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**Conseil International
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ICOMOS
REPORT ON THE ADVISORY MISSION TO KIZHI POGOST
RUSSIAN FEDERATION (C 544)
26-29 March 2024



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1. Acknowledgements

The mission team would like to express its profound gratitude to the Russian authorities for the invitation, their kind hospitality and for the excellent arrangements put in place to ensure the smooth running of the mission. The programme of the mission, combining meetings with various stakeholders with on-site visits and discussions, allowed the mission team to receive first-hand information on the issues and challenges that the national and local cultural heritage authorities are facing in the preservation of the World Heritage property “Kizhi Pogost”.

The mission members would like to convey their gratitude to Mr Rybalo Roman Alekseevich, Director of the Department of State Protection of Cultural Heritage, Ms Guryanova Anastasiya Sergeevna, Deputy Head of the Department for UNESCO sites and Certification in Restoration of the Department of State Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, Ms Marchenko Maria Igorevna, 3rd Secretary of the Department for Multilateral Humanitarian Cooperation and Cultural Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, and Mr Ermakov Andrey Mikhailovich, Head of the Office of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the Northwestern Federal District, for their support, availability and assistance during the mission.

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The mission also thanks the staff and specialists of the Kizhi State Museum Reserve for their exceptional hospitality, availability, strong communication and valuable information on the current situation of the World Heritage property, during numerous working meetings and site visits.

2. Executive summary and list of recommendations

2.1 Brief outline of the mission's purpose

The ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property was invited by the State Party in 2020 in response to Decision 43 COM 7B.89. However, it had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In June 2022, the State Party shared with the World Heritage Centre the draft terms of reference for the mission. Following consultation with ICOMOS, the World Heritage Centre confirmed to the State Party the availability of ICOMOS experts to undertake the mission in the second half of September 2023. Finally, the mission took place from 25 to 29 March 2024.

The main purpose of the mission was to ascertain the progress made by the State Party in implementing the above-mentioned Decision and the recommendations of the 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property, as well as to assess the overall state of conservation of the property.

In particular, the Advisory mission had two main focus areas:

First, the assessment of the restoration project of the Church of the Transfiguration, of the restoration of the iconostasis, and particularly proposals for the restoration of the missing "heaven" ceiling painting. Questions also included the further conservation of the Church of the Transfiguration with regard to its safety and adaption to modern use. In addition to this, the mission aimed to assess the conservation project of the Church of the Intercession, and the implementation of the monitoring program for the state of wooden monuments of the Kizhi Architectural Ensemble, as well as for the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

The second main area of focus relates to the management and development of the "Kizhi Pogost" World Heritage property, consultation on development projects proposed within the Plan for conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the "Kizhi Pogost" World Heritage property and development of the Kizhi Island territory (Master Plan) and the Sustainable Development Plan for the buffer zone of the "Kizhi Pogost" World Heritage property.

2.2. Executive Summary on the state of conservation of the property

The conservation works of the Church of the Transfiguration have been successfully completed, after a painstaking and profound intervention, which has included the disassembling of the church by tiers. It has involved the conservation of the most possible original and existing material, giving each wooden element a solution tailored to solve its pathologies. The structural problems that affected its stability and future conservation have been addressed and resolved. The future conservation needs of the Church of the Transfiguration will depend on the implementation of the presented and ongoing program of monitoring and preventive maintenance. These needs will also depend on the sustainable management of the tourism development, implementation of protection measures, and monitoring of the affection of the visits to the church.

The restoration of the Baroque iconostasis has been successfully completed, made up of the dominant element in the church interior. It is noted that the restoration of the "heaven" is currently in process. The original painted transom beams have been restored, and it is recommended that they are placed in their original location. Completion of the "heaven" is aimed for through the use of virtual technology, thereby avoiding the physical reconstruction of the paintings.

Regarding the conservation works for the Church of the Intercession, the mission recommends that the State Party develop and implement the less interventionist option

(Option 1), making use of the experience acquired in the conservation process of the Church of the Transfiguration.

The project and construction of a new external fire extinguishing system of the Kizhi Pogost is under development, with modern technical conditions.

The general plan of the sector “Prionezhie Vepsians” should be developed within the limitations of the second option that was proposed, however avoiding reconstruction of replicas of buildings. It is advised to develop a project for the construction of a temporary (for winter time) waste disposal complex and a network of metal bins, placed inside suitably shaped wooden cases.

The recently created infrastructures in the entrance area in the village of Oyatevshchina are considered reasonable measures facilitating the visitor traffic under the current conditions. In order to address the future needs, including the parking lot expansion, care to additional planning should be paid. The rehabilitation of Serov cultural heritage site in the village of Zharnikovo, in order to facilitate the immediate accommodation needs for the museum staff, is a contribution to preservation of the traditional character of the settlement.

The mission encourages the State Party to strengthen the efforts in forming an active community on the territory, interested in preserving traditions and developing their settlements, while making them attractive for the new generation. The support measures by the authorities of the Republic of Karelia and local governments to citizens living and/or ready to move to the territory of Zaonezhie, to carry out work on the preservation of cultural heritage sites, are considered to provide sufficient incentives. The implementation of electrification of the settlements within the buffer zone is to be proceeded. The State Party should develop an updated Sustainable Tourism Management Plan for the property, including policies regarding the future development of the settlements.

The mission underlines that comprehensive Impact Assessments should be a standard procedure on all development proposals within the World Heritage property and its buffer zone, forwarded to World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. The mission refers in this instance to the provisions of Paragraph 118bis of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2023)*.

The mission supports and recommends the continuation of the educational and research activities of the Educational Centre for Wooden Architecture Preservation on Kizhi Island.

2.3 List of Recommendations

Research, conservation and restoration of the monuments

Recommendation 01

The mission recommends to keep on monitoring the movements of the log walls with binding posts, in comparison to the walls without them in order to refute or confirm, understand and evaluate any influence of the binding posts in their movements; also, whether differential movements occur, and if so, how this affects the building. The monitoring should include possible affections to the durability of the walls.

Recommendation 02

The mission is of the opinion that the issue of the coloured reconstruction of the “heaven” iconography in the Church of the Transfiguration can be solved by the implementation of virtual images. The projection of images is completely reversible and can have two main purposes: to serve as the painted “heaven” of the church during religious practices, and for visitors to understand the building and its history, as well

as the symbolical meaning of the elements of its interior religious decoration. Furthermore, a projected image can be updated to match the findings of the historic, artistic and chromatic research. It also can show one-to-one scale reproductions of historic photographs of the paintings, linear schemes of the icons, or even restoration proposals for discussion. A wide-ranging dialogue among experts on the site of the project, in the presence of the authentic iconostasis, will create possibilities for approaching a more satisfactory solution. It is necessary to continue studying the colouristic solution of the sky icons for scientifically justified and reliable reconstruction of the lost ceiling-sky icons

The mission is of the opinion that the restored original painted transom beams should be returned to their original place, even if their dimensions do not fit with the present geometry of the church, solving the structural issue by supplementing the current non-painted transom beams with new beams on top of them, and by hanging the original restored painted transom beams from these. Special care will be needed to avoid interference with the metallic tension ring.

Recommendation 03

The mission advises that the protection of the wooden floor of the church be achieved by limiting the number of visitors to a sustainable level, and by providing covers for the boots and shoes of every visitor, in order to avoid contact between boots and shoes with the historic wooden planks. It recommends avoiding the installation of materials on top of the floor that might alter the conditions of ventilation and moisture of the wood.

Recommendation 04

The mission advises that the exhibition in the refectory of the Transfiguration Church can be further developed and enriched by the Museum material.

Recommendation 05

The mission recommends the State Party to provide in due course, and in any case before its implementation, a comprehensive presentation / liturgical project for the interior of the Transfiguration Church to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2023).

Recommendation 06

The State Party is advised to present a visitation plan for the monument and the church-yard, taking care of the people with special needs, as well as the difficult weather conditions during winter, given consideration so that accessibility is limited to what is necessary, and that the natural soil and the immediate natural environment of the property are not altered.

Recommendation 07

Regarding the two options developed for the conservation project of the Church of the Intercession, the mission recommends developing and implementing Option 1, which better suits the principle of minimal intervention, while fulfilling to a high level the need, to respond to the consequence of the pathologies of the building.

The development of the details of the intervention will keep the principles of delicacy, care of the existing, minimal removal of material, compatibility of materials, technologies and processes, while keeping to the reversibility of as much of the intervention as possible.

The mission recommends the use of appropriate wood for the conservation works, in terms of species, dimensions, age, moisture content, cutting, and placing. The use of traditional joinery and specifically, the retention of the existing joinery in the Church of the Intercession is paramount.

As new information will be available during the intervention process, thoughtful documentation and research will be needed.

Recommendation 08

The mission recommends designing and implementing a management Plan aimed at creating the conditions for securing the adequate wood for the future conservation works at the Kizhi Pogost World Heritage property.

The Management Plan should define the characteristics that the wood should have, assess the future need of wood in terms of quantity, and identify an area in which to create a forest reserve to supply timber for the maintenance of wooden heritage.

The mission understands that there is no urgency for obtaining wood in the near future, but also that the process for growing adequate wood takes many years. Therefore, it is relevant that the administrative work, design of the Management Plan, and its implementation starts as soon as possible.

Management and development of the property

Recommendation 09

The mission encourages the State Party to complete the implementation of the project for switching and connecting the facilities of the Kizhi island to new electrical networks.

Recommendation 10

The mission advises that major attention be paid to the installation of the new fire extinguishing system, so that its functional parts (generators, pressure tanks, water pipes, water jets) do not cause any kind of visual disturbance to the monument. The mission recommends the project for the new external fire extinguishing system of Kizhi Pogost be accompanied by a comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), and that details of the planned installation and the assessment to be forwarded to World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. The mission advises that the 2022 Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context provides an appropriate framework for such an HIA.

Recommendation 11

In order for the authenticity of the character of the Architectural and ethnographic sector of the Northern Vepsians to be preserved at a high level, as well as for the nature and the type of the proposed sector to be brought to correspond to a more authentic representation of the historic planning structure of a Vepsian traditional village, and in conformity to paragraph 86 of the Operational Guidelines, it is recommended to avoid reconstruction according to archival data of replicas of buildings which do not exist anymore. Instead, the mission encourages the museum to realize the 2024 planned scientific research expedition to the territory of the traditional residence of the Vepsians in order to collect additional scientific information and items for the museum and to negotiate with the owners of traditional Vepsian buildings to be purchased and relocated to Kizhi Island.

The mission is of the opinion that the second, advanced option, as described in the provided "Scheme of the general plan of the sector "Prionezhie Vepsians" (image 30), and developed in the presentation "Prionezhie Vepsians sector" (Annex VIII – 8), will help to rehabilitate the system of traditional settlements and planning solutions of northern Vepsian settlements and particularly to better understanding the most common types of traditional houses in the Prionezhie district. It is also recommended that the proposed building constructions of the second option in number and size should be the final ones, within the spatial limitations indicated in the provided "Scheme of the general plan of the sector "Prionezhie Vepsians".

Recommendation 12

The mission encourages the museum to try to develop a project for the construction of a temporary waste disposal complex (at least for the winter time).

Within the frame of the Master Plan provisions, in order to assist the non-dispersal of waste by visitors, as well as for the timely collection of waste, the mission advises to develop on the island a network of metal bins, placed inside suitably shaped wooden cases.

