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КОМИССИЯ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ ПО ДЕЛАМ ЮНЕСКО
COMMISSION DE LA FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE POUR L'UNESCO
COMMISSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FOR UNESCO



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Moscow, " 30" January 2014

*pls contact
Mr. Kumray
PD
Reminder
to SP on 04/02*

Dear Mr.Rao,

In compliance with the decision of the 37th sessions of the World Heritage Committee it is my pleasure to transmit herewith reports on the state of conservation of the following world heritage sites: "Lake Baikal", "Western Caucasus" and "Virgin Komi Forests".

Please accept, dear Mr.Rao, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Grigory Ordzhonikidze
Secretary-General

MR. KISHOR RAO
DIRECTOR
WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE
UNESCO

Paris

cc. Permanent Delegation of the
Russian Federation to UNESCO

Dir. World
Heritage
31.01.14
LSE42



**МИНИСТЕРСТВО
ПРИРОДНЫХ РЕСУРСОВ И ЭКОЛОГИИ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
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на № _____ от _____

Ответственному секретарю
Комиссии Российской Федерации
по делам ЮНЕСКО,
Заместителю директора ДМО
МИД России

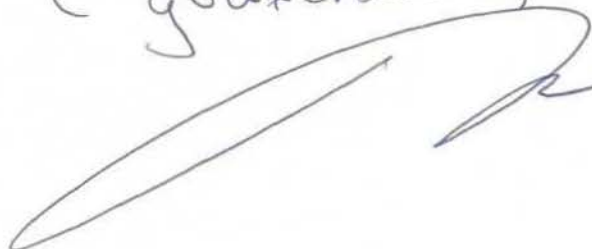
Г.Э. Орджоникидзе

Об отчетах о состоянии объектов
всемирного природного наследия

Уважаемый Григорий Эдуардович!

Министерство природных ресурсов и экологии Российской Федерации направляет для дальнейшей передачи в Центр всемирного наследия ЮНЕСКО отчеты о современном состоянии российских объектов всемирного природного наследия. Одновременно сообщаем, что указанные отчеты направляются в электронном виде в адрес: unescorussia@mail.ru.

Приложение: упомянутое, на 22 л. в 1 экз.

С уважением,

Р.Р.Гизатулин

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**REPORT ON THE CURRENT STATE OF THE OBJECTS OF THE WORLD
NATURAL HERITAGE «VIRGIN KOMI FORESTS», «WESTERN CAUCASUS»,
«LAKE BAIKAL», «CURONIAN SPIT»,
«PUTORANA PLATEAU» IN 2013**

**On the state of safety of the object of UNESCO world heritage
«Lake Baikal» (Russian Federation, № 754) in 2013
*Lake Baikal (Russian Federation) (N 754)***

**1. Response of the Russian Federation in accordance with the Resolution of the
World Heritage Committee 37 COM 7B.22**

On operation of Baikal pulp and paper plant

From December 25, 2013 Baikal pulp and paper plant (BPPP) is deemed closed, last pulp cooking was performed on September 13, equipment is shut down. Workers remained in the plant for servicing of the heat power plant, supplying heat to Baikalsk. Management of BPPP informed of its intent to transfer the heat power plant, heating the entire Baikalsk, to the new owner by May this year.

Now employment of dismissed employees is one of the most important subjects. According to the Deputy Minister of Labor and Employment of Irkutsk region the regional employment center provides regular information about vacant positions. The bank of 5.5 thousand vacant positions across the region and outside it has already been formed, as well as employees have an opportunity to pass professional retraining.

In accordance with the order of the Government of the Russian Federation dated 25.12.13 № 2528-p autonomous non-profit organization «Expocenter «Reserves of Russia» is established for the purposes of execution of managerial functions on establishment of the modern museum and exhibition, information and educational center in Baikalsk, demonstrating the role and place of specially protected natural territories of the Russian Federation in preservation of biological and landscape variety, as well as in development of the environmental tourism. In 2013 1 million rubles were allocated to the organization at the expenses of budgetary appropriations.

