

Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation

Fund for Conservation and Development of the Solovetsky Archipelago



The Government of Arkhangelsk Region

Federal State Budgetary Cultural Institution “Solovki State Historical, Cultural and Natural Museum Preserve”

Solovetsky Saviour Transfiguration Stauropegial Monastery



I. BRIEF REPORT ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY: “CULTURAL AND HISTORIC ENSEMBLE OF THE SOLOVETSKY ISLANDS”, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, C 632

The Decisions of the World Heritage Committee and ICOMOS recommendations concerning the World Heritage Property “Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands” (C 632) are being followed up by the Russian party and special attention is paid to them in making any decisions in respect of the Solovetsky archipelago.

In 2019-2020 a range of important activities was performed, aimed at the conservation of the World Heritage property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV):

- The Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation has completed the contract for the development of a strategic planning document - a comprehensive Concept for the

development of the Solovetsky archipelago, and continues to develop project documentation for the designation of the Solovetsky archipelago as a cultural heritage site of Federal significance in the form of a religious and historical landmark, which was approved by international experts and corresponds to the OUV of the World Heritage property.

The Russian Orthodox Church, represented by His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, and the hierarchy of the Solovetsky Monastery are personally involved in the preservation of the spiritual, cultural and natural heritage of the Solovetsky Archipelago. In August, high-level meetings are held annually on the Solovetsky archipelago under the chairmanship of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, with the participation of the Governor of the Arkhangelsk Region, the Head of the Republic of Karelia, heads of some ministries and departments, as well as the Chairman of the Council of the Fund for the Preservation and Development of the Solovetsky Archipelago. Typically, the topic of such meetings is topical issues of the state of conservation of the World Heritage Site based on a detailed consideration of each object under restoration. During these meetings, participants discuss ways to solve complex issues with the involvement of all possible state and church resources.

- The Fund for the Conservation and Development of the Solovetsky Archipelago (the Fund) established under the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation № 145 from 06.04.2018 and the Government Resolution № 505 from 26.04.2018 for the conservation, restoration and development of the World Heritage property works successfully and actively;

- the Fund' Expert Council, which includes prominent scientists, architects and restorers, and representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church, is actively working to improve the quality of expert assessments of the preservation and development of the Solovetsky archipelago;

- in agreement with the management of the World Heritage Center (WHC), a mechanism for the dialogue and cooperation of the State Party with WHC on future developments was set up. The Fund' Expert Council employs international experts from the ICOMOS - WHC Advisory body, which provides great assistance in ensuring measures for the preservation of the site and developing a Master plan. The Master plan is being developed.

- under the recommendation of the WHC the Ministry of Culture has provided a comprehensive implementation of the mechanism for the Heritage Impact Assessment

when designing new objects of construction on the territory of the Solovetsky archipelago;

- in 2019-2020, reports on the Heritage impact assessment for the of the UNESCO world heritage property "Cultural and historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands" for key projects in the settlement Solovetsky were sent to the WHC, as well as the report on the total reconstruction of the St.Onuphrius Church. ICOMOS technical reviews were received.

The following managing organizations of the World Heritage Site took part in the preparation of this report: Solovetsky Saviour Transfiguration Stauropegial Monastery and the Federal State Budgetary Cultural Institution «Solovki State Historical, Cultural and Natural Museum Preserve», the Fund for Conservation and Development of the Solovetsky Archipelago, The Government of Arkhangelsk Region, as well as the federal executive body of the Ministry of Culture of Russia, performing the functions of the national coordinator.

The Russian Party expresses its readiness to continue cooperation with the World Heritage Committee and its Advisory bodies; it will take all efforts to achieve positive results in the matters of conservation of the outstanding unique heritage of the Solovetsky archipelago.