Recommendation 13

The mission's opinion is that the whole area is facing significant tourism development pressures due to the new road construction and infrastructure projects and the high recreational value of the cultural landscape. The future needs under the increased pressure of visitors and residents, the immediate and cumulative impacts of new projects on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and in consideration to its cultural and environmental vulnerability, should be identified and addressed.

Permanent care should be taken to preserve the non-visibility of the parking area and new development projects, located visually just opposite Vasilievo village on Kizhi island.

According to the State Party information "Draft designs for the entrance area in the village of Oyatevshchina" have been developed. The draft designs were submitted to the World Heritage Committee as part of the Master Plan." The mission underlines that details of proposals that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property must be subject to appropriate impact assessments and the transmission of details of proposals and their assessments to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies should be a standard procedure on all development proposals within the World Heritage property and its buffer zone.

Recommendation 14

The mission enthusiastically supports and recommends the continuation of the educational and research activities of the students of the Educational Centre for Wooden Architecture Preservation on Kizhi Island.

Recommendation 15

Noting that exposure to asbestos can be highly hazardous to human health, it is recommended that the State Party, with the help of the local self-government committees, identify those constructions in which this material is still in use and take care of its immediate removal, through an authorized campaign.

Recommendation 16

The mission recommends that the State Party makes every effort, so that the objective difficulties are removed, and it can proceed with the implementation of electrification of the settlements in the island complex within the buffer zone of the property.

Recommendation 17

The mission advises the State Party to develop an updated Sustainable Tourism Management Plan for the property, including policies regarding the future development of the settlements in the islands of the buffer zone, and in particular:

- a revised zoning proposal with adequate provisions for the protection of the landscape setting, a tourism strategy, risk preparedness and an archaeological rescue and monitoring strategy;*
- the development of guidelines for interventions to address restoration criteria and issues such as the treatment of elements from various periods, treatment of witness marks, introduction of modern materials, structural reinforcement, among others.*

The mission recommends that the State Party include a detailed update of the Tourism Management Plan as annex to the state of conservation report that the World Heritage Centre requested it submit by 1 December 2024 (Decision 45 COM 7B.198).

Recommendation 18

The mission encourages the State Party to strengthen the efforts in forming an active community on the territory, interested in preserving traditions and developing their settlements, while making them attractive for the new generation who could find a future in this area.

3. The Mission

The ICOMOS Advisory mission to the “Kizhi Pogost” World Heritage property took place from 26-29 March 2024. The mission programme is appended to the report as Annex VI. For the composition of the mission team refer to Annex V.

On 26 March 2024, in Petrozavodsk, the mission had the opportunity to visit a block of historical buildings, including the premises of the former city hospital and private houses (late 19th-early 20th centuries). The traditional wooden buildings have been acquired by the Museum and are under restoration and rehabilitation with contemporary functions. The wooden houses in this area will become one of the attractive poles for the visitor of acquaintance with the old physiognomy of the city. The members of the mission were welcomed in a restored wooden building (1883), which was converted into a Children's Museum Centre with educational programmes and thematic exhibitions. In addition, the mission visited the Church of the Holy Spirit (1894) and an old blacksmith's shop (late 19th century).



Image 1. Mrs Bogdanova Elena Viktorovna and Mrs Alipova Yulia Borisovna with the mission members in Petrozavodsk Museum office.

Image 2. The building of the former gynaecology clinic.



Images 3-4. Children's Museum Centre in the former city hospital in Petrozavodsk.

On Kizhi Island, the mission work was held in Yamka village, in the representative Anikins' house, restored in 2023 and transformed into a residence for students of the All-Russian Centre for Wooden Architecture Conservation "V. S. Rakhmanov". The interior combined the atmosphere of a 19th century peasant house with modern comforts, through stylized solutions.

Before the meetings, the members of the mission had the opportunity to make the following presentations to the students of the Centre and to have a dialogue with them:

- Mikel Landa: "Some thoughts about minimal intervention in the context of wooden heritage conservation."
- Alkiviadis Prepis: "World Cultural Heritage Monuments - Issues of Conservation, Management and Development".



Image 5. Anikin's restored traditional house, converted into residence for the students of the Centre
Image 6. An overnight room for the students of the Centre.



Image 7. The classroom of the mission workshop.

The mission team had the possibility to get acquainted with the work and educational activities of the All-Russian Centre, to make on-site visits and to have meetings with village heads, accompanied by Museum employees and specialists. Also, the mission team had the opportunity to visit Klymenetsky Holy Trinity Monastery and to be welcomed by the rector of the monastery and the monastic community, accompanied by the Archpriest of the Parish of the Church of the Transfiguration.

Remarks on the organization of the mission

The mission considers that the next ICOMOS mission should be undertaken during a season of the year without snow, as winter conditions make it difficult to move on the island, which limits the possibility of visiting villages in the buffer zone. Due to the cloudy winter weather, the mission was not able to have a clear picture of the area of the planned (re)establishment of the traditional houses in the village of Oyatevschina, or to assess the visual connection of this area with the opposite coast of Kizhi Island. Similarly, it was not possible to assess the overall situation in the Kizhi Island and in the islands of the buffer zone during the peak periods of visitation by locals and foreigners.

Remarks on the thematical development of the presentations

Due to the absence in the near future of plans for the reconstruction of the historic "Worshipful Cross" on the eastern side of the world heritage site and works within the boundaries of the historic villages of Vasilievo and Yamka, the mission was not provided with information about the reconstruction of the historic 'Worship Cross' at the eastern side of the property, as proposed by the 'Plan for conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site "Kizhi Pogost" and development of the Kizhi Island territory'. The mission recalls the request of Decision 45 COM 7B.198, that details should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before implementation.

Similarly, the mission did not receive information regarding the development of new dwellings and household structures, historically grounded small architectural forms, fields and vegetable gardens on the territory of the historic villages of Yamka and Vasilyevo, as proposed by the Plan, although the World Heritage Committee in its Decision 45 COM 7B.198 had requested that the State Party give consideration to defining spatial limits for new construction and land uses within the buffer zone.

It would have been very useful for the members of the mission to have a general informative presentation on the 'Sustainable Development Plan for the Buffer Zone of the World Heritage property "Kizhi Pogost" (2022-2032)' before the individual development presentations. A comprehensive analysis of the planned actions and the list of target-evaluating indicators of the Plan would help to better understand the degree of progress achieved so far in the implementation of the objectives.

There was only a limited update on the Tourism Management Plan (structure, targets, achievements to date, prospects for future development and planned means of satisfaction of emerging needs); a more detailed update would be welcome. The mission recommends that the State Party include a detailed update of the Tourism Management Plan as annex to the state of conservation report that the World Heritage Centre requested it submit by 1 December 2024 (Decision 45 COM 7B.198).

4. Assessment of the state of conservation of the property

4.1 Restoration work on the monuments of the “Kizhi Pogost” World Heritage property

4.1.1 The implementation of a comprehensive restoration project of the Church of the Transfiguration

Since the 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission, the conservation works of the Church of the Transfiguration have been finished. It has consisted of a painstaking process of disassembling the church by tiers, repairing and assembling each element in place, to proceed with the following tier the following year.

Once the logs of each tier were disassembled, they were carried to the workshop, located on Kizhi Island. Each element with relevant damage was repaired, those damaged to such an extent that they could not be repaired, were replaced. The whole tier was assembled in the workshop in order to check that everything fitted, and to apply loads to the ensemble, that would serve as a loadbearing test. The process continued with the second disassembling of the tier in the workshop, transportation of all elements to the church, and assembly of them all to their original place.

The process has included the documentation of every action, and the condition of every piece of wood, following a specially developed system for data collection and storage. The system includes data for every log of the church, and includes a number allocated to each element, dimensions, size and configuration of additions or grafts for each repaired element, the date of the repair and the carpenter who did it. This documentation allows further analysis and statistics on several topics such as the percentage of historical material replaced along the height of the structure or the orientation of the wall. This latter analysis can be vital to assist with the monitoring and maintenance of the structure in the future. The data collection also includes the markings found on every wooden element.

Former missions expressed concern that the binding posts were being too accurately fitted, with result that they would hamper the natural movement of the logs of the walls. It was recommended that all the binding posts be adjusted to make vertical movement possible, by making elongated holes that would allow the logs to move vertically, while the binding posts maintain their structural function. This is a relevant aspect to be implemented so as not to impede the good structural behaviour of the walls. The 2018 recommendations were received by the State Party once almost all of the binding posts were installed. This led to two possibilities: Dismantling the already installed binding posts, to lengthen the holes, or to install new binding posts with elongated holes next to the previously installed ones.

The specialists refused to implement the first solution because it might provoke unbalance of the log structure of the church. The specialists also refused to implement the second solution to the problem in order to avoid the appearance of new holes in the historical structures of the temple.

This mission considers that keeping the binding posts with round fastening holes could result in unwanted tensions in the binding posts, or/and limitations to the natural seasonal vertical movements of the log walls. Therefore, those walls with binding posts could move differently to those without them.

After completion of the restoration, the Kizhi Museum-Reserve organised monitoring of the condition of the Church of the Transfiguration, in the course of which special attention is paid to monitoring the condition of the compressions. According to the monitoring data, the natural shrinkage process of the log construction has been completed. The State Party reports that the tension brought to bear to the logs of the log construction has not created any obstacles in the shrinkage of the log construction.

However, special care still has to be taken to keep on monitoring the movements of the walls, and confirming whether there is any influence of the binding posts in their movements, in order to determine whether any further action needs to be taken.

Recommendation 01

The mission recommends to keep on monitoring the movements of the log walls with binding posts, in comparison to the walls without them in order to refute or confirm, understand and evaluate any influence of the binding posts in their movements; also, whether differential movements occur, and if so, how this affects the building. The monitoring should include possible affections to the durability of the walls.

The 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission recommended that four simple rods running straight between the binding posts on the diagonal walls were enough to avoid the horizontal movements of the walls. The State Party implemented the recommended solution, but also added a tension ring made of steel rods just above the wooden ring of the ceiling. This mission considers the installation of both solutions to be correct, as it avoids the horizontal movement in two levels. The steel ring is placed close to the wooden ring of the ceiling. This configuration counteracts the horizontal efforts of the wooden transom beams of the ceiling.

The mission was positively impressed by the completion of the conservation process, its result, and the high level of care and workmanship.

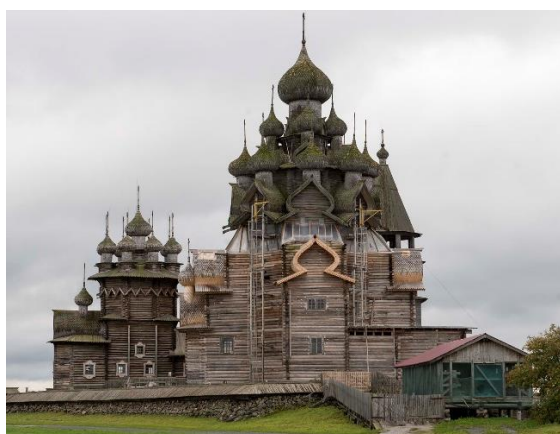


Image 8. 2016. The Church of the Transfiguration, during its conservation intervention. A tier has been disassembled and is being repaired in the workshop. The lower part has already been intervened, with the upper part waiting its turn.

Image 9. 2016. The Church of the Transfiguration during its conservation intervention. Some logs have been repaired; others replaced, with most kept. The action depended on the level, extension and distribution of damage.



