

**Updated Report on the State of Conservation of the UNESCO  
World Natural Heritage site  
«Wrangel Island» (Russian Federation, № 1023rev) in 2018**

**SUMMARY**

A complex of measures arranging necessary objects and territory clearance from accumulated environmental damage caused by past anthropogenic activities has been executed in 2018 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 2018 recovery operations due to previously accumulated environmental damage continued, more than 330 tons of scrap metal were shipped from Wrangel Island. Furthermore, staff of the reserve cleaned up 9 hectares of area near Ushakovskoe former village and continued transporting metal drums with metal waste from distant huts (cans, household waste) and glass accumulated during recent years: 50 drums and more than 5 tons of scrap metal were transported to a storage site in 2018.

Drilling operations, exploration and extraction of minerals within borders of Wrangel Island State Nature Reserve and its protected zone are prohibited by law of Russian Federation. Subsoil and oil production areas are not available within borders of the World Heritage Site.

Seismic survey works carried out on licensed subsoil areas of East-Siberian and Chukchi seas don't affect Reserve's water area and its protected zone. Oil production in adjacent to the World Heritage Site is unavailable. No cases of accidental oil spill in the sea or coast areas have been recorded.

Additional construction of tourist infrastructure objects, which can affect the outstanding universal value of the World Heritage Site, is not being planned.

**REPORT**

A complex of measures arranging necessary objects and territory clearance from accumulated environmental damage caused by past anthropogenic activities has been executed in 2018 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.

Most part of the territory with located objects doesn't have any vegetation and soil which excludes discussion of 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 the Reserve.

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 polar bear dens concentration, walrus rookeries, nesting sites of rare species of birds.

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, reported activities cannot be described as potentially dangerous for "Wrangel Island" World Heritage Site.

In 2018 staff of the Reserve recorded numerous approaches and longtime stops of polar bears, muskox, snowy owls and snow geese at the area, adjacent to the territory with local anthropogenic activities.

Staff of the Reserve cleaned up 9 hectares of the area near Ushakovskoe former village and continued transporting metal drums with metal waste from distant huts (cans, household waste) and glass accumulated during recent years: 50 drums and more than 5 tons of scrap metal were transported to a storage site. 330 tons of scrap metal were shipped from Wrangel Island in 2018.

In 2019 completion of territory clearance from accumulated environmental damage in Ushakovskoe former village is planned (shipping of 150 tons of metal waste). Beginning of recovery operations due to previously accumulated environmental damage will start in 2019 at the territory of "Somnitelnaya" base.

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

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 protected 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 protected zone. Oil production in adjacent to the World Heritage Site is unavailable now. No cases of accidental oil spill in the sea or coast areas have been recorded.

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 old huts instead of the old structures. Construction of the new objects is not planned.

Sustainable technologies and renewable power sources were used while development of tourist infrastructure and stations for protection of the territory. Each of these 6 houses has solar panels, a wind turbine generator is set at "Somnitelnaya" base. One more wind turbine generator is planned to be installed at "Waring" station.

In line with infrastructural modernization 3 residential houses for staff and an office building (for researchers during field season, rangers and the staff of education and outreach department) were built in 2017-18 at "Ushakovskoe" central base. New houses are constructed instead of the old structures.

Reconstruction of "Popov Lagoon" station started in 2018. This work is critically important for complete monitoring of brant geese: in some years thousands of individuals molt on Wrangel Island and breed in most favorable seasons. Wetlands with high species list of avifauna are also located near the station, which might attract target tourist groups of birdwatchers.

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 can visit the Reserve mostly by cruise ships: up to 5-6 tours annually. There are 8 tourist overland tours on the territory of Wrangel Island. But only one of them is used intensively - only after August 10 just during one month. Total amount of visitors on this route - 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.

From 2016 monitoring program for Chukchi-Alaska polar bear population is conducted together with American researchers, long-term monitoring program on snow geese population is conducted every year. Due to entomofauna inventory survey more than 100 new species were added to the species list of the Reserve from 2014.

**Significant changes within the World Heritage site are not expected.**

