

Summary

State of conservation report “Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments” (Russian Federation, C 540) 2013-2014

Preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site “Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments” (hereafter referred to as the “Site”) as well as the control over timely submission of necessary reports are priorities for regional and federal monument protection bodies.

In accordance with the decisions and recommendations of the 35-th and 36-th sessions of the World Heritage Committee the open-ended international working group under the direction of professor Todor Krestev (established in the course of the International Forum held in May of 2011 in St. Petersburg) perform an inventory survey, specify the set-up and boundaries of the Site, as well as conduct other activities that affect protection and management of the Site.

In the process of solving the above mentioned tasks it became evident that the process of finishing retrospective inventory and introducing small changes in the components/elements list and boundaries of the Site's components/elements should be divided into several stages.

Following up the recommendations of the working group the State Party (the Russian Federation) reached a consensus with the World Heritage Center over the staged process of working.

In December of 2012 at its regular meeting the working group studied the results of implementation of recommendations presented in May of 2012 and the materials of the two first stages of work.

The working group accepted small changes proposed for the boundaries of the historical center of St. Petersburg as they generally follow the recommendations of the WHC/ICOMOS mission of 2010 and the working group recommendations. By decision 37 SOM 8V.54 the World Heritage Committee accepted small changes of the Site's boundaries.

According to the decisions of the 35-th, 36-th and 37-th sessions of the World Heritage Committee the State Party being in a close cooperation with WHC, ICOMOS and with the help of the international working group has done the following:

- has developed and submitted to the WHC the draft retrospective statement on the outstanding universal value of the Site;
- has finished a retrospective inventory of the historical center of Saint Petersburg and historical part of Kronshtadt, has submitted to the WHC cadastral maps on paper and in electronic format;
- has finished a retrospective inventory of the whole Site, has submitted to the WHC cadastral maps on paper and in electronic format of the rest components ;
- has made amendments to 73-FZ Federal Law “On the objects of cultural heritage (monuments of history and culture) of the peoples of the Russian Federation” to the extent that it concerns the definition of the term “historical settlement”, definition of the subject of a historical settlement protection.
- Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation has drafted a bill providing for making amendments in the 73-FZ Federal Law so far as it relates to the procedure of fulfillment of international liabilities prescribed in the World Heritage Convention. This bill is supposed to introduce to the national legislation the term “buffer zone of a world heritage site”, to establish correspondence between the terms “buffer zone” and “protection zone”, to extend the notion of the term “remarkable place”. Besides the bill shall determine the procedure for appointment of a site manager responsible for developing a management plan for the world heritage site.

Currently the State Party is waiting for the decision of the 38-th session of the World Heritage Committee, the results of the Committee's consideration of cartographic and type matters of the last stage of the retrospective inventory. In case of the Committee's approval of the set-up and boundaries of the Site, the work on forming a buffer zone and developing of the Site's management plan shall be carried on.