



WORLD HERITAGE SITE «KIZHI POGOST»
(RUSSIAN FEDERATION, C544)

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT 2019—2020



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Kizhi Pogost
• inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 1990



1. Summary of the report

The long-term restoration of the Church of the Transfiguration of the Kizhi Pogost has been completed. It included rehabilitation of the interior and installation of the restored iconostasis at its historic site. Improvement of the adjacent territory is at the completion stage.

The works have been carried out in accordance with the restoration project. All stages of the project have been implemented in close cooperation with ICOMOS, the scientific and methodological council of the Kizhi museum, and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation as well as in compliance with the recommendations of ICOMOS missions and the decisions of WHC sessions. Following the recommendations they have retained the same team of restorers throughout the entire period of restoration.

The works went on all year round without interruption staying on schedule and maintaining the systematic organization of all processes from financing and author supervision to the final acceptance of the completed stages of the work.

In the process of restoration they worked out methods for solving the main restoration challenges, namely, treating techniques for individual members of log walls and strengthening log structures.

The comprehensive monitoring was carried out at all stages of the restoration. It included inspection and examination, monitoring of temperature and humidity conditions, biodeterioration, and deformations of façades and structures.

In 2020 the All-Russian Center for Wooden Architecture Conservation n.a. V.S.Rakhmanov (hereinafter the Center) was established in the Kizhi Open Air Museum with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation. One of the essential objectives of the Center is creation and development of a scientific base for skilled and qualified implementation of wooden architecture conservation works. So, in 2020 the Center has launched development, approbation, and introduction of its own method for monitoring of deformations of the Kizhi Pogost structures as well as for monitoring of deformations of the façades. In 2020 the Center takes part in development of an up-to-date Code of guidelines for cultural heritage conservation. The Code is being formed by order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation. Another important objective of the Center is personnel training for wooden architecture conservation.

During the reporting period they have been engaged in developing the concept for the Church of the Intercession conservation. Four options for conservation are being discussed. Given the specifics of the issue and the need to involve a wide range of specialists in deciding on the restoration method, scientific and public hearings will be held. The Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation decided to allocate funds from the Federal budget for the development of project documentation for 2021-2022. The draft project will be presented to the experts for consideration within the ICOMOS Advisory mission.

The main objective set in strategic planning documents of the Federal, regional, and local levels as well as in the WHS “Kizhi Pogost” Management Plan is a more even distribution of the tourist flow throughout the territory and throughout the year. The objective is to remove the main load associated with tourists reception and service as far as possible from the boundaries of the WHS and, if possible, outside the WHS buffer zone. They continued work on management and sustainable development of the buffer zone of the WHS in accordance with its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and on support for the local community. A number of activities have been implemented in this direction. It was exactly in this vein that the work on the strategically important documents was carried out in 2020:

- Adjustment of the Master Plan for development of the Velikaya Guba settlement, within the boundaries of which the WHS and its buffer zone are located,
- Follow-up of the Master Plan for the WHS OUV conservation and Kizhi Island development.

Large International projects initiated or supported by the Kizhi Open Air Museum were aimed at achieving the same goals:

- “Ethnoarchitecture of Fennoscandia in the XXI century” implemented in 2019-2021 within the “Karelia” CBC program,
- “MARA” (Mobility and Accessibility in Rural Areas), implemented in 2020 within the “Interreg Baltic Sea Region” program.

The Kizhi Open Air Museum has initiated the invitation of the ICOMOS Advisory mission to the “Kizhi Pogost” WHS in 2020 but in light of the developments in the world related to pandemic COVID-19 the invitation will be postponed to 2021.