Image 10. 2016. The Church of the Transfiguration during its conservation intervention. Tier 6 has been disassembled from the church, repaired and assembled in the workshop to check for each detail and test loads. Later it was disassembled again, taken to the church and assembled in place.

Image 11. 2016. Storage of replaced wooden logs in the workshop at Kizhi island.

4.1.2 The proposals for the restoration of the “heaven” ceiling painting of the Church of the Transfiguration

The question of the possibility and necessity of recreating the "heaven" ceiling was considered already in 1956. During the restoration of the church, including the restoration of the historical interior, in the 2000s in accordance with the project of architect V.S. Rakhmanov, the problem of the reconstruction of the "heaven" ceiling, as well as the installation of its historical transom construction was frequently discussed. This issue was also a central focus of the 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission, which made particular recommendations on this issue.

It is probable that the "heaven" ceiling was installed during the construction of the church (1714), while the renovation (renewal) is reliably dated to 1759 and the beginning of 20th century. During World War II, the icons of the “heaven” ceiling were dismantled and taken from Kizhi Island to the city of Petrozavodsk, where they were later lost.

The decorative programme of the "heaven" ceiling of the Church of the Transfiguration was a ceiling painting on an area of 100 sq.m. It included: 16 facets-icons depicting forefathers, angels, heavenly powers; the central icon-medallion "New Testament Trinity"; supporting structures: 16 ornamented transom structures, a supporting ring with the text of prayer written in a mirror frieze - 6 (out of 8) decorative boards hiding the joints of the transoms and the walls of the octagon framework.

1. The structural issue

1.1 The iconostasis

It has become possible to remount the imposing iconostasis of the Church of the Transfiguration in its original location, including all of the original icons. Information obtained on the basis of archival materials made it possible to clarify the order of icons in the iconostasis, which has 111 images. Exemplarily restored recently, the gilded carved Baroque iconostasis is a five-row carpentry structure of 10 panels (bases) and 44 stakes. The iconostasis has a majestic and calm rhythm, and is the dominant element in the church interior. The complex ornamentation of its frame indicates that the masters were familiar with the best examples of decorative carving of the late 17th - early 18th centuries. The restored carved Royal Doors retain most of their original material, while the missing elements have been completed with new ones, distinguished by the newer flawless gilding of their surface.

The reconstruction of the “heaven” above the iconostasis filled in the void in the church interior, while, at the same time, contributing decisively to the support of the side walls in the central part of the church. During the reconstruction, small distortions from the original dimensions were pointed out, which had taken place during the lifetime of the monument, and the reconstruction necessarily followed them in its implementation. Therefore, the newer "heaven" shows small differences in its dimensions compared to the original one, as it needs to fill a slightly bigger space.



Image 12. General view of the remounted and restored iconostasis.



Image 13. The restored Holy Gates of the iconostasis.



Image 14. The "heaven" and its relation with the iconostasis.

1.2 The ceiling

The ceiling has been reconstructed without any painting on its surfaces. The whole surface of the actual ceiling is plain wood. Meanwhile, the structural beams of the original ceiling, which are the only elements with original paintings, have been carefully restored in the workshop, and remain stored. The present ceiling consists of a structure formed by sixteen radial beams and a centre crown that replaces the original structure, with a surface of wooden planks filling the spaces. The structure has been designed to fit the dimensions of the church, meaning that the currently installed radial beams are longer than the originals. This fact makes difficult the possibility of returning the original beams to the original location and recovery of their structural function, without altering them.

The mission understands that at present the State Party intends to display the restored transom beams in a museum, while replicating them in situ. However, following on the recommendations of the 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission report, this mission understands that it would be preferable that the restored painted transom structures of the original ceiling be returned to their original place. This involves technical difficulties

due to the larger dimension of the space in which the ceiling is located, due to movements of the building log walls, and to the existence of a reinforcing steel ring above the ceiling, close to it.

The supporting ring has been reinforced with the installation of steel tension rods, aimed to stop the walls from sliding apart. These rods are placed above the ceiling and are not visible from the interior of the church. As recommended in the 2018 report, the reinforcement intervention has been kept to a minimum, but is placed very close to the ceiling.

In order to return the painted beams to the original locations, they would need to substitute the current non-painted, new transom beams. To achieve this, a new structure would need to be installed above the current beams, copying each transom beam with a new beam above it, which would have the needed section. Understanding that the reinforcing steel ring is so close to the current non-painted transom beams, but with different distances in each case, the new beams to be placed between the current unpainted beam and the steel ring would need to be built very carefully to avoid the steel rods. The State Party will work out the issue of returning the restored chancel to its historical place, taking into account the structural strength of the monument. Each new transom beam will have a specifically tailored solution, regarding how to solve the problem of the available distance between the current beam and the metallic rod.

Once the new beam is in place, the current non-painted beams can be removed, and replaced by the old painted and restored beams, which will return to their original position. The old beams will not reach the original support in the walls, but will be hung from the new beams on top of them instead. The distance from the end of the old beam to the wall can be filled with a new section of a beam that will match the old in dimensions, and will also be hung from the new structure.



Image 15. The Church of the Transfiguration, view of the non-painted "heaven".



Image 16. View from above the "heaven", with the metallic rod collar and the rainwater evacuation system.



Image 17. Storage of the restored painted original transom beams.

Image 18. Detail of the restored painted original transom beams.

2. The graphic and colour representation issue

However, now the aesthetic contrast between the dominant element of the Baroque style carved iconostasis and the "neutral" element of the "heaven" within the strict simplicity of the rest of the wooden church interior becomes apparent: it clearly highlights the problem of the "lacuna" of a missing integral part in the recreated church interior space. As it has been highlighted: *"The iconostasis is distinguished by high craftsmanship, but at the same time, the inappropriateness of its gilded splendor in the austere log interior of the wooden church is acutely felt."*¹

Certainly, the problem has additional, liturgical dimensions, as the interior space of a medieval Russian church symbolically is representing "the earthly heaven": *"This is the highest point of the search for the utmost solemnity and grandeur of the interior spaces of the ancient Russian wooden temple. The "heaven" ceiling in the interior of the church becomes the second most important compositional and semantic center after the iconostasis."*²

Therefore, the reconstruction of the depictions in the facets-icons of the "heaven" is linked to the issue of regenerating an essential liturgical-symbolical element that has been lost forever, based on the preserved retaining structural elements (a castle ring; 16 ornamented transoms; a supporting ring along the walls of the log framework, as

¹ Gushchina V.A., *On the issue of restoring iconographic decoration in connection with the completion of the restoration of the Church of the Transfiguration of the Lord on the island of Kizhi*, Kizhi Bulletin, Issue 17, Karelian Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Petrozavodsk, 2017, p. 134.

² Noted by architect B. Gnedovsky in the "Reconstruction of the "heaven" ceiling of the Church of the Transfiguration of the Kizhi Pogost" – information document sent by the State Party (Annex VIII-9, p.1).

well as 6 of the 8 frieze boards), available black-and-white photographs of the early 20th century and photographic recordings of the “heaven” icons by Finnish researchers in 1943. There are also archival documents and a published translation of the book by L. Pettersson and P. Härkönen.

With the initiative of the State Party, and following the 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission recommendations, the issue of the “heaven” ceiling reconstruction was presented and discussed in a series of Russian conferences, articles exhibition and educational projects supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation in 2023-24.

Between 2018 to 2024, the attention of Russian scientists was primarily paid to the preliminary research of two aspects: artistic and architectural design.

(i) Analysis of archival sources, including the archive of Finnish researchers Lars Pettersson (“heaven” ceiling) and Pentti Härkönen (iconostasis) from the National Archive of Finland, as well as comparative characteristics of architectural and coloristic descriptions of the “heaven” ceilings of 32 churches and chapels of Zaonezhie.

(ii) Determination of the colour range of the ceiling paintings of the Zaonezhie temples and the icons of the iconostasis of the Church of the Transfiguration of Kizhi Pogost (image 20). Colour maps were developed regarding the colours of paintings of preserved original structures (transoms, lock ring, friezes) of the “heaven” construction, as well as the colours of paintings available in the Museum's collections and similar in time and painting ceiling icons of the Zaonezhie temples. The State Party informed the mission team of “the accounting documentation³, in which a positive conclusion was approved of the possibility of reconstructing the complex of ceiling paintings of the “heaven” with the recreation of the most authentic colour range (colouristics)”⁴

Remarks

There are several hypotheses about the time of creation of the “heaven” in the Church of the Transfiguration. A key issue relates to whether the painters of the “heaven” icons are the same as those of the iconostasis. Comparisons and deductions could be made to the stylistic and colour palette of the iconostasis iconography for the colour representation of the lost depictions in the “heaven” icons.

1. The graphic rendering of the iconography of the “heaven” - Russian scholars have succeeded in representing to a large extent the linear rendering of the depicted persons, as well as their general characteristics in the “heaven” icons in the state in which Finnish scholars found and photographed them in 1943, as well as based on earlier photos from the first decades of 20th century (image 19).

2. The problem of the colour rendering of the original colour tones in the background elements, as well as in the features of the clothing and the faces of the depicted persons remains crucial.

2a. A group of researches indicated that perhaps both groups of icons were painted by one master, supporting the thesis that one can “[...] identify the unity of style and simultaneity of execution, comparing photographs of images of some saints in “heaven” with existing images on iconostasis icons with subsequent transformations in the second half of the 18th–19th centuries, which did not change the design program for the interior decoration of the Kizhi temple.” Thus, the shape and design of the faces

³ Volume 1-1 "Definition of the color range (coloristics) of the ceiling painting of the "heaven" ceiling of the Church of the Transfiguration of the Kizhi Pogost"; however, this document was not available to the mission members.

⁴ “Reconstruction of the "heaven" ceiling of the Church of the Transfiguration of the Kizhi Pogost” – information document sent by the State Party (Annex VIII-9, p.4).

of the angels, the arrangement of their wings, their clothes and shoes have a typical resemblance to the faces on the Transfiguration iconostasis. At the same time, “the similarity and literal repetition of some images of forefathers and iconostasis saints is obvious, which can be explained by writing by the same master, or by copying.”⁵

Another indirect argument puts forward as a proof of the simultaneous creation of the church decoration the remark of Finnish researchers who removed ceiling icons from the structure: “It is noteworthy that some sky icons are so large in size that they will not fit into the door leading to the street. This circumstance indicates that they were installed in their places before the completion of the main construction work.”⁶

2b. Nevertheless, other recent studies have proved that the colours of the “heaven” images are known only on the basis of the manuscript of L. Pettersson and P. Härkönen, who described just a small number of them and in very broad terms. They conclude that: “If we list the colors of the images unknown to us, it will become clear that almost all the characters depicted on the “heaven” icons are for us white spots in color.”⁷

Focusing only on a small part of the differences on characteristic details from the design and the black-and-white depiction of the saints, archangels and angels, the scholars argue that “The similarities in the images of the characters of the “sky” icons and the iconostasis, visible at first glance, do not go beyond tradition, but a detailed analysis of the two complexes revealed quite a lot of differences”; and finally they come to the conclusion that the iconostasis icons and the “heaven” icons have had different authors.⁸

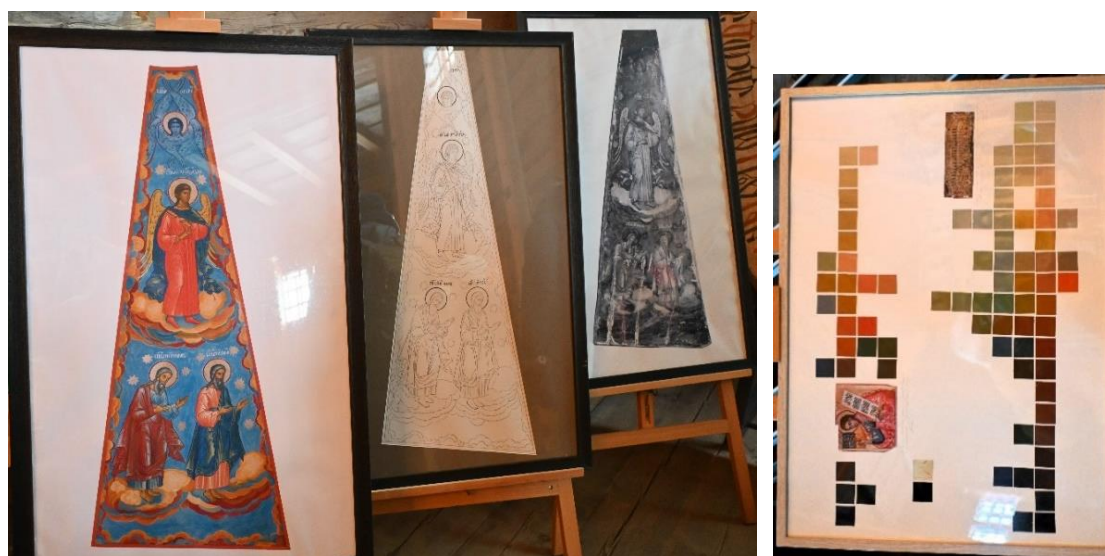


Image 19. The 3 degrees of “heaven” icons representation: from right – the black and white photographs of the original icons; the stylistic – linear depictions; the proposed coloured depictions.

