

Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation



Government of the Arkhangelsk Region

Religious Organisation "Spaso-Preobrazhensky Solovetsky Stavropegial Monastery of the Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate)"

Federal State Budgetary Institution of Culture "Solovetsky State Historical, Cultural and Natural Museum-Reserve"

Foundation for the Preservation and Development of the Solovetsky Archipelago



**Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands
Preservation Report
(Russian Federation, C 632)
2022**

I. SUMMARY REPORT ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE SITE "CULTURAL AND HISTORIC ENSEMBLE OF THE SOLOVETSKY ISLANDS" RUSSIAN FEDERATION, C 632. PRESERVATION ISSUES OF THE WORLD HERITAGE SITE AND ITS OUV IN STRATEGIC PLANNING PROJECTS.

Question of terminology. It is common to translate "General plan" and "Development strategy" from Russian into English with the same word: masterplan, which leads to significant inaccuracies in the understanding of the text. For this reason, we propose a more accurate definition of the wording: masterplan (English) – General plan (Russian), i.e. the document on the basis of which planning, development and other types of urban development of territories are carried out; development strategy (English) - master plan (Russian), a comprehensive strategy for spatial development of urban (in this case - the village) environment.

"Master Plan" can also be translated into English as General Plan. We would be grateful to the World Heritage Centre for clarification on this subject in order to avoid inaccurate translations and misunderstandings. See Annex 5 for a brief glossary.

Decisions of the World Heritage Committee sessions and ICOMOS recommendations on the World Heritage site Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands (C 632) are monitored by the Russian side and special attention is paid to them when making decisions regarding the Solovetsky Archipelago.

In 2021-2022 important measures and documents have been developed and implemented, including those aimed at the conservation of the World Heritage Site and its HLC

On 09.11.2022 the President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin signed an important Decree approving the state policy for preservation and strengthening of traditional Russian spiritual and moral values.

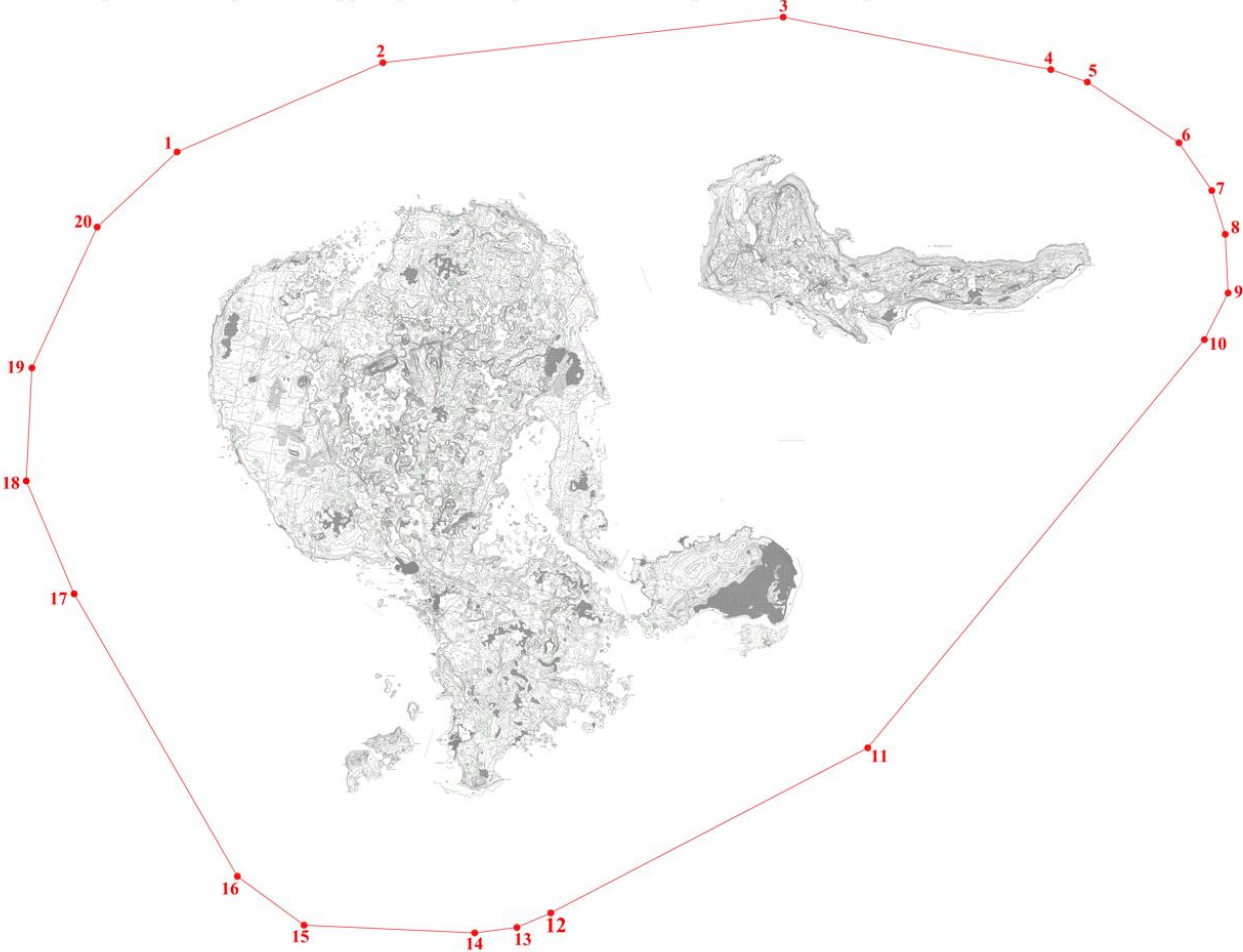
"...6. Christianity... and other religions, which are an integral part of the Russian historical and spiritual heritage, have had a significant impact on the formation of traditional values common to believers and non-believers. A special role in the formation and strengthening of traditional values belongs to Orthodoxy.

