipeline will be Sakhalin-1 gas that Gazprom is set to buy from the project shareholders.

With an increase in pipeline gas deliveries to the Far East and abroad, operations will start at Sakhalin-3 fields, fields in Sakhalin's offshore and fields in the Yakutsk gas production centre, to be coupled with the construction of a gas transmission system from the Yakutsk gas production centre to Khabarovsk.

Gazprom is active in entering gas markets in the Asia-Pacific region, which are characterized by considerable potential for growth.

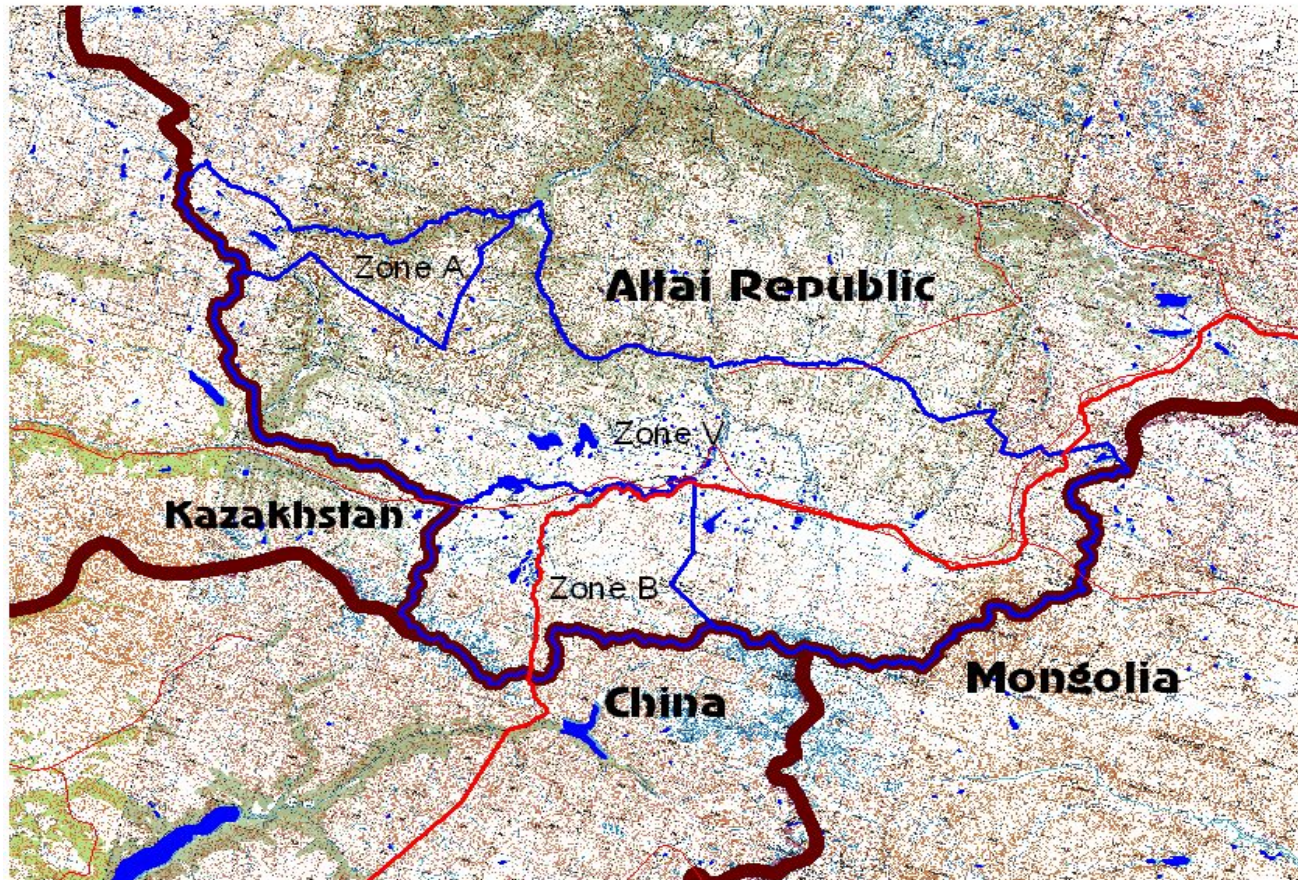
Within the scope of the Protocol on Natural Gas Deliveries to the PRC, Gazprom and CNPC are in talks about the paramount Western route of Russian gas supply to the PRC (Altai project).

The Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Korea entered into the Agreement of Cooperation in the Gas Industry, which makes Gazprom an authorized company in natural gas deliveries from Russia to the Republic of Korea.

On April 18, 2007, Gazprom fully entered the Sakhalin-2 project as the majority stockholder in Sakhalin Energy (50 per cent plus one share) in exchange for cash recompense worth USD 7.45 bln. The remaining shares are split among the existing shareholders as follows: Shell (27.5 per cent minus one share), Mitsui (12.5 per cent) and Mitsubishi (10 per cent).




Bringing onstream two LNG trains within the Sakhalin-2 project will enable to produce a total of 9.6 mln t of liquefied natural gas per year. All contracts for Sakhalin LNG supply remain in force. First Sakhalin-2 LNG will be exported (primarily to Japan as well as the US market (around 25 per cent) and Korea) in 2008.

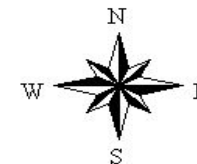
Entering the LNG market will allow Gazprom to achieve geographical diversification of sale markets, reduce the dependency on transit across third countries, diversify export revenue sources and enhance the Company's export profitability via higher flexibility of deliveries to various external markets.



**Nature park
"Zona pokoya
Ukok"**

-  Gas pipeline route
-  roads
-  state borders

- Nature park zones**
-  A (strict reserve)
 -  B (limited land use)
 -  V (recreation)



Russia: Main Natural Gas Export Pipelines



Source: Russian Analytical Digest 18/ 07, p. 13 and Ruslandanalysen 137/ 07, p. 8

ALTAI GOLDEN MOUNTAINS
World Nature Heritage
Altai Republic, Russia



DEAR UNESCO/IUCN ALTAI 2007 MONITORING MISSION MEMBERS,

Non-governmental organizations of the Republic of Altai and nearby regions are extremely concerned with current plans to build a gas pipeline "Altai" and to construct a road across the part of the "Golden Mountains of Altai" World Heritage Site, the Ukok Plateau.

This project, despite reassurances given by the project developers, will inevitably lead to negative environmental irregularities, such as landscape deformation and negative changes in hydrological behavior of Altai Rivers, as well as a decrease in biodiversity and other consequences. We can make such conclusions based on existing projects, especially the two mega-projects, which are often used for comparison, the "Blue Stream" pipeline in Turkey, and "Sakhalin-2" on the Sakhalin Island. Both projects were accompanied by many environmental violations, which led to the serious ecological problems:

1. Unlawful construction of roads, which were not re-cultivated following the completion of each project. During community hearings for the Altai pipeline the discussion of accompanying roads has been largely avoided, although in the "Notice of Intent for Investing in the Altai pipeline construction," the project developer attempts to rationalize an 18-meter wide construction road. To clarify, a refusal to create an appropriate transportation infrastructure would firstly, violate the existing Russian regulatory laws, and secondly, it would require the use of track-type equipment, which could cause irreversible damage to bog soils along the pipeline route.

2. During the construction of both pipelines, Sakhalin -2 and Blue Stream, extensive river systems in each region have been damaged. River crossings were built while violating existing regulations. Riverbanks and riverbeds suffer from heavy equipment (up to 80 tons). In some cases pipes are laid out directly in the river stream, or river channels are straightened out, thus resulting in discrepancies in hydrological regimes and a decrease in biodiversity and number of species.

3. Water and air erosion increase dramatically, especially on hillsides (to the point where the pipeline, which was already laid out and buried, and was ready for re-cultivation, became exposed), deterioration of sensitive tundra subsoil (on permafrost), dumping polluted water back into the river, which was initially for trials and contains ethylene glycol (although according to project documentations, this water must be consolidated into specially prepared pits and settled before returning back to natural environment).

In addition, the current practice of "Blue Stream" gas pipeline construction was accompanied by strong lobbying for changes in the existing Russian Federal Law. In particular, under the pressure by interested corporations, certain unique areas were excluded from protected territories of federal significance in the town of Gelendjik. In addition, developers ignored attempts made by local public to protest against severe violations according to the Russian and international environmental laws.