Image 20. Comparison tableau between the resolutions of colour shades in the iconostasis icons (right) and the proposed ones for the “heaven” icons (left).

⁵ Frolova G. I. *Ceiling painting and iconostasis complex of the Church of the Transfiguration of the Spaso-Kizhi churchyard as a one-time iconographic decoration of the temple*, Ryabinin readings - 2019: Materials of the VIII conference on the study and actualization of the traditional culture of the Russian North, Petrozavodsk, 2019, pp.330-334.

⁶ Frolova G. I., op. cit., p.334.

⁷ Vorobyova S.V. and Gashkov I.G., *On the problem of recreating the painting of the ceiling - the “sky” of the Church of the Transfiguration of the Lord of the Kizhi Pogost*, Ryabinin readings - 2023, Karelian Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Petrozavodsk, p.184

⁸ Vorobyova S.V. and Gashkov I.G., op. cit., p.185-6.



Image 21. Apostle Thomas in iconostasis.

Image 22. Forefather Enoch in the "heaven" photo.

Image 23. Archangel Gabriel from the "heaven" of the Assumption Chapel in Vasilyevo.

In the mission's opinion, a comparative analysis of the images in the published photographs, despite the apparent affinity at first sight in the general "setting" and depiction of the figures, immediately reveals the great differences in style, rendering of details, quality and accuracy of execution. Even when "the graceful figures of the Apostle Thomas and the Forefather Enoch are very close"⁹ - obviously following a common iconographic pattern of the Byzantine pictorial legacy - the first depiction, from the iconostasis, is characterized by an "official", "aristocratic", although "static" style, proving high technical expertise and attaching great importance to detail, following the classical-linear rendering method for the illuminated surfaces; while the second depiction, from the "heaven", presents a more "popular" style in execution, which confines itself to a general rendering of details, following an "improvisational" technique of displaying the bright spots, though performances movements of the body and the clothes with more vivid expressions. From this point of view the second depiction shows more similarities with icons in the "heaven" of the Assumption Chapel in Vasilyevo village, on Kizhi Island, which dates even earlier (late 17th - early 18th century)¹⁰ (images 21-23).

3. An additional issue for recreating the original iconography of the "heaven" consists of the presence of late interventions on the icons. It is known that the "heaven" icons were "renewed" twice - in 1759 and in 1901–1902, along with the restoration of the iconostasis.

The first view recognizes that "the clothes of some characters in the third register do not coincide with the images on the iconostasis icons in a number of important iconographic features, which is probably a consequence of the recordings". However, it supports the opinion that the changes made during the 18th and 19th centuries did

⁹ Frolova G. I., op. cit., p.333-4.

¹⁰ <https://cyrellitsa.ru/actual/662-angely-russkogo-severa.html>

not initially change the pictorial scheme of the "heaven" and that, moreover, they did not change the unity in style and execution of the illustration.¹¹

The second opinion finds out that the photographs give a very rough idea of the volume of records, concluding that: "However, reconstructing the icons of unpreserved originals is not possible due to the lack of information about the color scheme, the difficulty of identifying the original painting under later renovations, and determining the volume of these records."¹²

4. Lastly, the mission notes that, the initial incorporation of the "heaven" construction within the log framework of the Church of the Transfiguration, dictated by static and liturgical reasons, does not necessarily prove the simultaneity of the iconographic decoration execution of the former with that of the iconostasis. The iconostasis icons could well have been done by a later craftsmen group who followed commonly accepted general typological and pictorial rules of Orthodox iconography.

Conclusion

It should be recognized that the proposal for reproduction of the "heaven" icons colour rendering is based on detailed documentation from available and known sources. It is grounded mainly on certain parallels with the iconostasis images and broad individual descriptions of the Finnish researchers of the situation existing in 1940s, after two known renovations. Additional sources are references to the colour scheme of the surviving "heaven" chapels of Zaonezhie and the icons available in the Museum's collections, which are similar in time of origin, and painted ceiling icons of the Zaonezhie temples. However, the iconostasis icons, despite the apparent affinity in the general "setting" and depiction of the figures, show great differences in style, rendering of details, quality and accuracy of execution with the extant photographs of the lost "heaven" icons. A colourful restoration based mainly on the colour gamut of the iconostasis icons cannot be considered complete and fully understandable as almost all the characters depicted on the "heaven" icons are questioned and cannot be recreated devoid of conjecture and assumptions. Therefore, the reconstruction proposal does not justify the preconditions of paragraph 86 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*.

The mission recognises that the recovery of the original use of the Church of the Transfiguration enriches the authenticity of the monument. The mission understands the relevance of the iconostasis and the painted "heaven" in the liturgical functioning of the church. However, unlike the restoration of the iconostasis in which the missing parts were of a minor nature, the missing parts of the "heaven" are almost the whole of it. Any repainting of the icons of the "heaven" will have a considerable impact.

Recommendation 02

The mission is of the opinion that the issue of the coloured reconstruction of the "heaven" iconography in the Church of the Transfiguration can be solved by the implementation of virtual images. The projection of images is completely reversible and can have two main purposes: to serve as the painted "heaven" of the church during religious practices, and for visitors to understand the building and its history, as well as the symbolical meaning of the elements of its interior religious decoration. Furthermore, a projected image can be updated to match the findings of the historic, artistic and chromatic research. It also can show one-to-one scale reproductions of historic photographs of the paintings, linear schemes of the icons, or even restoration proposals for discussion. A wide-ranging dialogue among experts on the site of the project, in the presence of the authentic iconostasis, will create possibilities for approaching a more satisfactory solution. It is necessary to continue studying the

¹¹ Frolova G. I., op. cit., p.332-3.

¹² Vorobyova S.V. and Gashkov I.G., op. cit., p.186.

colouristic solution of the sky icons for scientifically justified and reliable reconstruction of the lost ceiling-sky icons

The mission is of the opinion that the restored original painted transom beams should be returned to their original place, even if their dimensions do not fit with the present geometry of the church, solving the structural issue by supplementing the current non-painted transom beams with new beams on top of them, and by hanging the original restored painted transom beams from these. Special care will be needed to avoid interference with the metallic tension ring.

4.1.3 Further conservation of the Church of the Transfiguration with regard to its safety and adaption to modern use

Remarks

1. In the 1950s, the architect A.V. Opolovnikov freed the church interior from all liturgical elements with the exception of the iconostasis.¹³

In addition to the icons in the iconostasis and the icon-painted ceiling of the “heaven”, there were icons on the walls.¹⁴ It is noted that in the refectory (*pronaos*) of the church, 5 icons have been preserved in original frames decorated with 18th-century ornaments and showing features of the Rococo style.¹⁵

It is possible that in the final restoration and presentation of the church interior can include removed objects, some of which are stored in the museum collections (e.g. the “shroud”, lighting fixtures like candlesticks and porcelain candles (tops for floor candlesticks)), and which will require assembly, installation, restoration, or the reconstruction of copies (such as the 18th century-pulpit in the *solea*), and, perhaps, the purchase of additional exhibits.¹⁶

2. Accessibility to the monument should also be ensured for people with disabilities. It was clarified during the mission that the proposal made to the 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission for the construction of a glass section on the south floor part of the Transfiguration Church has been withdrawn, in the light of the problems of modern metal construction and its assembly on the traditional wooden floor, its functionality (walkability), and final appearance within the original wooden church interior.

The State Party showed concern regarding the long-term condition of the 18th century wooden floor, due to the expected increase of visitors, and proposed to include some kind of material to cover the wooden floor, as a protection.

3. The mission understands the need to address the conservation of the condition of the wood planks in the floor. However, including a material on top of it might lead to increased damage, as the conditions of the surface floor will change. Instead, actions to limit future damages of the floor could be taken in two directions. The first involves limiting the number of visitors to the church to a sustainable level. The second, to

¹³ Gushchina, op. cit., p.149.

¹⁴ Frolova G.I., *Interior decoration of the Transfiguration Church of the Spaso-Kizhi Pogost*, Kizhi Bulletin No.10, Kizhi Museum-Reserve, Petrozavodsk, 2005.

¹⁵ Dudinova T. Yu., *Unpublished work by Lars Pettersson and Pentti Hyarkonen “Kizhi Transfiguration Church. A majestic monument of church art of the Olonets region”*, in: Kizhi Bulletin. Issue 15, Karelian Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Petrozavodsk, 2015, p.46-47.

¹⁶ Gushchina, op. cit., p.140.

provide soft covers for the boots and shoes, so that every visitor walks into the church with their shoes covered, avoiding direct contact between the shoes and the wooden planks.

4. In the refectory of the church, a basic information display for the visitors has been installed, concerning the history of the church and its restoration work. The mission considers that the exhibition can be further developed and enriched by the Museum material.

5. The State Party should present a visitation plan for the church-courtyard area, taking care of the people with special needs, as well as the difficult weather conditions during winter, given consideration so that accessibility is limited to what is necessary, and that the natural soil and the immediate natural environment are not altered.

Recommendation 03

The mission advises that the protection of the wooden floor of the church be achieved by limiting the number of visitors to a sustainable level, and by providing covers for the boots and shoes of every visitor, in order to avoid contact between boots and shoes with the historic wooden planks. It recommends avoiding the installation of materials on top of the floor that might alter the conditions of ventilation and moisture of the wood.

Recommendation 04

The mission advises that the exhibition in the refectory of the Transfiguration Church can be further developed and enriched by the Museum material.

Recommendation 05

The mission recommends the State Party to provide in due course, and in any case before its implementation, a comprehensive presentation / liturgical project for the interior of the Transfiguration Church to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2023).

Recommendation 06

The State Party is advised to present a visitation plan for the monument and the church-yard, taking care of the people with special needs, as well as the difficult weather conditions during winter, given consideration so that accessibility is limited to what is necessary, and that the natural soil and the immediate natural environment of the property are not altered.

