



**ПОСТОЯННОЕ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЬСТВО
Российской Федерации при ЮНЕСКО**

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

8, rue de Prony, 75017 Paris

Tel.: 01. 42.12.84.30

Fax. 01. 42.67.51.99

No. 110

Paris, « *29* » January, 2016

Subject: Reports on SoC of WH properties “Volcanoes of Kamchatka”, “Golden Mountains of Altai”, “Lake Baikal”, “Virgin Komi Forests” and “Wrangel Island”, Medium-term management plan of the Reserve “Wrangel Island”

Dear Ms. Rössler,

I have the pleasure to convey to your kind attention original reports on State of Conservation of World Heritage properties “Volcanoes of Kamchatka”, “Golden Mountains of Altai”, “Lake Baikal”, “Virgin Komi Forests” and “Wrangel Island”, as well as a detailed map of the borders of “Volcanoes of Kamchatka” and the Medium-term Management plan of the “Wrangel Island” reserve prepared by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation in accordance with decisions of the 39th Session of the World Heritage Committee.

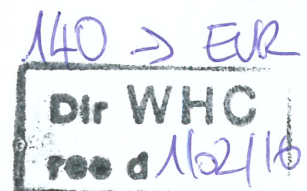
May I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, dear Ms. Rössler, the assurances of my highest consideration.

AMBASSADOR,
PERMANENT DELEGATE

Eleonora MITROFANOVA

Enclosure: 175 pages, maps.

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



**REPORT ON THE CURRENT STATE OF CONSERVATION
OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES
VOLCANOES OF KAMCHATKA, GOLDEN MOUNTAINS OF ALTAI, LAKE
BAIKAL, VIRGIN KOMI FORESTS, WRANGEL ISLAND IN 2015**

**Report On the State of Conservation of the UNESCO World Heritage Property
Virgin Komi Forests (Russian Federation, N 719) in 2015**

SUMMARY

Within the boundaries of the World Heritage site "Virgin Komi Forests" exploration and mining is not conducted.

According to recommendations of the joint monitoring mission of the UNESCO-IUCN to the World Heritage site "Virgin Komi Forests" (2010), in the new category "Virgin Komi Forests", presented to the World Heritage Centre before February 1, 2015, it includes the territory of pristine forests, alpine meadows and mountain tundra, which have never been affected by industrial logging and geological activity. The proposed area is 183.222 ha and it is of key importance for the conservation of biological and landscape diversity, and will allow more holistically represent the natural complex of the Western macroslope of the Ural, within the boundaries of the World Heritage site.

Tourist activity in the National Park is of local character. One can visit the Park, using environmental routes, in order to minimize human impact on the natural systems.

At the same time, the state of ecological trails is constantly improved. The total number of visitors to the property in 2015 was about 7 000 people.

The monitoring of major tourist routes indicates, that the impact of tourism activity on natural systems of the National Park and the Pechora-Ilych State Reserve is local, and does not affect the outstanding universal value of World Heritage site "Virgin Komi Forests".

Natural complexes of the World Heritage property do not suffer from economic impact and currently are in natural state.

Serious changes within the reviewed object of the World Heritage are projected in connection with the expansion of the boundaries of the property, in accordance with

the nomination, submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

1.Response of the Russian Federation with regard to Resolution No. 39 COM 7B.23 adopted by the World Heritage Committee)

Within the boundaries of the World Heritage site "Virgin Komi Forests" exploration and mining is not conducted.

Taking into account the recommendations of the joint monitoring mission of the UNESCO-IUCN at the World Heritage site "Virgin Komi Forests" (2010), as the part of a new nomination "Virgin Komi Forests", submitted to the World Heritage Centre before February 1, 2015, it includes areas between the spruce forests of the foothill areas of the National Park "Yugyd va" and the Pechora-Ilych State Nature Biosphere Reserve, located East of the village Kyrta, at the source of the Ilych river, right bank basin of the upper reaches of Kozhim-yu to the watershed of the Podcherye river basin.