24. Implementation of the strategic national priority "Protection of traditional Russian spiritual and moral values, culture and historical memory" implies ...:

g) supporting religious organizations of traditional confessions, ensuring their participation in activities aimed at the preservation of traditional values...;

i) ensuring state protection of objects of cultural heritage (historical and cultural monuments) of the peoples of the Russian Federation, providing access to them in order to promote them as an environment which shapes historical consciousness and fosters love and respect for the Fatherland...".

The Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation is finishing elaboration of the project documentation about the attribution of the Solovetsky Archipelago to the objects of federal cultural heritage in the form of a religious-historical site (hereinafter referred to as the DRIM), that was planned in the minutes of the meeting with the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev № DM-P44-4pr of 24.01.2018) and is part of the Complex concept of Solovetsky Archipelago development, approved by all the interested parties on 30.04.2021. (hereinafter referred to as the Comprehensive Development Concept). The granting of the DRIM status was approved by a number of international experts. The Russian Orthodox Church and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation are working together on the materials of the DRIM, in accordance with the officially approved borders. In addition to the whole territory of the Solovetsky Archipelago, the 3-mile (nauticmiles) sea area surrounding the Solovetsky Archipelago was included in the DRIM.



Notation:

— - The boundary of the territory of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance "Religious and historical place "Solovetsky archipelago", XV century - mid XX century (Arkhangelsk region, Primorsky district, Solovetsky archipelago consisting of islands: Big Solovetsky, Anzer, Big Muksalma, Small Muksalma, Big Zayatsky, Small Zayatsky);

1-20 - Characteristic (pivot) points of the territory of the cultural heritage object of federal significance "Religious-Historical Site "Solovetsky Archipelago", 15th century - mid 20th century (Arkhangelsk region, Primorsky district, Solovetsky archipelago consisting of the islands: Bolshoi Solovetsky, Anzer, Bolshoi Muksalma, Malaya Muksalma, Bolshoi Zayatsky, Malaya Zayatsky).

The Object of Protection of the DRIM and the requirements for its urban planning regulations and land use regimes are currently being finalised. As part of the DRIM project, a section of attributes of the OUV is planned to be developed and to be completely consistent with the DRIM's Object of Protection. On the basis of these documents, in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation, the Master Plan of Solovetsky settlement will be adjusted, which currently needs to be seriously adjusted in order to preserve the WHS and meet the criterion of integrity.