4.1.4. Conservation project of the Church of the Intercession

The mission was presented with a project for the restoration of the Church of the Intercession, with two proposals, as recommended in the 2018 Advisory mission report. Each of the two proposals include detailed information about every action to be taken during the intervention process, with the number and percentage of logs affected by replacement and repair, and an estimated percentage of compliance for each action.

This mission reiterates that the same principles for restoration must apply to the project on the Church of the Intercession as was applied to the recently finished restoration of the Church of the Transfiguration. The basic principles for restoration can be found in the report of the February 2011 Reactive Monitoring mission to Kizhi Pogost, in the Annex: "Guidelines for selecting log repair at Kizhi Pogost."¹⁷

¹⁷ Available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/544/documents/>

This mission appreciates the severe damage of certain parts of the Church of the Intercession, and the complexity of its restoration. It also recognizes the need to apply a method aimed at conserving as much of the extant material as possible, including carpenters' marks, while avoiding excessive intervention.

Option 1 - Proposes a fragmentary restoration with part conservation and reinforcement of the log framework. It involves:

1. The natural slope of the site and the heaving soils which caused uneven sinking of the foundation: Fragmentary restoration of the existing foundations. 2. Poor support of the sole timber on the basement part of the foundation: Repair of the sill beam. 3. The lower sole timbers of the north and south walls turn outwards due to biodeterioration in the joints and poor support on the foundation: re-lay the upper part of the foundation by fragmentary method, and to restore the sill beam. 4. Loss of strength and bearing capacity especially at the level of the basement and wall widening of the octagon: surface cleaning, inserts and additional binding posts. 5. Bulking walls in the area of lower windows: installation of additional binding posts. 6. The logs and their ends in the area of corners and intersections of transverse walls, in the passage and refectory are strongly rotted: covering of the affected ends of the log walls with boarding. 7. The walls of the altar have a large number of replacements, especially on the north side: Reconstruction of the cladding of the walls of the altar. 8. In the XIX and XX centuries, they replaced rotten logs without the disassembly of the structure, proper joints as well as installation of pegs that caused the weakening of the log walls: Strengthen the walls with additional binding posts.

This proposal involves the replacement of 72.5 (11%) elements, of which:

- 20.5 (3%) are historical ordinary elements,
- 14 (2%) are historical especially valuable elements,
- 37 (5%) are previously restored elements.

Option 2, Proposes a higher degree of intervention with partial disassembly of the structure. It involves:

1. The natural slope of the site and the heaving soils which caused uneven sinking of the foundation: Installation of a new foundation reaching the freezing level. 2. Poor support of the sill beam on the basement part of the foundation: Replacement of the sill beam. 3. The lower sill beam of the north and south walls turn outwards due to biodeterioration in the joints and poor support on the foundation: strengthen the foundation and replacement of the sill beam. 4. Loss of strength and bearing capacity especially at the level of the basement and wall widening of the octagon: disassembly with the addition of a new layer of logs and restoration of destroyed areas with the installation of pegs. 5. Bulking walls in the area of lower windows: disassembly with the installation of pegs. 6. The logs and their ends in the area of corners and intersections of transverse walls, in the passage and refectory are strongly rotted: disassembly with replacement and restoration of destroyed elements and sections. 7. The walls of the altar have a large number of replacements, especially on the north side: disassembly with replacement and restoration of destroyed elements and sections. 8. In the XIX and XX centuries, they replaced rotten logs without the disassembly of the structure, proper joints as well as installation of pegs that caused the weakening of the log walls: disassembly with replacement and restoration of destroyed elements and sections

This proposal involves the replacement of 130.13 (19%) elements, of which:

- 52.88 (8%) are historical ordinary elements,
- 21.25 (3%) are historical especially valuable elements,
- 54 (8%) are previously restored elements.

Common actions proposed in both options 1 and 2:

9. *Excessive deflection of the basement ceiling of the refectory area and the quadrangle*: install wooden posts with foundation for weakened areas. 10. *Ceilings of the altar, which are made of edged channelled planks of the 1950s*: installation of logs and ceiling beams in accordance with the preserved traces. 11. *Absorption of the corner joints of the northern and southern walls in the cuts with the western wall of the quadrangle caused by the direction of the main flow of water from the roof of the refectory to these cuts*: redistribution of the main water flow to the western façade. 12. *Damages caused by beetles in the basement, the ceiling of the passage area, the basement ceiling of the altar, the refectory ceiling, and the ceiling above the quadrangle*: perform heat treatment of all affected elements. 13. *Beams of the octagon, which are deflected, beams supporting the small octagons and comes which are partially destroyed*: restoration of the layers of logs without disassembling. 14. *Plank roofing, ridgepole and eaves beams in unsatisfactory condition*: rebuild the plank roofing with waterproofing along the refectory, inclusion of a diffusion membrane in the octagon and altar walls, inclusion of a birch bark layer in the corners of the quadrangle and the domes. 15. *Shingles in poor condition*: replacement of shingles. 16. *The elements of the choir have separated, joints have cracked*: restore and strengthen the elements of the choir. 17. *The iconostasis will be completely disassembled during the intervention*: restoration of the currently inaccessible northern and southern door wings.

Both options reach the aimed goal of substantially improving the condition of the Church of the Intercession. However, the magnitude of the intervention, the amount of wood replaced or disassembled, the reversibility of actions, and the service life of each intervention differ.

Option 1 reaches a higher conservation of the existing material, reduces the cost and duration of the works, and fully conserves the historical structures, with a relevant part of the changes being reversible.

Option 2 disassembles a relevant part of the Church, while conserves the wooden elements with most information and traces. More wooden elements would be replaced, on the other hand the intervention would have a longer life until the following “relevant” conservation works.

Recommendation 07

Regarding the two options developed for the conservation project of the Church of the Intercession, the mission recommends developing and implementing Option 1, which better suits the principle of minimal intervention, while fulfilling to a high level the need to respond to the consequence of the pathologies of the building.

The development of the details of the intervention will keep the principles of delicacy, care of the existing, minimal removal of material, compatibility of materials, technologies and processes, while keeping to the reversibility of as much of the intervention as possible.

The mission recommends the use of appropriate wood for the conservation works, in terms of species, dimensions, age, moisture content, cutting, and placing. The use of traditional joinery and specifically, the retention of the existing joinery in the Church of the Intercession is paramount.

As new information will be available during the intervention process, thoughtful documentation and research will be needed.

4.1.5 Use of appropriate wood for the conservation of the Church of the Intercession and the creation of forest reserves for future interventions

The mission was informed of the impossibility of finding appropriate wood in the near region, for the conservation of the Church of the Transfiguration. The wood was transported from another region in Russia.

As the leftover wood that was not used in the conservation of the Church of the Transfiguration is enough for the conservation of the Church of the Intercession, consequently, there is not an immediate need to find adequate wood.

However, in the future, there will be need to carry out conservation works in Kizhi Pogost, and as a consequence, there will be a need to find adequate wood again. It is relevant that any conservation works in a wooden heritage property be done with the adequate wood, regarding the relevant parameters for the case, such as species, age, dimensions or other.

Recommendation 08

The mission recommends designing and implementing a Management Plan aimed at creating the conditions for securing the adequate wood for the future conservation works at the Kizhi Pogost World Heritage property.

The Management Plan should define the characteristics that the wood should have, assess the future need of wood in terms of quantity, and identify an area in which to create a forest reserve to supply timber for the maintenance of wooden heritage.

The mission understands that there is no urgency for obtaining wood in the near future, but also that the process for growing adequate wood takes many years. Therefore, it is relevant that the administrative work, design of the Management Plan, and its implementation starts as soon as possible.

4.1.6 Implementation of the monitoring program for the state of wooden monuments of the Kizhi Architectural Ensemble, as well as the monitoring program for the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property

The State Party presented a proposal for monitoring and comprehensive maintenance of the monuments of the Kizhi Pogost. The method of monitoring has been adapted to the specific needs and conditions of the wooden monuments of the Kizhi Pogost. The methods are published on the website of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation.

The program includes two main sets of actions: monitoring and maintenance. The monitoring is focused on biodeterioration, deformations and the technical condition. The aim of this comprehensive program is to perform preventive maintenance in order to deter the need for relevant interventions, and reduce the scale of those future interventions.

Conclusion

The mission recognises the adequacy of the scope of the program, the methods and techniques used, and the comprehensiveness of its implementation.

4.2 Management and development of the “Kizhi Pogost” World Heritage property

The following important documents have been developed and agreed with all stakeholders, while presented at various local, regional and federal levels, including public hearings:

1. ‘Plan for conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site “Kizhi Pogost” and development of the Kizhi Island territory’ (Master Plan), accepted by World Heritage Committee by the Decision 45 COM 7B.198.
2. The ‘Sustainable Development Plan for the Buffer Zone of the World Heritage property “Kizhi Pogost” (2022- 2032)’.

4.2.1 Development projects proposed within the Plan for conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the “Kizhi Pogost” World Heritage property (Master Plan). - First results and short-term plans for the implementation of the Master Plan

The Plan provides for the implementation of a number of activities aimed at:

1. Increasing the safety and security of the Kizhi Pogost, as well as the architectural environment of the pogost and its historical landscape;
2. Developing excursion routes and services for visitors;
3. Creating the minimum necessary economic and engineering infrastructure for the museum.

All of the above activities are implemented taking into account the need to preserve all components of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property.

1. Increasing the safety and security of the “Kizhi Pogost” World Heritage property and its architectural environment

1.1. New underground electrical networks have been installed, which make it possible to provide:

- uninterrupted and high-quality supply of electricity to the World Heritage property and all museum facilities;
- stable operation of security systems (security and fire alarms) at all facilities of Kizhi Island;
- possibility of creating exhibitions in the facilities of the museum located on the island;
- stable operation of all engineering systems of the island.

Electric networks were put into operation in December 2023. Currently, switching and connecting the facilities of the island to new electrical networks is underway.

The implementation of this project will also make it possible in the near future:

- to remove overhead power lines from historical villages on the island and old transformer plants (one of them is in the main exposition of the museum), which will almost completely eliminate the negative visual impact of the above objects on cultural heritage and historical landscapes;
- to reduce the anthropogenic load on the territory of the southern part of the island through the creation of exhibition facilities and development of excursion routes to the northern part of the island;
- to implement the recommendations of the 2018 mission and the Decisions of the World Heritage Committee taken at its 43rd session (Decision 43 COM 7B.89) regarding the creation of living conditions for the museum staff in the individual building blocks in zone B.

1.2. The museum has submitted an application to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation to include financing of the development of the project and construction of the external fire extinguishing system of the Kizhi Pogost in the Federal Targeted Investment Program for 2025-2028.

The construction of a new system is necessary in order to replace the obsolete and worn-out existing fire extinguishing system. Special technical conditions have been developed for the creation of a new system, which, unlike the existing one, should provide year-round operation in manual and automated modes, is equipped with the required number of new RFS (robotized fire-fighting system), ensuring the supply of the estimated amount of water to the pogost facilities and rising water jet to the specified height.



Images 24-25. The existing fire extinguishing and surveillance systems in the yard of the “Kizhi Pogost” World Heritage property.



Image 26. The connection of the “Kizhi Pogost” World Heritage property with the permanent floating fire station and the police guard station.



Images 27-28. Fire extinguishing systems at the base of the Church of the Transfiguration - Insulation of the electric power supply system.