The Expocenter will be established at the site of the former BPPP after execution of all procedures of liquidation of accumulated environmental damage. Jointly with autonomous non-profit organization «Expocenter «Reserves of Russia» the charitable fund of environment protection «Green Future» will be established. The fund will deal with establishment of the modern museum and exhibition, information and educational center in Baikalsk.

It is planned that the complex will demonstrate the role and place of specially protected natural territories of the Russian Federation in preservation of biological and landscape variety and in development of the environmental tourism.

On the plans of construction of the hydroelectric power plant on the Orhon river in Mongolia

The Government of the Republic of Buryatia is extremely anxious about the plans of Mongolia on construction of the hydroelectric power plant on the Orhon river. Sufficient scientific research has not been conducted so far on revelation of positive effect of the scheduled projects on the state of Selenga basin. So, there is no information on effect and possible damage to Lake Baikal and its ecosystem, or on effect of the ecosystem of the valley all over the Selenga river, or on effect on local population with its traditional agriculture. There are no detailed calculations of economic feasibility of this project. But in general, basic mechanisms of negative effect are evident.

Big water reservoirs, arising in construction of dams, is the basic anthropogenic reason for seasonal and multiannual redistribution of stock, as a result of which the hydrological regime of lower water bodies changes considerably, which leads to degradation of the ecosystems of the beds, bottom, estuary and rivers.

Big dams detain discharge of drifts, which changes river bed evolution and habitats (for example, breeding sites) downstream. The Selenga transports a lot of drifts, stipulating welfare of the river ecosystem. Migration routes of Baikal omul, sturgeon, whitefish, taimen and some species will be partially covered by construction of the dam, and the conditions of their habitation in the bed of the Selenga are violated because of the change of water discharge and drifts. The hydrochemical composition and thermal regime of waters of the Selenga, as well as the composition of microorganisms, brought downstream, in particular, phytoplankton will also be changed.

Types of environmental and social consequences, expected from establishment of the hydroelectric power plant on the Orhon are similar to those from the hydroelectric power plant on the Selenga, but less scaled. But already at the stage of the feasibility study (FS) the question must be put inevitably on the overall effect of Shuren hydroelectric power plant and dam on the Orhon on Lake Baikal - object of the world heritage. In the aggregate these two dams transform practically all water discharge and drifts from the territory of Mongolia.

That is why for determination of environmental consequences of the project on the state of Baikal natural territory, it is required to conduct complex environmental and economic assessment of implementation of hydroenergetic projects of Mongolia and their impact on the Selenga and Lake Baikal. Without these preliminary research the Republic of Buryatia insists on closing of implementation of hydroenergetic projects of Mongolia on the Selenga.

On December 10, 2013 the regular meeting of the inter-departmental commission for protection of Lake Baikal took place, in which the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Sergey Donskoy voiced the question about possible construction of the hydroelectric power plant in Mongolia, having designated that the federal authorities do not approve implementation of the project.

This question was also raised in IV All-Russian congress for environmental protection, which took place on December 2-4, 2013 in Moscow. As per the results of the meeting, within the resolution of the congress in the area of «International cooperation in the field of environment protection» the authorized federal executive authorities are recommended to pay attention to environmental aspects of the project of construction hydroelectric power plant in Mongolia.

The Fourth All-Russian congress for environmental protection resolved to entrust the Social Council under the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia to ensure monitoring of fulfillment of resolutions of the congress with placement of the corresponding information in Internet.

On ore production at Kholodninskoye deposit

By the order of the Federal Agency on subsurface management dated 21.12.2012 № 1382 the right of use of subsurface resources, granted to «Invest EuroCompany» LLC on the basis of the license УДЭ 13040 ТЭ for right of use of subsurface resources for the purpose of mining of complex ores at Kholodninskoye deposit, is suspended until 31.12.2014.

