



**ПОСТОЯННОЕ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЬСТВО
Российской Федерации при ЮНЕСКО**

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

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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.

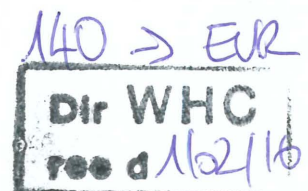
May I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, dear Ms. Rössler, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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
Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation, № 765bis) in 2015**

SUMMARY

At the present time the construction of Zhupanovskiye Hydroelectric Power Station cascades on the territory of the UNESCO World Heritage Site “Volcanoes of Kamchatka” and in the adjacent areas is not planned. The president of the Russian Federation commissioned the government of Kamchatka Region to consider alternative variants of providing the region with electric power on the 16th of October, 2015.

The total area of four nature parks of regional significance included in the World Heritage Site “Volcanoes of Kamchatka” is 2,475,036 hectares, their boundaries have not been not changed. The cartographic materials and information concerning the four nature parks of regional significance presented in the report of the Russian Federation of 2014 are up-to-date and relevant.

A universal plan of managing the World Heritage Site “Volcanoes of Kamchatka” has not been developed. However, the organizations which manage specially protected natural areas of federal and regional significance within the territory of the World Heritage Site maintain interaction in the sphere of ecological education of the population, as well as in the sphere of areas protection.

Environmental condition monitoring is carried out on the object of world significance territory, on the territories of Kronotsky state reserve and the state natural reserve of federal significance “Yuzhno-Kamchatsky” the quantity of fauna key representatives is calculated.

The collected data show that the quantity of the main background species of animals corresponds to the level of the natural capacity of the lands. The quantity of all the species is stable and sustainable. In 2016, basing on the obtained data, we plan to work out and begin to implement activities on the restoration of Kronotsko-Zhupanovskaya wild northern reindeer population.

On the whole, the condition and preservation of the World Heritage Site “Volcanoes of Kamchatka” is good and is not a matter of anxiety. No negative irreversible changes in natural landscapes and their components were found out.

1. Response of the Russian Federation with regard to Resolution No. 39 COM 7B.20 adopted by the World Heritage Committee

At the present time the construction of Zhupanovskiye Hydroelectric Power Station cascades on the territory of the UNESCO World Heritage Site “Volcanoes of Kamchatka” and in the adjacent areas is not planned. The president of the Russian Federation commissioned the government of Kamchatka Region to consider alternative variants of providing the region with electric power.

The total area of four nature parks of regional significance included in the World Heritage Site “Volcanoes of Kamchatka” is 2,475,036 hectares, their boundaries have not been not changed. The abovementioned nature parks of regional significance are managed by the state governmental establishment “Nature Park “Volcanoes of Kamchatka”. The cartographic materials and information concerning the four nature parks of regional significance presented in the report of the Russian Federation of 2014 are up-to-date and relevant.

Since the World Heritage Site comprises specially protected areas of federal significance (Kronotsky state natural biosphere reserve, state natural reserve of federal significance “Yuzhno-Kamchatsky”) and of regional significance (4 nature parks), a universal plan of managing the World Heritage Site “Volcanoes of Kamchatka” has not been developed. However, the organizations which manage these specially protected natural areas interact consistently.

In 2015 the federal state budget establishment “Kronotsky state reserve” together with the administration of regional nature parks (the state governmental establishment “Nature Park “Volcanoes of Kamchatka” and the regional non-commercial organization “Association of Specially Protected Areas of Kamchatka Region”) conducted the following educational events devoted to eco-literacy:

- training seminar “Preparation of guides for specially protected areas of Kamchatka Region” (May 2015);
- ecological educational field festival in summer children’s holiday camps of Kamchatka region (June-August 2015);
- ecological educational automobile expedition “Kamchatka Protected” (September-October 2015);
- III festival “December Ecological Meetings” (December 2015).

The security service of the protected areas conducted the joint educational-practical seminar “Current issues of SPA protection organization” during the period of November-December 2015.

In 2015 the staff number of the federal state budget establishment “Kronotsky state reserve” was 110 employees, of the state governmental establishment “Nature Park “Volcanoes of Kamchatka” – 37 employees.

According to the Plan of scientific research work the federal state budget establishment “Kronotsky state reserve” is carrying out the environmental condition monitoring on the territories of Kronotsky state reserve and the state natural reserve of federal significance “Yuzhno-Kamchatsky”. In accordance with the given program the

quantity of key representatives of the fauna is determined. The collected data show that the quantity of the main background species of animals corresponds to the level of the natural capacity of the lands. The quantity of all the species with the exception of the wild northern reindeer is stable and sustainable.

At the present time the study of reasons for the wild northern reindeer quantity reduction in Kronotsky reserve and its outskirts is being carried out. In 2016, basing on the obtained data, we plan to work out and begin to implement activities on the restoration of the wild northern reindeer population and also to continue the work on the creation of Kronotsky reserve protected area.