Recommendation 09

The mission encourages the State Party to complete the implementation of the project for switching and connecting the facilities of the Kizhi Island to new electrical networks.

Recommendation 10

The mission advises that major attention to be paid to the installation of the new fire extinguishing system, so that its functional parts (generators, pressure tanks, water pipes, water jets) do not cause any kind of visual disturbance to the monument. The mission recommends the project for the new external fire extinguishing system of Kizhi Pogost be accompanied by a comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessment, and that details of the planned installation and the assessment to be forwarded to World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. The mission advises that the 2022 Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context provides an appropriate framework for such an HIA.

2. Development of excursion routes and services for visitors

2.1. The “Architectural and ethnographic sector Northern Vepsians”

In accordance with the recommendation contained on p.20 of the 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission and based on the proposals of the Master Plan, the museum developed a project to create an architectural and exhibition sector “Prionezhie Vepsians (3 farmsteads)” in the northern part of the island on the site of the previously existing village of Bishevo.

The mission carried out a visit of the site, and confirmed the observations of the 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission:

“According to the on-site assessment, there is no negative impact on the space and planning structure of Kizhi Pogost, as the village is located at a distance of approximately 3.5 km in a low part of the island, while the buildings to be reconstructed are no more than 6 m high. The nearby Chapel of the Three Sanctifiers [here image 40], sited on the top of a small hill, is the only dominant of the site, providing very interesting views to Pudozh sector [here image 39] with three large log houses, while the most distant view is up to Veronica’s Veil Chapel which is on the highest point of the island. The OUV analysis and Heritage Impact Assessment for the project “Architectural and ethnographic sector Northern Vepsians” prove satisfactorily that the latter does not affect the structures of the property’s monuments and has a positive impact in contributing to the preservation of the traditional culture in all its diversity and to the greater understanding of the cultural relations between different peoples of Karelia.” (p. 24)

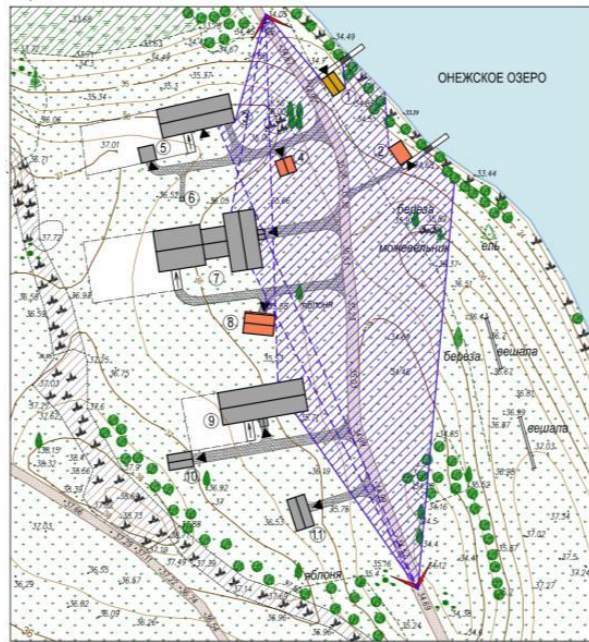
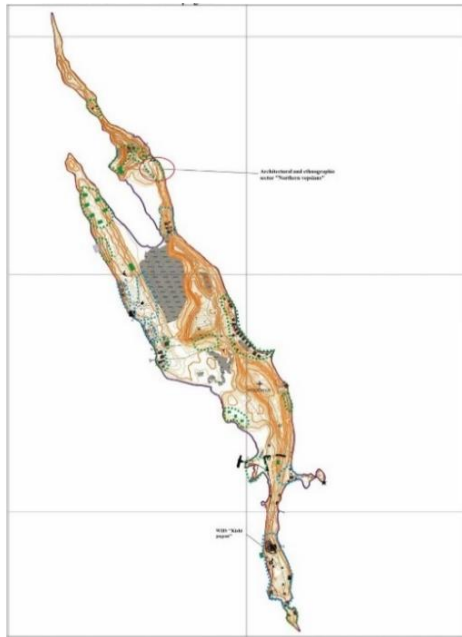


Image 29. Disposition of the “Northern Vepsians” sector on Kizhi Island in relation to the “Kizhi Pogost” World Heritage property.

Image 30. Scheme of the general plan of the sector “Prionezhie Vepsians” (Vakhrameeva T.I.).

The main building of the farmstead in the villages of the Prionezhie Vepsians was a house, which is representative of a traditional complex that combined dwellings and household quarters under the same roof. Almost every owner had a bath house (sauna). Vepsians settlements are characterized by the presence of separately located stables with a hayloft or cattle sheds with a hayloft as a part of the farmstead. Farmsteads also included ice storage for fish. Buildings such as Blacksmiths, barns with threshing floors, and mills were usually located on the outskirts of villages.



Image 31. General view the “Northern Vepsians” sector area from the south.



Image 32. “Northern Vepsians” sector area from the north, with the existing on-site architectural collection of cultural heritage constructions.

The preliminary list of objects proposed for relocation to the territory of the architectural and exposition sector has been determined. Currently, the existing on-site architectural collection of the museum includes the following cultural heritage constructions:

- The bathhouse of Foshkina (1) from the village of Kaskesruchey transferred to the museum.
- The barn of Zhdanov (4), restored and transferred to the museum.
- The barn of Belyaev (2) from the village of Matveeva Selga, transferred to the museum.
- Barn (11), transferred to the museum from the village of Syapyavaara.

Further on, the State Party proposed two options. The first includes, additionally, the following buildings:

- The house of Larionov (3, image 35) from the village of Vekhruchey, purchased by the museum in 2022 and transported to the island, in the premises of the Carpenter Centre.
- The house of Gusev (9, image 36) from the village of Matveeva Selga, for which the purchase issue has not been agreed yet.
- A stable (5) with hayloft from the village of Drugaya Reka.



Image 33. The bathhouse of Foshkina (1).



Image 34. The barn of Belyaev (2).



Image 35. The house of Larionov (3) from the village of Vekhruchey.

Image 36. The house of Gusev (9) from the village of Matveeva Sel'ga.



Image 37. The house of Mankin (7) from the village of Kaskesruchey.

Image 38. The Chapel of the Three Sanctifiers.



Image 39. View to the lake from the top of the hill of the Chapel of the Three Sanctifiers.

The second option, includes additionally:

- The house of Mankin (7, image 37) from the village of Kaskesruchey, for which the purchase issue has not been agreed yet.
- Ice storage (10), proposed to be reconstructed according to archival data.
- Traditional bathhouse with a single slope roof (2), proposed to be reconstructed according to archival data.
- Pottery workshop (8), proposed to be reconstructed according to archival data.
- A well with drinking water.

The sector will finally present, as well, fences, field racks, turnip pits, and moorings for boats. In addition, the sector will include a separately located exhibition complex, "Outskirt fields."

Conclusion

The mission is of the opinion that the second, advanced option, as described above and as depicted in image 30, and developed in presentation “Prionezhie Vepsains sector” (Annex VIII – 8), will help to rehabilitate the system of traditional settlements and planning solution of northern Vepsian settlements and particularly to provide a better understanding of the most common types of traditional houses in the Prionezhie district. In addition, it is proved that the available space is capable of receiving the constructions of the village. In parallel, it will preserve the visual corridors and viewpoints between the historic settlements and Kizhi Pogost. However, although it will be an artificially-created model of a Vepsian small-sized village, in order for the proposed sector to correspond to an authentic representation of the historic planning structure of a Vepsian traditional village, it is recommended that the reconstruction of replicas buildings which do not exist, according to archival data, be avoided and instead to expand the research of detecting authentic constructions in Vepsian villages. In parallel, it will preserve the visual corridors and viewpoints between the historic settlements and Kizhi Pogost.

Recommendation 11

In order for the authenticity of the character of Architectural and ethnographic sector of the Northern Vepsians to be preserved at a high level, as well as for the nature and the type of the proposed sector to be brought to correspond to a more authentic representation of the historic planning structure of a Vepsian traditional village, and in conformity to paragraph 86 of the Operational Guidelines it is recommended to avoid reconstruction according to archival data of replicas of buildings which do not exist anymore. Instead, the mission encourages the museum to realize the 2024 planned scientific research expedition to the territory of the traditional residence of the Vepsians in order to collect additional scientific information and items for the museum and to negotiate with the owners of traditional Vepsian buildings to be purchased and relocated to Kizhi Island.

The mission is of the opinion that the second, advanced option, as described in the provided “Scheme of the general plan of the sector “Prionezhie Vepsians” (image 30), and developed in the presentation “Prionezhie Vepsains sector” (Annex VIII – 8), will help to rehabilitate the system of traditional settlements and planning solutions of northern Vepsian settlements and particularly to better understanding the most common types of traditional houses in the Prionezhie district. It is, also, recommended, that the proposed building constructions of the second option in number and size should be the final ones, within the spatial limitations indicated in the provided “Scheme of the general plan of the sector “Prionezhie Vepsians”.

2.2. The abandoned boat–restaurant in front of the pier of zone B

The mission noted that the old boat–restaurant, that had been abandoned in front of the pier of zone B, has been removed, following recommendation 19 of the 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission report.

3. Creation of the minimum necessary economic and engineering infrastructure of the museum

The museum submitted an application to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation to include financing of the project development and construction of a residential community in the entrance zone B in the Federal Targeted Investment Program for 2025-2028. The project will be implemented in accordance with the recommendations of the 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission report. Draft proposals for

the zone B were also submitted to the World Heritage Committee as part of the Master Plan.

In accordance with the recommendation of p.21 of the 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission report, the museum reconstructed the existing warehouse on Kizhi Island. The warehouse was put into operation in December 2023.

Waste management



Image 40-41. Dump clearing in the Oyatevshchina village by eco-volunteers (kizhi.karelia.ru).

The 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission recommended to the State Party to consider the issue of waste water treatment as well as the delivery of treated water. The museum presented water supply and sewerage networks as part of the Master Plan. At present, construction of water supply and sewerage networks located in the area of the production site of the museum and the planned zone B has been completed. The networks and treatment facilities are underground and do not have any negative visual impact on the World Heritage property. The implementation of this project will significantly improve the quality of life of the museum employees and the environmental safety.

For more than 10 years, separate garbage collection of the following items has been carried out on the Kizhi Island: glass jars and bottles, aluminium beverage cans, PET beverage bottles, cardboard, polyethylene, HDPE boxes, scrap metal. These fractions are leased to specialized organizations.

The removal of other municipal refuse from the island and from the territory of the village of Oyatevshchyna is carried out under an agreement with LLC "Karelian Environmental Operator". Composters are installed next to the accommodation facilities for the disposal of organic waste.

In 2023, eco-volunteers were activated and worked on Kizhi Island within the frame of the SUPER project, which is part of the Karelia CBC cross-border cooperation programme, financed by the European Union. The volunteers cleared Zharnikovo village and western coastal parts of the Island. Also, they helped with the Moshnikov House restoration site cleaning and actively participated in the dump clearing in Oyatevshchina village. (<https://kareliacbc.fi/en/first-subbontik-within-super-project-kizhi-island>).

Earlier, due to the isolation of the island and the inability to carry out waste removal in winter, the museum developed a project for the construction of a waste disposal complex. This project has not passed the state environmental assessment due to the serious restrictions of environmental legislation established in the territory.

The Master Plan provides for the adjustment of this project in order to create a site for the temporary accumulation of waste to be disposed of, followed by its export by specialized organizations from the island.

