

**State of Conservation Report on World Heritage Site of UNESCO
«Wrangel Island» (Russian Federation, № 1023rev) in 2021**

SUMMARY

A complex of measures arranging necessary objects and territory clearance from accumulated environmental damage caused by past anthropogenic activities has been executed in 2021 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, territory previously undertaken for anthropogenic activities is included. Therefore, such activities cannot be described as potentially dangerous for "Wrangel Island" World Heritage Site.

In 2021 recovery operations due to previously accumulated environmental damage continued, about 450 tons of scrap metal were shipped from Wrangel Island. Furthermore, staff of the reserve continues transporting metal drums with metal waste from distant huts (cans, household waste) and glass accumulated during recent years: 20 drums and more than 2 tons of scrap metal were transported to a storage site in 2021.

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 2021 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 2021 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.

Recovery operations due to previously accumulated environmental damage are continued at the territory of "Somnitelnaya" base. About 450 tons of scrap metal were shipped. Reserve staff continued transporting metal drums with metal waste from distant huts (cans, household waste) and glass accumulated during recent years: 20 drums and more than 2 tons of scrap metal were transported to a storage site.

In 2022 work on "Somnitelnaya" base is planned to be continued. Recovery operations due to previously accumulated environmental damage will start on cape Hawaii.

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 "Waring" station and "Somnitelnaya" base. Two more wind turbine generators were bought in 2021 for "Neozhidanaya" and "Popov Lagoon" stations. During summer Reserve staff uses all terrain vehicles (ATVs), during winter – snowmobiles. Low-impact tundra vehicles are used for cargo delivery and people transportation to minimize impact on the soil. Tracked vehicles are operated only on snow over and frozen soil.

In 2022 a new wind turbine generator 60 kW power is planned to be bought and installed at "Ushakovskoe" central base for providing electricity from renewable power sources.

In line with infrastructural modernization three residential houses for staff and a garage are planned to be built in 2022-23 at "Ushakovskoe" central base. New houses will be constructed instead of the old structures.

In 2021 tourism activity resumed on the territory of Wrangel island Reserve. The island was visited by not more than 200 people on cruise ships and yachts. Three tourist overland tours were held on two ecological routes. In addition to low tourist pressure on protected area and eventual absence of increasing amount of visitors, conducting EIA seems inappropriate.

In future, in case of significant improvement in the epidemiological situation tourist visits of the Reserve are expected to increase, mostly on cruise ships. Reserve developed "Regulations for the reception of tourist and cruise ships", which gathers information on possible tourist load on water area and coastal territory of the Reserve.

Research work on assessment of global changes impact on ecosystems of the Russian Arctic was continued in 2021. This work has several directions: cartographic monitoring and long-term observations of the local microclimate of Wrangel Island. Besides, long-term research on indicator species of island

entomofauna was continued. Monitoring and research on freshwater invertebrates of inland waters of the island started. Research on littoral mycobiota of Wrangel Island was carried out for the first time. 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.

No changes concerning the World Heritage Site are forecasted.