On survey of mineral resources on the territory of the Central Environmental Zone

For the purposes of implementation of the action «Designing and implementation of the complex project on prevention of negative effect of mine and ore waters of Kholodninskoye deposit of the Republic of Buryatia, formed as a result of detailed geological survey and ore

extraction in the 70-80-s», included in the Federal Target Program «Protection of Lake Baikal and social and economic development of Baikal natural territory for 2012-2020», the Government of the Republic of Buryatia allocated 17,412.5 thousand rubles for development of the design documents for implementation of this action from the republican budget.

Basic areas of the design documents:

In the course of selection of the design solution on prevention of negative effect of waste waters two variants of design solutions are developed and justified:

Variant 1. Liquidation of mine adits by means of concrete beams and filling of the waste area with the rock for the purpose of restoration of natural hydrogeological and geochemical regime and prevention of discharge of polluted mine waters on the water catchment surface.

Variant 2. Construction of mine waters treatment facilities, maintenance of their operation (including power supply and transport accessibility). The design documents provide for actions on delivery of the required equipment to the area of execution of works for fulfillment of works. Forecast of the state of environmental components on the reviewed territory as a result of implementation of the design documents is performed and proposals are developed on environmental monitoring. The design documents provide for technical recultivation of disturbed lands, including exclusion of negative environmental impact of heaps of rocks, as well as biological recultivation for prevention of anti-erosion processes under natural impacts and restoration of lands, resumption of flora on disturbed lands.

On special economic zones «Baikal Harbor» and «Baikal Gate»

In organization of the special economic zone of the tourist recreation type (SEZ TRT) it is determined that organization of the SEZ TRT on the coast of Lake Baikal will contribute to reduction of negative effect of «non-organized (wild) tourism» on the unique ecological system of the lake.

The special economic zone «Baikal Harbor» is the object of federal importance. In organization of the SEZ TRT the requirements of the applicable environmental law were observed. Assessment of environmental impact was conducted for determination of consequences of scheduled business activity, prevention of possible environmental degradation under the effect of the project on establishment of the SEZ TRT by means of development of certain actions. Development of assessment of environmental impact was fulfilled in accordance with the requirements of the environmental law, regulatory documents, approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia, Federal Forestry Agency, Construction Ministry of Russia, regulating environmental activity.

Positive opinion of the state environmental expert examination № 151-э dated 29.08.2006 was received for the materials of the clause «Assessment of the environmental state of the territory and assessment of environmental impact of the special economic zone», established in accordance with the established order. The expert commission noted the correctness of the adopted decision on establishment of the tourist recreation special economic zone «Baikal Harbor» in Baikal district of the Republic of Buryatia, which has the richest potential of recreation resources and prospects for development of tourism.

As per the results of consideration of presented materials the expert commission deems the environmental effect, provided for in the documents, admissible. Materials became the basis for development of the working project. Required works are conducted in the entire territory of the TRZ on neutralization of negative effect, including: development of design and estimate documentation and assessment of environment impact on the erected facilities; development of the standards of admissible environmental effects, environmental zoning of the territory, development of the rules of organization of tourism and rest.

Boiler houses will not be constructed, electric power supply using alternative energy sources (solar batteries, wind power plants, energy of thermal springs, etc.) will be applied at the object. So, there will be no air emissions from boiler plants. Technologies of grading of wastes, waste reclamation will be applied for waste disposal, rubbish grading stations were constructed.

The advanced water discharge technology (ozone cleaning, analogue – treatment facilities of Severobaikalsk), and ISO-14000 system, when possible, formation of the policy and the program at the objects will also be introduced.

The service of monitoring of the state of environmental components is introduced, which implies supervision and control (including state one) over execution of the project, for example over observation of the conditions of nature utilization and implementation of scheduled actions on reduction of effects.