Recommendation 12

The mission encourages the museum to try to develop a project for the construction of a temporary waste disposal complex (at least for the winter time).

Within the frame of the Master Plan provisions, in order to assist the non-dispersal of waste by visitors, as well as for the timely collection of waste, the mission advises to develop on the island a network of metal bins, placed inside suitably shaped wooden cases.

4.2.2 The 'Sustainable development plan for the buffer zone of the World Heritage property "Kizhi Pogost"'

Through collaboration, the federal and republican authorities, local government bodies, and with the participation of the local community and all stakeholders, have developed and agreed upon *The Sustainable Development Plan for the Buffer Zone of the World Heritage property "Kizhi Pogost" (2022-2032)*. The development of the document was welcomed by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in its Decision 45 COM 7B.198 (2023, Riyadh).

The mission underlined once again that the preservation and the nature of the future development of the remote villages in the buffer zone of the World Heritage property "Kizhi Pogost" remains a challenge. Basic preconditions for achieving these goals should include:

1. Electrification of the settlements;
2. Cheap and easy transport accessibility;
3. Ensuring satisfactory living conditions in the traditional villages and in the cultural heritage houses;
4. Covering basic living needs (medical care, education, purchase of goods, spiritual needs);
5. Creating opportunities to secure an income from local products;
6. Interaction with the local community.

On these preconditions the role and contribution of Kizhi museum is proved until now to be crucial: it constitutes one of the main driving forces for the preservation and highlighting the Outstanding Universal Value of the "Kizhi Pogost" World Heritage property, as well as for the development of the remote settlements on the islands of the buffer zone.

1. Development of the infrastructure for visitors in the former settlement of Oyatevshchina

The construction of a road from Velikaya Guba to Oyatevshchina village on the shore of the lake has been completed. This road is for transportation of loads and passengers to Kizhi Island all year round. Also, a large circular parking lot for cars has been created.

The draft proposals provide for the development of the entrance area in the village of Oyatevshchina in two stages.

In this first phase of development, the following have been carried out:

- A private house purchased by the museum was restored preserving its traditional character and adapted into an information and service centre for visitors arriving at the village by road. In this friendly place, visitors can not only get information about the museum's services, purchase tickets, get warmed before the tour, buy souvenirs, tea, coffee, pastries, but also, they can get acquainted with information about the historical and cultural potential of the Zaonezhie territory, and tourist and transport infrastructure of the territory.

- The initial landscaping of the territory (cleaning of dead wood, installation of pedestrian sidewalks) has been carried out within the boundaries of the museum's land plots.
- To organize regular passenger transportation to Kizhi Island for visitors arriving in the village of Oyatevshchina, the wooden pier has been overhauled and put into operation, the necessary berthing infrastructure has been organized. By order of the museum, the m/v "Ivan Veresov" for 50 passengers was built and put into operation.



Image 42-43. The traditional house transformed into visitor centre – the reception area.



Image 44. The overhauled and put into operation wooden pier.

Image 45. View to the newly developed high-way to Oyatevshchina village.



Image 46. The parking lot in the entrance area of Oyatevshchina village.

All the above activities are carried out in the village of Oyatevshchina at the expense of the museum's own funds.

In accordance with the developed Master Plan and draft proposals for the entrance area of the museum in the village of Oyatevshchina, in the second phase of development the museum plans to implement the following:

- On the sites of two lost historical houses in the village of Oyatevshchina (in close proximity to the existing house and united by a single land contour) it is

planned to transport, restore and install two traditional historical Zaonezhie houses that cannot be preserved in their historical locations. The restoration of these houses in the specified territory is aimed at revitalizing the historical appearance of the village of Oyatevshchyna, as well as at the development of information and service infrastructure, since the existing adapted house, due to its extremely small area, does not allow a group of more than 15 people visitors. Houses are currently being sought.

Remarks

The mission's opinion is that the whole area is facing significant tourism development pressures due to the new road construction and infrastructure projects and the high recreational value of the cultural landscape. Consequently, the immediate and cumulative impacts of new projects on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and in consideration to its cultural and environmental vulnerability, should be identified and addressed.

Particularly, the visitors' pressure to the entrance area in the village of Oyatevshchina will increase sharply, as:

- The road connection will enable the approach of organized tourist groups traveling by coach;
- Residents (permanent and temporary) will definitely prefer this more convenient and economical way of approaching the islands of the buffer zone;
- The road connection facilitates the transport of loads / materials for the re-inhabitation of the old houses on the surrounding islands.
- Already, and despite the fact that during the mission visit the area was covered by thick snow, the parking area was largely covered by private cars.

Conclusion

It appears that the whole area is facing significant tourism development pressures due to the new road construction and infrastructure projects and the high recreational value of the cultural landscape. The recently created infrastructures are positive measures. The proposal of the museum to increase the reception areas for visitors, by transferring two local traditional houses to the location of pre-existing ones, is considered reasonable. The mission considers that the parking lot will also need to be expanded in the future. Permanent care should be taken to preserve the non-visibility of the parking area, located visually just opposite Vasilievo village, from Kizhi Island.

The future needs under the increased pressure of visitors and residents, the immediate and cumulative impacts of new projects on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and in consideration of its cultural and environmental vulnerability, should be identified and addressed.

According to the State Party information "*Draft designs for the entrance area in the village of Oyatevshchina*" have been developed. The draft designs were submitted to the World Heritage Committee as part of the Master Plan." The mission underlines that a comprehensive Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessment should be a standard procedure on all development proposals within the World Heritage property and its buffer zone, and details of proposals with their associated impact assessments should be forwarded to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Recommendation 13

The mission's opinion is that the whole area is facing significant tourism development pressures due to the new road construction and infrastructure projects and the high recreational value of the cultural landscape. The future needs under the increased

pressure of visitors and residents, the immediate and cumulative impacts of new projects on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and in consideration to its cultural and environmental vulnerability, should be identified and addressed.

Permanent care should be taken to preserve the non-visibility of the parking area and new development projects, located visually just opposite Vasilievo village on Kizhi island.

According to the State Party information “Draft designs for the entrance area in the village of Oyatevshchina” have been developed. The draft designs were submitted to the World Heritage Committee as part of the Master Plan.” The mission underlines that details of proposals that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property must be subject to appropriate impact assessments and the transmission of details of those proposals and their assessments to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies should be a standard procedure on all development proposals within the World Heritage property and its buffer zone.

2. The newly renovated building - accommodation for the museum staff in the village of Zharnikovo

The State Party rehabilitated the Serov residential house (1874), a cultural heritage site of regional significance in the village of Zharnikovo. The aim is to facilitate the immediate accommodation needs for the museum staff before the construction of the individual building blocks in zone B on Kizhi Island, following the recommendations of 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission and the subsequent Decision 43 COM 7B.89 of the World Heritage Committee.



Image 47. Zharnikovo village – general view.



Image 48-49. Exterior and interior views of the newly renovated building - accommodation for the museum staff in Zharnikovo village.

The village is alive; however, little of the historical buildings have been preserved, almost all the houses are new, but ancient peasant traditions are visible in this

settlement. The rehabilitation of Serov house is a contribution to the preservation of the traditional character of the settlement.

3. The historic village of Kurgenitsy

The mission had the opportunity to visit on the Klimenetsky Island the historic village of Kurgenitsy, which used to be the big economic centre in this area. There were blacksmiths' workshops, a tan-yard, an oil mill, a mill etc. In the XXth century they had their own school and kindergarten. Unfortunately, nowadays most of buildings are lost, including the chapel, memorial cross, farmers' houses etc. In spite of this, the village remains impressive. There are only a few locals in the village because of the isolation. However, many of the old houses are still "alive" and worthy of respect. The bitter truth is that these houses are close to being lost. The inhabitants of the village, on their own initiative, are trying to preserve the old school building of the village – an imposing building that reveals the prosperity of the community in the old days.



Image 50-51. View of Kurgenitsy village in winter (mission team) and summer time (Irina Nabokova).



Image 52. The abandoned old school building.

Image 53. Use of corrugated asbestos cement sheets in roof covering.



Image 54. The house of the village head



Image 55. Welcome and meeting in the house

The members of the mission received a warm and hospitable welcome and had a meeting at the house of the village head, one of the representative traditional houses, still preserved in relatively good condition. Its interior exudes the authentic character

of the traditional lifestyle of the inhabitants. It is a fact that living conditions on the island are difficult, especially during the winter months.

A permanent electrical installation was recently developed on the island, replacing solar-battery installations. Electrification ensured the survival of the village and created new possibilities for its future development. The representative of the local community proudly expressed the opinion that it is a success of the implementation of the Master Plan, following the recommendations of the 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission.

Discussion of the issues on territory development and implemented projects proved that Kurgenitsy village is a typical example of the situation and the problems faced by citizens living in rural areas within the territory of Zaonezhie (including the borders of the buffer zone and the adjacent territory) or planning to return to this territory for permanent or temporary residence. The main issues are how the basic conditions of infrastructure, transportation and development prospects will be ensured, and the preservation of cultural heritage sites within the frame of the revival of the village, could be a main motivation for those who still maintain traditional houses in the village, so that they can return to the place for as long as possible.

In this direction, it is encouraged that the project “Ethnoarchitecture of Fennoskandia in XXI century” which is part of the Karelia CBC cross-border cooperation programme, financed by the European Union, aims to preserve the wooden architecture and unique cultural environment, improve professional teaching methods, involving local inhabitants in preservation of their native wooden houses and villages. The students of Petrozavodsk State University firstly had a preliminary training course on Kizhi Island and after that they started their practice in Kurgenitsy village. They had created a detailed plan of the village, identified the types of surviving buildings, investigated the place of the lost chapel, and made photo documentation of the village. The work of the students is included in the museum research (<https://kareliacbc.fi/en/projects/ka3030>).

The mission wishes to draw the attention of the State Party to the use of corrugated asbestos cement sheets - instead of the traditional wooden boards – in roof house covering. The material was noted to be present in the remote villages visited, having been used in earlier house repairs. Asbestos has recognized properties as a good insulator of electricity and heat and has been widely used in the past. However, it should be emphasized that today asbestos is considered to have extremely potent carcinogenic effects.

Recommendation 14

The mission enthusiastically supports and recommends the continuation of the educational and research activities of the students of the Educational Centre for Wooden Architecture Preservation on Kizhi Island.

Recommendation 15

Noting that exposure to asbestos can be highly hazardous to human health, it is recommended that, the State Party, with the help of the local self-government committees, identify those constructions in which this material is still in use and take care of its immediate removal, through an authorized campaign.

4. The Klimenetsky Holy Trinity Monastery

The mission had the opportunity to visit the Klimenetsky Holy Trinity Monastery, created by the Monk Jonah Klimenets, presumably in 1520, on the island of Bolshoi Klimenets in the northern part of Lake Onega. The complex of its buildings included two churches – St. Trinity and St. Nicholas, which were rebuilt several times during the 16th–18th centuries. The monastery owned lands and rich fishing grounds on the lake. The mission was warmly received by the rector of the monastery and the monks,

whose small monastic community has revived the monastery since 2015. Conditions are difficult for the isolated monastic community. However, basic survival infrastructure has been secured in contemporary buildings. The churches have been restored.