The road map (approved by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, T.A. Golikova № 8492p-P44 dated 22.07.2022) outlines the plan for the preparation of regulations, key projects and actions related to Solovki, first of all in the strategic planning, their timing and responsible institutions, sequence and mutual linkage. According to this map and in accordance with Russian legislation, work is sequentially forthcoming on the DRIM materials, the adjustment of the Solovetsky Village General Plan, the draft Federal Law "On Amendments to the Federal Law on Cultural Heritage Objects (Historical and Cultural Monuments) of the Peoples of the Russian Federation", the Development strategy and the Management Plan.

The Russian Orthodox Church and Solovetsky Museum-Reserve, being the managing organizations of WHS, as they possess almost all Solovetsky monuments, are invariably the determining concordant parties at preparation of the above-listed and other documents.

All the above conceptual works, as well as identification of the aggregated attributes of the OUV of the WHS within the framework of Periodic Reporting Cycle №3 are important for the future development of the Management Plan, which will be a strategic tool to ensure the conservation of the OUV.

There are hundreds of cultural heritage sites on the Solovetsky Islands according to the State Register of the Russian Federation. Primary users of the vast majority of Solovetsky Objects of Cultural Heritage (i.e. organizations managing the World Heritage Site) are the Spaso-Preobrazhensky Solovetsky Monastery of the Russian Orthodox Church, with more than 139 objects of

cultural heritage under perpetual free of charge use and over 40 objects of cultural heritage under the same right of transfer, and the Federal State Historic, Architectural and Natural Museum-Reserve "Solovetsky State Historical and Architectural Reserve" under the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, Accordingly, both Organizations, as the Organizations administering the WHS, continue to comprehensively ensure preservation of the site, including in accordance with the User's obligations as stated in the protection documents, and invariably are the determining concordant parties in preparation of the above mentioned and other documents.

The development of strategic planning documents continued in 2021-2022: in accordance with the previously approved Comprehensive Development Concept. They include: documentation on the attribution of the Solovetsky Archipelago to the DRIM, the corrected Master Plan, and the Development strategy. These materials outline the prospects of further development of the strategy of pilgrimage and tourism, the concept of development of the monastery and the museum, etc. The main directions of Solovetsky Archipelago's development are outlined. The main directions of the Archipelago development are being determined, including the development of the village «Solovetsky».

The Fund for the conservation and development of the Solovetsky Archipelago (hereinafter referred to as the Fund, Foundation) is still in the framework of its authorities, established in response to the appeal of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia with the condition, that the mentioned Fund should deal "not only with restoration of cultural heritage objects on Solovki Archipelago, but also coordinate issues of creating the religious-historical place on Solovki, preparation and approval of the archipelago management plan, as well as construction and reconstruction of its engineering, transport and other facilities. The Foundation was established by Presidential Decree No. 145 of 06.04.2018 and Government Decree No. 505 of 26.04.2018. The Foundation has an expert council comprised of experienced scientists, architects and restorers, as well as representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church.

In 2020 The Foundation has started work on a draft Development strategy. The provisions of the DRIM will be taken into account in its development.

This type of site appeared at the suggestion of the Russian Orthodox Church. International experts have repeatedly appraised granting this status to the Solovetsky Archipelago (UNESCO/ICOMOS missions in 2013, 2015, 2018) with the conviction that this is one of the first priorities in the conservation of Solovki as a World Heritage Site.

The approved materials of the DRIM will provide the basis for consistent development and adjustment of the rest of the strategic planning documents. This will serve the preservation of the World Heritage Site and its WHC in its entirety, taking into account its spiritual, historical, cultural and natural values.

All strategic planning undertaken will result in optimal management of the World Heritage Site.

The report on the state of conservation in Russian will be made available on the official portal of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation: <http://mkrf.ru>.

This report is a reactive (reactive) monitoring document and is sent by the State Party to the WHC.

The Russian side expresses its willingness to continue cooperation with the World Heritage Committee and its Advisory Bodies and will make every effort to achieve positive results in matters of conservation of the unique World Heritage Site.