Every year the calculations of sea mammals are maintained. Special attention is paid to the study of gray whales and sea lions. Due to photo-identification the "Catalogue of Kamchatka gray whales" is enlarged. In order to establish the genetic characteristics and to define the population structure of gray whales' grouping annual work on skin sample collection is carried out. Over the last three years the quantity of gray whales in the sea area constituting a part of the World Heritage Site "Volcanoes of Kamchatka" has been increasing. It requires additional activities on the protection of seasonal concentration sites, quantity calculation and grouping condition monitoring.

Ichthyologic researches are also conducted in Kronotsky reserve and Yuzhno-Kamchatsky reserve every year. The Sock-eye salmon population condition monitoring in the basin of Kurilskoye Lake (the world's largest spawning place of this valuable salmon species) is being carried out. In the course of the expedition work five endemic species of char were found in the lake of Kronotskoye and two isolated species of char were identified in Dalneye Lake and Tsentralnoye Lake of the Uzon volcano caldera, a population of living white-spotted char which is unique for Kamchatka was found. At the present time mechanisms of salmon species formation the evolution of which is still in progress are studied.

On the territories of the nature parks of regional significance "Nalychevo", "Bystrinsky", "Yuzhno-Kamchatsky", "Kluhevskoy" the following activities are implemented annually: meteorological observations, active volcanoes condition monitoring, perennial grasses and bushes phenology monitoring, monitoring of ornithological complexes, special structure of populations and seasonal spreading of mammals, the condition of local salmon, amphibian, insect populations, including monitoring of the model population grouping condition of such animals as black-headed marmot (*Marmota camtschatica camtschatica* (Pallas, 1811)), bighorn sheep (*Ovis nivicola nivicola* (Eschscholtz, 1829)) in Nalychevo nature park.

In the course of the conducted scientific research on the territory of Bystrinsky nature park the following species of plants which were rare for the region and had not been found before were identified: pond lily (*Nymphaea tetragona* Georgi) and capitate sedge (*Carex capitata* L).

The organization and development of educational tourism on the territories of Kronotsky reserve and Yuzhno-Kamchatsky reserve is implemented according to the Plan of educational tourism development for the years 2015-2016. Annually the estimation of changes in natural complexes under the influence of anthropogenic burden

is maintained, the dynamics and structure of tourist flows are analyzed, recommendations concerning their regulation are given.

At the present time there are 12 tourist routes in Kronotsky reserve, 3 of them are water routes (2 cruise routes), 9 are walking tours (1 is a multi-day tour). In Yuzhno-Kamchatsky federal reserve there are only 10 routes, 2 of them are water routes, 8 are walking tours.

Excursion and recreational activities on the territories of 4 nature parks are conducted within the boundaries of the determined recreational areas.

There are 25 tourist routes on the territories of the parks. Recreational impacts on the territory do not exceed admissible limit values. According to the results of the monitoring no negative irreversible changes of natural landscapes and their components in the area of recreational activity were found.

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

The territories of Kronotsky state reserve and Yuzhno-Kamchatsky federal reserve face the following potential threats on the part of the neighboring areas:

- because of game stock reduction on the border sites cases of poaching within the protected area are likely to occur; that will require holding additional nature protection activities on the part of reserve territories security service;

- for the species which have vast habitats or migrate far beyond the boundaries of Kronotsky reserve and Yuzhno-Kamchatsky reserve (wild northern reindeer, brown bear, bighorn sheep) the protected areas are only a temporary zone of habitation and do not guarantee prosperity of the populations;

- illegal harvesting of water biological resources, the factor of disturbance, pollution of the water area threaten the populations of sea mammals and colony birds, for the reduction of the negative influence on the protected sea area reinforcement of coastal area protection is required;

- illegal kinds of natural resources exploitation registered by the security service of the protected areas include arrivals of sea vessels in the protected sea area, catching water biological resources, visiting the territory of Kronotsky reserve and Yuzhno-Kamchatsky reserve by people having no permissive documents and beyond the limits of current tourist routs, flights of small aircrafts (helicopters) at the altitude less than 500 meters.

The territories of nature parks included in the World Heritage Site are threatened mainly on the part of hunting and fishing sites which are located within the boundaries of the nature parks.

The ban on net fishing in the mouth of the river Nalychevo has had a positive influence on the conservation of Pacific Salmon population in the basin of the river. At the present time constant control of the security service of the parks practically eliminated illegal extraction of water biological resources; it influenced positively the quantity of animals of prey (brown bear, wolverine, Steller's sea eagle).

