

**State of Conservation Report on World Heritage Site of UNESCO  
«Wrangel Island» (Russian Federation, № 1023rev) in 2017**

**1. The Russian Federation's response to the World Heritage Committee, 41 COM 7B.7**

A complex of measures arranging necessary objects and territory clearance from accumulated environmental damage caused by past anthropogenic activities has been executed in 2017 to ensure maintenance of Russian Federation security on Wrangel Island.

Area of affected territory is less than 0,001% from total area of "Wrangel Island" world heritage site, still territory previously undertaken for anthropogenic activities is included. Therefore, such activities cannot be described as potentially dangerous for "Wrangel Island" world heritage site.

In 2017 recovery operations due to previously accumulated environmental damage continued, more than 670 tons of scrap metal were shipped from Wrangel Island. Staff of the reserve cleaned up 5 hectares of area near "Somnitelnaya" base from accumulated damage. 200 metal drums and more than 2 tons of small scrap metal were transported to a storage site. Furthermore, more than 20 drums with accumulated in past years waste metal (tins, etc.) were transported from distant stations to a storage site.

Garbage removal took place at historical object "Vezdehod" ("The rover"), "Peak Tundroviy" station.

Subsoil and oil production areas are not available within borders of the world heritage site. Drilling operations, exploration and extraction of minerals within borders of Wrangel Island State Nature Reserve and its protective zone are prohibited by law of Russian Federation.

Seismic survey works carried out on licensed subsoil areas of East-Siberian and Chukchi seas don't affect reserve's water area and its protective zone. Oil production in adjacent to the world heritage site is unavailable now and isn't planned for near future.

Additional construction of tourist infrastructure objects, which can affect the outstanding universal value of the world heritage site, isn't planned.

**2. Background on other current issues related to preservation of our heritage site**

A complex of measures arranging necessary objects and territory clearance from accumulated environmental damage caused by past anthropogenic activities has

been executed in 2017 to ensure maintenance of Russian Federation security on Wrangel Island.

Area of affected territory includes about 20 hectares - 0,0009% from "Wrangel Island" world heritage site total area and 0,0025% from total island territory.

Thereby, mentioned operations take place on the territory previously undertaken for anthropogenic activities, in a distance from key habitat of rare and specially protected animal species, does not affect places of potential polar bear dens, walrus haulouts, nesting sites. Territory with located objects mostly doesn't have any soil and vegetation cover which excludes necessity of its conservation.

Vegetation on reviewed area doesn't contain unique components, rare or endemic species of plants are not available in this part of reserve.

In addition to lack of direct influence on the outstanding universal value of the world heritage site and its realization on exclusively small area - less than 0,01% from the object's territory, reporting activities cannot be described as potentially dangerous for "Wrangel Island" world heritage site.

In 2017 reserve's employees saw numerous approaches and longtime stops of polar bears, muskox and snow geese at area, adjacent to territory with local anthropogenic activities.

In 2017 670 tons of scrap metal were shipped from Wrangel Island.

3 shabby structures which remained from past anthropogenic activities had been redeveloped; waste was shipped from the territory of the world heritage site.

In 2017 staff of the reserve conducted recovery operations at "Somnitelnaya" base. 5 hectares were cleaned, 200 metal drums and more than 2 tons of small scrap metal were collected. Furthermore, barrels with trash were transported from distant stations.

Shipping of another 330 tons of scrap metal from Wrangel Island and more recovery operations at "Somnitelnaya" base conducted by the staff of the reserve are planned in 2018.

All activities on the territory of Wrangel Island State Nature Reserve are conducted under control of security service of the reserve.

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Additional construction of tourist infrastructure objects, which can affect the outstanding universal value of the world heritage site, isn't planned.

At the present time 6 houses for tourist accommodation are located on the territory of Wrangel Island State Nature Reserve (these non-permanent structures were

built in 2012-2014). All houses are constructed near the old stations instead of the old structures. Construction of the new objects is not planned in near future.

Sustainable technologies and renewable power sources were used while development of tourist infrastructure and stations for protection of the territory.

In addition to the wind turbine generator at "Somnitelnaya" base, one more is planned to be installed at "Pik Tundroviy" station in 2018. These stations are most visited by scientific groups and tourists.

In line with infrastructural modernization 3 residential houses for staff and an office building (for researchers during field season, rangers and for events of the staff of environmental education unit) were built at "Ushakovskoe" central base. New houses are constructed instead of the old structures.

Reconstruction of "Bukhta Popova" station is planned for 2018, which will allow to conduct a full survey of molting brant geese. Wetlands with high species list of avifauna are also located near the station, which might attract target tourist groups of birdwatchers.

A collaborative plan for 2018 between the reserve and the courthouse is to organize a visitor center at Museum of Local History of Anadyr and an information center in Anadyr City Airport.

Annual amount of visitors to world heritage site territory is up to 500 tourists, which doesn't make a significant impact on ecosystems of the world heritage site. Tourists get on the territory of world heritage site mostly by cruise ships; up to 6 annually. There are 8 tourist land trails on the territory of Wrangel Island. But only one of them is used intensively - only after 10th of august just during one month. Total number of visitors - up to 30 tourists per season. In addition to low tourist pressure on protected area and eventual absence of increasing amount of visitors, conducting EIA seems inappropriate.

Due to entomofauna inventory survey during the period from 2014, more than 100 new species for the reserve were added.

From 2017 monitoring program for Chukchi-Alaska polar bear population is conducted together with American researchers. Long-term monitoring program on snow geese population is conducted together with American researchers as well.

**3. No changes concerning the world heritage site are forecasted.**