It is planned to introduce special technical facilities for environment protection: different machines for clearance of beaches, inflowing waters and lake waters, provision of tourists with new types of transport, fitting and equipment, use of which would rule out infliction of damage to the environment.

Execution of the annual environmental audit of the objects. Such an audit implies systematic analysis of compliance of real environmental impact with the volumes and areas, predicted in the course of environment impact assessment. As a result of such an audit defects could be revealed in the practice of operation of the object, as well as recommendations could be development on their elimination in implementation of future projects.

The existing environmental restrictions on this territory stipulate use of the most environment-friendly and resource-saving technologies in designing and construction of the objects of TR SEZ «Baikal Harbor». Schedule tourist recreation special economic zone must contribute to sustainable development of the territory with maximum preservation of the unique ecosystem of Lake Baikal. Subsequently the positive experience of sustainable use of natural resources, implemented principles of sustainable development of the territory can be replicated to adjacent regions.

As per the Federal target program «Protection of Lake Baikal and social and economic development of Baikal natural territory for 2012-2020» in 2014-2015 implementation of the action «scientific substantiation of the scheme of territorial planning of the central ecological zone of Baikal natural territory» is envisaged, the state customer of which is the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia.

So, the research and development (R&D) of the indicated action will result in scientifically justified environmental assessment of admissibility of placement of the production, social and recreation infrastructure in the central ecological zone of Baikal natural territory.

As per p. 2 of article 6 of the Federal Law dated 01.05.1999 № 94-ФЗ «On protection of Lake Baikal» construction of new household objects, reconstruction of the existing household objects are forbidden on Baikal natural territory without a positive opinion of the state expert examination of the design documents of such objects.

So, any design documents of the objects, being built on Baikal natural territory, passes the state expert examination. The design documents, sent for the state expert examination, have the clause «List of actions for environmental protection», which includes sub-clause «results of environmental impact of the capital construction object».

It should also be mentioned that design documents of the objects, construction of which is scheduled in the economic zone «Baikal Harbor» are not the object of the state environmental expert examination at the regional level.

At present time bill is introduced to the State Duma of the Russian Federation № 175161-6 «On introduction of amendments into individual legislative acts of the Russian Federation on

the questions of Baikal natural territory», one of the key amendments of which is amendment of subparagraph 71 of article 11 of the Federal Law dated 23.11.1995 № 174-ФЗ «On environmental expert examination» with regard to expansion of the list of the objects of the state environmental expert examination at the federal level, which will include, along with the design documents of the objects, construction, reconstruction of which is scheduled on the lands, of specially protected natural territories of federal importance, design documents of the objects, construction, reconstruction of which is scheduled on Baikal natural territory.

Adoption of these amendments is aimed at preservation of the unique ecological system of Lake Baikal on Baikal natural territory.

By the decree of the Government of the Russian Federation dated 19.05.2009 № 435 «On introduction of amendments in the list of activities, forbidden in the central ecological zone of Baikal natural territory» the paragraph «mining activity and quarry operations with regard to: exploration and development of new deposits, previously unaffected by mining operations; sand, pebble, gravel and chips production in the water area of Lake Baikal, in its coastal protective belt, in the beds of spawning streams and their coastal protective belt, except for dredging operations.» was amended.

In accordance with the applicable List of activities, forbidden in the central ecological zone of Baikal natural territory, approved by the decree of the Government of the Russian Federation dated 30.08.2001 № 643 (as amended by the decree of the Government of the Russian Federation dated 19.05.2009 № 435), crude oil and natural gas production, production of radioactive ores, production of metal ores, exploration and development of new deposits, previously unaffected by mining operations, as well as production of mineral resources in the water area of Lake Baikal, in its water protection zone, in the beds of spawning streams and their water protection zones, except for extraction of underground waters for the purposes of drinking and household water supply, as well as dredging operations are forbidden.