An offer to consider future Sailugemsky Nature Reserve (Zapovednik) as a World Heritage Site to compensate for the loss of the Ukok Plateau is causing a great degree of perplexity among us. Firstly, each such territory is unique, and the inclusion of a new territory does not exclude the significance of other sites (the Ukok Plateau was granted a World Heritage Site status based on its scientific and cultural meaning, and approved by the UNESCO commission). Secondly, by this proposed "replacement" the damage to Ukok is being admitted.

Therefore we are expressing our deepest conviction that the Ukok Plateau is highly valuable and important for local people (for whom the Ukok Plateau is sacred), for all Russians and people from around the world. In our opinion, an alternative route that avoids Ukok must be developed.

September 5, 2007

**List of participants at the “round table” meeting on the theme of
“The condition of World Heritage sites within the sustainable development system of
the Altai mountainous region”**

1	Alexander Berdnikov	Head of the Altai Republic, Chairman of the Government of the Altai Republic
2	Ivan Belekov	Chairman of the State Assembly–El Kurultai of the Altai Republic
3	Robert Paltaller	Deputy Chairman of the Government of the Altai Republic
4	Gregory Ordjonikidze	Executive Secretary of the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO
5	Kishore Rao	Deputy Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre
6	Jens Bruggemann	Consultant, Representative of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Member of the International Commission on Specially Protected Natural Territories
7	Sergey Kapitsa	Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Member of the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO
8	Valentin Grakovich	Professor, Vice-President of the International Academy for Ecological Reconstruction, Deputy Chairman of the Higher Ecological Council of Russia
9	Aleksey Troetsky	Deputy Manager of the Department for Specially Protected Nature Territories Management and Legal Provision of the Federal Service for Supervision in the Field of Nature Use, Representative of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation
10	Eleonora Sheremetyeva	Head of “Uglich” Municipal District, Member of the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO
11	Yuri Badenkov	Professor, Doctor of Geographic Sciences of the Russian Academy of Sciences’ Geographical Institute
12	Aisur Belekova	Third Secretary of the International Organizations Department (Secretariat of the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO)
13	Yuri Kiryushin	Rector of Altaian State University, Barnaul
14	Yuri Tabakaev	Rector of Gorno-Altai State University, Member of the State Assembly-El Kurultai of the Altai Republic
15	Valery Babin	Head of Academic Studies at Gorno-Altai State University
16	Tamara Sadalova	Executive Secretary of the National Committee for UNESCO in the Altai Republic
17	Tatiana Gigel	Deputy Chairman of the State Assembly-El Kurultai of the Altai Republic
18	Nikolai Taitakov	Deputy Chairman of the State Assembly-El Kurultai of the Altai Republic
19	Albert Kergilov	Chairman of the Committee for Social Security
20	Viktor Bezruchenkov	Chairman of the Committee for Economic Policy, Business and Tourism
21	Viktor Romashkin	Chairman of the Committee for Legal Policy and Local Administration
22	Nikolai Tudenev	Chairman of the Committee for Education, Culture, Mass Media and Social Organizations
23	Mikhail Terekhov	Minister of Natural Resources
24	Vasily Manyshev	Deputy Minister of Natural Resources
25	Alexander Zateyev	Director of the Katunsky State Natural Biosphere Reserve
26	Igor Kalmikov	Director of the Altaisky State Nature Reserve
27	Brontoy Bedyurov	Assistant Chairman of the Government of the Altai Republic, Chairman of the Altai Republic’s Union of Writers
28	Tatiana Tudeneva	Editor-in-Chief of the Republic Newspaper “Altaidin Cholmoni”
29	Tatiana Kadina	Chairman of State Television and Broadcasting Company “Gorny Altai”
30	Konstantin Sailankin	Director of the “Uch Sumer” joint-stock company
31	Alexander Surazakov	Head Researcher of the Institute of Altai Studies
32	Gregory Chekurashev	Manager of the State Assembly-El Kurultai of the Altai Republic

Selected Photographs



A tourism facility on Lake Teletskoye



A view of Mount Belukha



An aerial view of Ukok Plateau



On the ground at Ukok Plateau



Lake Taymenje in Katunsky Nature Reserve



A closer view of the peak of Mount Belukha



Welcome at Jailju/ Altaisky Nature Reserve



Urban Sprawl at Lake Teletskoye Harbour villages



Mount Belukha Nature Park



Ukok Quiet Zone Nature Park towards China



Ukok Quiet Zone Nature Park



Ukok Quiet Zone Nature Park



Mt. Belukha Nature Park