The potential threats on the part of the neighboring sites are the following

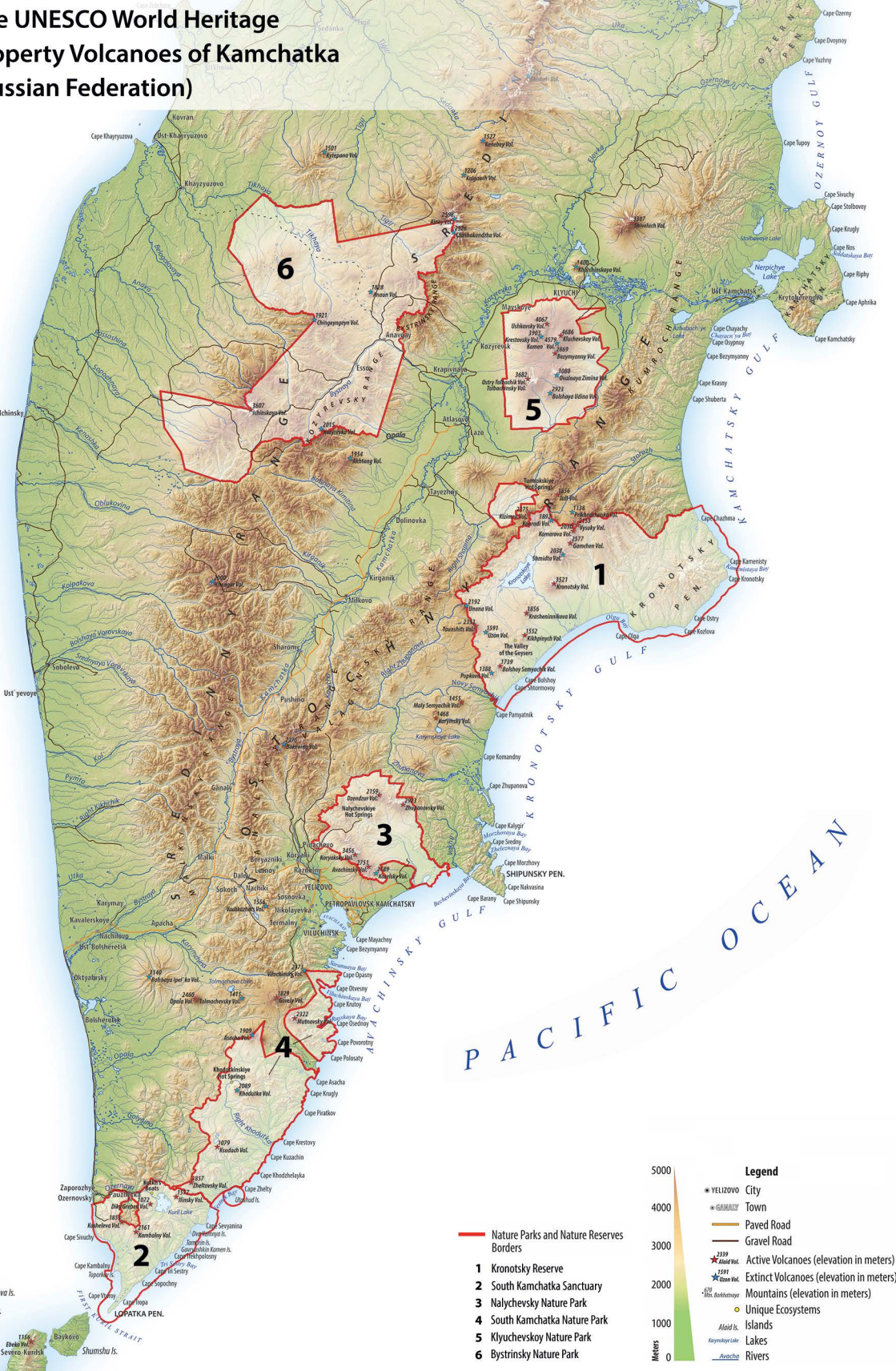
- neighboring with the territories of nature parks belonging to large agglomerations, good transport availability of the park territory in Autumn, increase in the number of cross-country vehicles owned by local population;

- increasing recreational impacts on certain sites and objects of nature parks.

On the whole, the condition and preservation of the World Heritage Site “Volcanoes of Kamchatka” is good and is not a matter of anxiety. No negative irreversible changes in natural landscapes and their components were found out.

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

The UNESCO World Heritage Property Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation)



PACIFIC OCEAN

Legend

- **VELIZOVO** City
- **GRABEITY** Town
- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- ★ **2339** Active Volcanoes (elevation in meters)
- ★ **1591** Extinct Volcanoes (elevation in meters)
- **670** Mountains (elevation in meters)
- Unique Ecosystems
- Islands
- *Abald f.* Lakes
- *Abascho* Rivers

1 Kronotsky Reserve
2 South Kamchatka Sanctuary
3 Malychevsky Nature Park
4 South Kamchatka Nature Park
5 Klyuchevskoy Nature Park
6 Bystrinsky Nature Park

— Nature Parks and Nature Reserves Borders

5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
Meters