So, be repeatedly informed that exploration of mineral resources on the territory of the Central Environmental Zone of Baikal natural territory are still forbidden by the law of the Russian Federation, except for extraction of underground waters for the purposes of drinking and household water supply, as well as dredging operations .

2. Information on other current issues, related to preservation of the object of heritage

In 2013 the medium-term management plan of Barguzinsky Reserve, Zabaikalsky National Park and Federal Reserve «Frolikhinsky» (management plant of FSBI «Zapovednoye Podlemorye») is prepared.

The total number of employees of FSBI «Zapovednoye Podlemorye» makes 138 persons. Protection of the territory of all three Specially Protected Natural Territories is kept by the method of combination of patrolling by mobile groups and duty at the observation posts on the coast of Lake Baikal

Federal target program «Protection of Lake Baikal and social and economic development of Baikal natural territory for 2012 – 2020» operates from 2011. The total amount of financing, obtained by FSBI «Zapovednoye Podlemorye» in 2013 – 35,720614 million rubles. Due to the funds of the program the security service is equipped with modern and reliable ground and water transport, navigation and radiocommunication facilities, fire prevention machinery and equipment, many buildings and structures are repaired.

In 2013 by the efforts of the research workers of FSBI «Zapovednoye Podlemorye» (8 persons) 11 topics and scientific research were fulfilled, including: «Observation of phenomena

and processes in the natural complex of Barguzinsky Reserve and their study under the program «Nature records», «Impact of anthropogenic factors on the natural complexes of Barguzinsky State Natural Biosphere Reserve, Zabaikalsky National Park and state natural reserve of federal significance «Frolikhinsky», «Monitoring of rare and vanishing species, populations, communities and ecosystems of Specially Protected Natural Territories, subordinate to FSBI «Zapovednoye Podlemorye», «Examination and inventory check of flora, fauna and natural complexes of the Federal State Natural Reserve «Frolikhinsky», «Revelation of responses of biota of Northern Baikal region to climatic trends», «Assessment of biocenotic role of great cormorant in ecosystems of Zabaikalsky National Park», «Monitoring of the state of populations and assessment of fish stock of water basins of Zabaikalsky National Park», «Invasion species of plants and animals of North-Western Baikal region», «Monitoring of hunting-commercial species of animals on the territory of Zabaikalsky National Park», «Monitoring of hunting-commercial species of animals on the territory of the State Natural Reserve «Frolikhinsky», «Vegetation mapping of model areas on the territory of Barguzinsky State Natural Biosphere Reserve»

Construction of a big touristic center SEZ TR «Baikal Harbor» in Baikal region does not produce an noticeable effect on changes in the number of the visitors so far. The number of the visitors of the subordinated territories is growing and in 2013 exceeded 26,000. Administration of FSBI «Zapovednoye Podlemorye» forecasts considerable growth of the number of potential visitors of the territory of Zabaikalsky National Park in connection with opening of the bridge over the Barguzin and reconstruction of the road. The number of the visitors of Barguzinsky State Natural Biosphere Reserve and Frolikhinsky Reserve is not so high and is restricted by inaccessibility, weak infrastructure.

Analysis of durable observation series over different objects of fauna and flora on the territory of Barguzinsky Reserve did not reveal any trends of anthropogenic origin, all observed dynamic processes are of natural cyclic character. Human intervention in 2013 at the areas visited by tourists (environmental paths and biosphere polygon of the reserve) did not exceed the permissible recreation loads and are not accompanied by destructive natural processes.

In 2013 the employees of Baikal national park under guidance of Doctor of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, Professor of Irkutsk State Technical University, merited traveler of Russia Kalikhman A.D., developed the system of attendance of the natural territories of Baikal national park. The system provided for attendance of BNP only on the approved routes. At present time 31 excursion and environmental routes were approved in the Scientific and Technical Council of BNP. Work is conducted on development of new routes. Attendance of excursion and environmental routes is controlled strictly by the state inspectors of the park.

3. Serious changes within the reviewed object of the world heritage are not forecast.