



**ПОСТОЯННОЕ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЬСТВО
Российской Федерации при ЮНЕСКО**

**DELEGATION PERMANENTE
de la Fédération de Russie
auprès de l'UNESCO**

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Paris, « 01 » December, 2015

Subject: "The report on SoC of the WH property "Curonian Spit" (Russian Federation, C 994)"

Dear Ms Rössler,

I have the pleasure to convey to your kind attention the Report on the State of Conservation of the World Heritage property "Curonian Spit" (Russian Federation, C 994)".

The documents have been sent to the World Heritage Centre by E-mail previously.

May I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, dear Ms Rössler, the assurances of my highest consideration.

AMBASSADOR,
PERMANENT DELEGATE

Eleonora MITROFANOVA

ENCLOSURE: on 4 pages

Ms Mechtild RÖSSLER
DIRECTOR, UNESCO HERITAGE DIVISION,
DIRECTOR, WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE
Paris

**Updated Report on the State of Conservation of the UNESCO
World Heritage Property
*Curonian Spit (Russian Federation) (№ 994) in 2015***

1. Response of the Russian Federation with regard to Resolution No. 38 COM 7B.28 adopted by the World Heritage Committee

The main concerns and requests contained in the Resolution are addressed to Kursiu Nerija NP of the Republic of Lithuania. In this connection the information has been provided by the Lithuanian party.

2. Information about other current issues related to the World Heritage property conservation

The information about the conservation of Curonian Spit, which is the UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site, provided in the 2014 Report of the Russian Federation, is up-to-date and represents the current state of affairs.

In 2015 there were no cases of illegal construction within the boundaries of the Russian domain on the World Heritage Site.

The Administration of Curonian Spit rural settlement municipality has elaborated a Draft Program for Social and Economic Development of Curonian Spit Rural Settlement Municipality for the period 2014-2021. Negotiations with the Administration of Curonian Spit National Park are in progress. After that, the Draft will be sent to the Government of the Kaliningrad Region for approval. The Draft Development Program deals with creating systems of wastewater and stormwater disposal and treatment, as well as water and electricity supply for the settlements.

The Program for the Curonian Spit National Park Preservation Area has been developed and is under consideration by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation. As regulated by the Russian legislation, upon its consideration and approval the Program will be enacted by the internal Order of the Ministry with subsequent official state registration in the Russian Ministry of Justice.

In 2015 the development of two projects was completed, both dealing with the preservation of protective dune ridge, envisaging coast protection (stabilization) in certain areas of protective coastal dune ridge. Both projects are currently under the State Environmental Review.

Also *Curonian Spit* National Park entity is vigorously involved in the creation of database to include the objects of historical and cultural heritage in its territory and their preservation.

The following activities were performed in 2015 jointly with Kursiu Nerija NP:

- participation in the International Conference ‘ Climate Change in the Baltic Sea Region and its impacts – current situation and prospects in view of the future

CBSS Polish Presidency and the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris’;

- participation in the CoWoH Workshop in Klaipeda, Lithuania. The CoWoH Project is focused on the development of UNESCO World Heritage in the South Baltic Region.

- participation in the International Workshop under the Project ‘Joining hands and minds’ for the heritage in North and Baltic Sea Regions.

- participation in the issue-related Workshop ‘Eco-tourism and specially protected natural areas – methods and examples of international cooperation in the protection of biodiversity’, arranged during the so-called "German-Russian Environment Protection Days" in Kaliningrad;

- In December 2015 Russian and Lithuanian stakeholders plan to hold the annual scientific conference ‘The issues of study and preservation of the natural and cultural heritage in the Curonian Spit National Park’;

- joint annual updating of the list of endangered species of plants and animals completed;

- Curonian Spit National Park has taken necessary measures to protect and restore separate stretches of the protective coastal dune ridge on total 5.3 ha;

- in 2015 the Project was developed for the reconstruction of the Pilot Hatchery of ZAPBALTRYBVOD, Federal State Budget-funded Institution, envisaging to increase the output of the young whitefish up to 500 000 fishes. The project has now been provided for the State Environmental Review. The main objective of the State Pilot Hatchery is to preserve valuable rare and endangered aquatic bioresources of the Curonian Lagoon of the Baltic Sea in the managed conditions. The European Whitefish (*Coregonus lavaretus* L.) is a species of Coregonidae family and is considered one of the most valuable fishing targets in the Curonian Lagoon, and hence requires particular care and concern about conditions in the natural habitat.

3. Significant changes within the World Heritage property are not expected.