It is the area of pristine forests, alpine meadows and mountain tundra that have never been affected by industrial logging and geological activity. The area is of key importance for the conservation of biological and landscape diversity and will allow more holistically represent the natural complex of the Western macroslope of the Ural, within the boundaries of the World Heritage site. The total area is 183 222 ha.

An evaluation mission to the World Heritage site "Virgin Komi Forests" took place in October 2015, for the evaluation of new nomination, extending the territory of the World Heritage site.

As a result of the evaluation mission, it was conducted a survey of virgin forest areas (183 222 hectares), which are proposed for inclusion to the World Heritage site "Virgin Komi Forests". As well, there were also surveyed areas of traditional economic activity ("Zhelannoye" and "Chudnoye" deposits), located in the Northern part of the National Park "Yugyd va", which are proposed for removal from the World Heritage

site (the total area of these plots is 48 341 ha). Information on the results of the evaluation mission is currently lacking.

In 2015, 6200 tourists visited the National Park "Yugyd va". The works on improvement of tourist routes are implemented to minimize anthropogenic impact on natural complexes. In 2015 the territory of the Park was equipped with 15 recreation and picnic areas and 20 tent sites. There were built 2 objects in a traditional style (chum) and are kept in good condition 57 early established recreation sites. Volunteers and local residents are involved in improvement of tourist routes.

486 people visited the Pechora-Ilych State Nature Biosphere Reserve in 2015. The territory of the Reserve and its buffer zone remains inaccessible to the public due to poorly developed transport infrastructure. There are 6 ecological routes in the Pechora-Ilych State Nature Biosphere Reserve. The improvement of existing ecological routes is carried out to minimize the anthropogenic impact on natural complexes of the Reserve. This work is planned to be completed in 2017.

In 2015 monitoring was continued on the Manpupuner plateau, the most attractive tourist object at the Reserve. Before entering the territory of the National Park and the State Reserve, all visitors undergo a mandatory instruction on rules of behavior and safety.

The results of monitoring in places of the main tourist routes indicate that the impact on natural complexes of the National Park and the State Reserve has a local character and does not affect the outstanding universal value of the World Heritage site "Virgin Komi Forests".

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

In the National Park "Yugyd va" in 2015 was held 172 raids on protection of natural complexes, carried out 190 measures to prevent forest fires. Were identified 76 cases of violations of the protection regime, was brought 1 criminal case and 3 people were prosecuted. Aviation forest protection from fires was carried out. Forest fires

were not fixed in 2015 in the National Park.

In 2015 the National Park continued monitoring of background species of fauna and monitoring of flora. Special attention was paid to areas with high recreational load and to the basin of the Kozhim river. The studies revealed that the populations of rare plants are in stable condition. The recommendations for optimization of tourist activities in these areas were developed.

Forest pathological monitoring was held on 11 000 ha. It was not detected any large location of pest damage and drying.

During the tourist season of 2015 was held the monitoring of tourist flows and the regulation of recreational load. The research was conducted in the basin of the Shchugor river on the area of 100 thousand hectares. It was identified that the average recreational load does not exceed the permissible limits.

During 2015 in the Pechora-Ilych State Nature Biosphere Reserve were revealed 94 violations, associated with illegal presence on the protected area. The facts of illegal hunting and other violations were not revealed. In 2015 forest fires in the Reserve were not fixed.

The main problem of the Reserve protection remains the control of the South-Eastern boundary of the Reserve.

To control this territory and to regulate the tourist flow, were started the actions on organization of additional point of protection in the source of the Pechora river.

The work on improvement of tourist trail from the Eastern boundary of the Reserve to the Manpupuner plateau has begun. A helipad on the Manpupuner plateau was built to prevent damage to moss, lichen and soil, due to landings of helicopters. Information boards were placed along the borders of the Reserve.

Natural complexes of the World Heritage site had not undergone serious economic and human impact and are currently in natural state.

3. Significant changes within the World Heritage property are expected due to the extension of its boundaries.