
Putorana Plateau (Russian Federation) No 1234rev

1. BASIC DATA

Official name as proposed by the State Party:

Putorana Plateau

Location:

Krasnoyarsky Krai, Russian Federation

Brief description:

This nomination proposes inscription of the Putoransky Reserve, which occupies the central part of the Putorana Plateau, in the northwest part of the Central Siberian Plateau. Situated on the natural border between taiga and tundra in the Eastern Palaearctic, the plateau represents subarctic tundra and forest tundra ecosystems, which are underrepresented on the World Heritage List. It is the only habitat of Putorana bighorn sheep, and experiences massive seasonal migrations of wild reindeer.

Background information:

This is a differed nomination (32COM 8B.13). The property is nominated on the basis of criteria (vii) and (ix).

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report: 17 March 2010

2. THE PROPERTY

Cultural associations are briefly addressed in the nomination (especially *History of land-use*, pp.48-49), but only in the context of impact on natural values and in a philosophical separation of culture and nature. Cultural values relate primarily to the cultural relationship between indigenous peoples, particularly the Dolgan and Evenk, land and animals and the long historic use of the Putorana Plateau for reindeer herding, hunting and fishing. In the past the Putorana mountain system was intensely used for these activities, of which some material evidence such as corral remnants, changes to vegetative structural patterns, traps, decaying buildings and traces of ancient fires remain in the Reserve (pp.48-49, 74).

Reindeer herding and breeding were key components of the traditional livelihood of the Dolgan, in whose traditional forest-tundra occupation area the plateau largely exists, and of the Evenk, the northwest edge of

whose traditional territory extends into the plateau. Despite Collectivization in the 1930s, some remained nomadic until the mid-20th century. Herding of domesticated reindeer on the plateau declined only in the 1950s, although hunting of diverse fauna and fishing continued. State collective reindeer farming in the Reserve area from the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s ended prior to the establishment of the Reserve in 1989.

Approximately 400 Dolgan and Evenk, whose traditional occupation is reindeer herding, fishing and hunting, live today in Khantaisky village beside Khantaiskoye Lake; it is the only village on the plateau and sits outside the Reserve and buffer zone (p.76). Eleven tribal community and farmer production units are reported in the buffer zone. Work of the 'Bunisyak' farmstead near Lake Lama includes restoration and conservation of traditional use of the land by indigenous people (p.82). Even though substantial use of the Reserve appears to have ended about 25 years ago, the Dolgan and Evenk, continue to attach cultural value to the property and the buffer zone.

This assessment has not attempted to consider cultural values associated with any of the extensive and continuing 20th century development outside the nominated area which impacts the western part of the buffer zone (pp.44, 45, 74).

3. ICOMOS CONCLUSIONS

ICOMOS considers that the cultural significance of the landscape associated with a reindeer based economy of Dolgan and Evenk needs to be recognised and sustained as these peoples have exceptionally long associations with this area of what is now Siberia in comparison with the very recent 'creation' of this plateau as a natural Reserve in 1989.

ICOMOS is concerned that this nomination appears to condone the removal of reindeer hunters from this area and the suppression of the very longstanding traditional activities of reindeer herding and hunting, and questions whether this area could not be managed in conjunction with traditional practices.



Domestic reindeer grazing