Image 56. View of the monastery facilities near to the lake shore

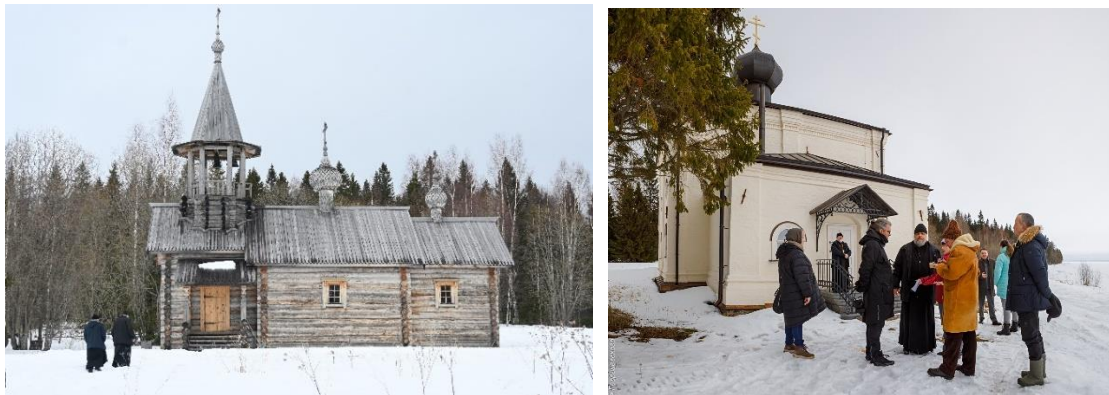


Image 57. St. Nicholas new wooden church in the Klimenetski Monastery.

Image 58. The masonry temple in the name of the righteous Elizabeth and Zechariah is being restored.

Future developments include reconstruction of the masonry bell tower from the mid-19th century, which served as a landmark for ships sailing past the island. The small monastic community revived the old religious traditions of the area and attracts a sufficient number of believers during the religious holidays.

5. Electrification of settlements in the buffer zone

The implementation of the first stage of the project on electrification of the settlements of the buffer zone has been initiated. The network infrastructure has been brought to the historical villages of Kurgenitsy, Korba, Seredka, Podelniki and Malkovo. The project includes the possibility of connecting the nearby villages of Lakhta and Kuznetsy. The design of the power transmission line to the villages of Telyatnikovo and Sychi is underway. There are still objective difficulties in the installation of electricity transmission cables related to its high cost for the remote areas, as to the low number of the potential consumers.

Recommendation 16

The mission recommends that the State Party makes every effort, so that the objective difficulties are removed and it can proceed with the implementation of electrification of the settlements in the island complex within the buffer zone of the property.

6. Support measures for work of citizens on the preservation of cultural heritage sites

The mission asked for further information regarding support measures provided by the authorities of the Republic of Karelia and local governments to citizens living and/or ready to move to the territory of Zaonezhie (including the borders of the buffer zone

and the adjacent territory), to carry out work on the preservation of cultural heritage sites.¹⁸

Thus, the law of the Republic of Karelia No.1134-ZRK dated 12.11.2007 provides for the procedure (frequency and volume) of harvesting wood by citizens on the lands of the forest fund for their own needs, including:

- the construction of individual residential buildings and household structures on the lands of settlements;
- repair of individual residential houses and household structures made of wood;
- wood harvesting for heating of houses and baths as well as for other household needs.

The Law of the Republic of Karelia dated 06.03.2017 No. 2101-ZRK provides for the possibility of providing land plots owned by state or municipal ownership to large families (long families) for free.

Decree of the Government of the Republic of Karelia No. 295-P dated 07/19/2021 provides for the procedure for reimbursement from the republican budget of costs for small and medium-sized businesses, as well as individuals in a number of areas, including:

- costs in the field of tourism and catering;
- provision of social and household services;
- services in the field of education, health, culture, sports, recreation and entertainment;
- the production of arts and crafts, trade in goods with the sign "Made in Karelia";
- passenger transportation and manufacturing, and most importantly – the costs incurred to carry out work on the preservation of cultural heritage sites.

The basis for payment of compensation in the field of cultural heritage is the performance of works in compliance with the requirements of current legislation (if there are restoration projects agreed with the monument protection service).

For citizens who are ready to restore a cultural heritage object owned by the republic, it is possible to purchase an object for the price of 1.00 Rouble on the terms of its restoration within a pre-set time and in accordance with the agreed project.

Conclusion

The support measures by the authorities of the Republic of Karelia and local governments to citizens living and/or ready to move to the territory of Zaonezhie (including the borders of the buffer zone and the adjacent territory), to carry out work on the preservation of cultural heritage sites, are considered providing sufficient incentives.

7. The General Plan of Velikaya Guba rural settlement

Velikaya Guba is the main rural settlement in the wider area and one of the main destinations from which to visit Kizhi Island by boat or passing by to reach by the newly opened road up to Oyatevschina village, just opposite the Vasilyevo village on Kizhi Island. The mission asked for further information regarding the General Plan of the Velikaya Guba¹⁹, whose future development would affect the rural areas on the territory of Zaonezhie (including the "Kizhi Pogost" World Heritage property, the borders of the buffer zone and the adjacent territory).

¹⁸ Annex VIII – 4, "Additional information on issues raised during the mission"

¹⁹ Annex VIII – 4, "Additional information on issues raised during the mission".

The General Plan of the Velikaya Guba rural settlement was approved by the Decision of the Council of the Medvezhiegorsk Municipal District No. 411 dated 04/20/2021. The Kizhi Museum and the headmen of the historical villages of Zaonezhie took an active part in the process of developing and approving the General Plan.

The Master Plan contains among others:

- regulations on territorial planning;
- a map of territories at risk of natural and man-made emergencies;
- a map of the boundaries of the settlement and of existing villages, of existing forestry, of local importance development projects;
- a map of zones with special conditions for the use of the territory and cultural heritage sites.

It was not possible to receive a presentation of the General Plan of the Velikaya Guba in relation to the Sustainable Development Plan for the buffer zone of the “Kizhi Pogost” World Heritage property. The representatives of the State Party ensured the mission that the documents have been developed in full compliance with the regimes of the protection zones of the “Kizhi Pogost” World Heritage property.

4.2.3 Tourism development

The mission was provided with a limited update on the Tourism Management Plan (structure, targets, achievements to date, prospects for future development and planned means of satisfaction of emerging needs); a more detailed update would be welcome.

Recommendation 17

The mission advises the State Party to develop an updated Sustainable Tourism Management Plan for the property, including policies regarding the future development of the settlements in the islands of the buffer zone, and in particular:

- *a revised zoning proposal with adequate provisions for the protection of the landscape setting, a tourism strategy, risk preparedness and an archaeological rescue and monitoring strategy;*
- *the development of guidelines for interventions to address restoration criteria and issues such as the treatment of elements from various periods, treatment of witness marks, introduction of modern materials, structural reinforcement, among others.*

The mission recommends that the State Party include a detailed update of the Tourism Management Plan as annex to the state of conservation report that the World Heritage Centre requested it submit by 1 December 2024 (Decision 45 COM 7B.198).

4.2.4 Interaction with the local community

1. In order to preserve and develop the buffer zone of the “Kizhi Pogost” World Heritage property and in accordance with the recommendations of the 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission, since 2020 the cooperation with the local residents has been allocated to a separate area of the Kizhi Museum activities.²⁰

A number of projects aimed at cooperation with the local community have received financial support from the Presidential Grants Fund, while further development of the legal framework of this institution was accomplished by the regional administration.

2. Creating opportunities to secure an income from local products (farming, fishing), tourist services, and arts and crafts

²⁰ Annex VIII – 3. Interaction with the local community.

The museum supports social projects implemented by public organizations operating on the territory of the buffer zone, and including: business development courses for local residents, guide courses, as well as training seminars of public inspectors in the field of preserving natural and cultural heritage.

The Kizhi museum gives priority to the local residents in its recruitment. The locals hand their souvenir goods to the museum store. They may also sell their harvest at various festivals and fairs organized by the museum during the summer season on Kizhi Island.

3. Ensuring social security, rising awareness of the local community on the benefits and constraints, of positive and celebratory measures, sharing an overall vision for the integrated development of the site

Special attention has been paid to the revival of the historical system of Territorial Self-Government as an integral part of the culture of the Russian North. Nowadays, two or three Kizhi Volost village headmen meetings are organized with the participation of the heads of the stakeholders, as well as representatives of local authorities and territorial self-governments. Seven villages have organized residents' meetings in order to elect new headmen of their settlements. They consider the most important issues in the field of conservation and development of the buffer zone territory including transport accessibility, social security, electrification of villages, Orthodox holidays, fishing rules, etc.

The created "Kizhi Volost" group informs and communicates with the local residents. The number of active members of this group (more than 1,800) includes almost the entire active population of the buffer zone.

The Kizhi museum supports the Kizhi parish in the information field, as well as in the revival of patronal and chapel holidays of the Kizhi Pogost World Heritage property buffer zone. With the help of the local community, they organize events of the Orthodox calendar in the villages of Lelikovo, Telyatnikovo, Nosonovshchina, Vorob'i, Vasillievo and Sennaya Guba. The worship cross has been restored in the village of Kurgenitsy with the help and on the basis of the museum.

In 2022, the "Memorial Book of Kizhi Parish" was published - an encyclopaedia on the history of villages of the buffer zone based on written sources and memories of local residents. Printed copies of the book were distributed to local residents free of charge (also, offered in electronic version from museum information resources).

Recommendation 18

The mission encourages the State Party to strengthen the efforts in forming an active community on the territory, interested in preserving traditions and developing their settlements, while making them attractive for the new generation who could find a future in this area.

5. Conclusions and recommendations

5.1 Conclusions

The conservation works of the Church of the Transfiguration have been successfully completed, after a painstaking and profound intervention, which has included the disassembling of the church by tiers. It has involved the conservation of the most possible original and existing material, giving each wooden element the solution tailored to solve its pathologies. The structural problems that affected its stability and future conservation have been addressed and resolved.

The future conservation needs of the Church of the Transfiguration will depend on the implementation of the presented and ongoing program of monitoring and preventive maintenance. These needs will also depend on the sustainable management of the tourism development, implementation of protection measures, and monitoring of the affection of the visits to the church.

The restoration of the majestic, gilded and carved Baroque iconostasis – the dominant element in the church interior – has been successfully completed. The restored carved Royal Doors retain most of their original material. It is noted that the restoration of the “heaven” is actually in process. The original painted transom beams have been restored, and it is recommended that they are placed in their original location. Completion of the “heaven” is aimed for through the use of virtual technology, thereby avoiding the physical reconstruction of the paintings.

The time has come to implement the conservation works for the Church of the Intercession. This mission recommends that the State Party develop and implement the less interventionist option, (Option 1) as it reasonably achieves the conservation goals. The experience acquired in the conservation process of the Church of the Transfiguration will be crucial to perform with success the work at the Church of the Intercession.

The project and construction of a new external fire extinguishing system of the Kizhi Pogost is under development, with modern technical conditions.

The general plan of the sector “Prionezhie Vepsians” should be developed within the limitations of the second option that was proposed, however avoiding reconstruction of replicas of buildings which do not exist, and to strengthen the research in the territory of the traditional residence of the Vepsians, in order to collect additional scientific information and items for the museum. The mission encourages the museum to try to develop a project for the construction of a temporary (for winter time) waste disposal complex and a network of metal bins, placed inside suitably shaped wooden cases.

The recently created infrastructures in the entrance area in the village of Oyatevshchina are considered reasonable measures facilitating the visitor traffic under the current conditions. However, additional care should be taken, in order to address the future needs, including the parking lot expansion. The rehabilitation of the Serov cultural heritage site of regional significance in the village of Zharnikovo, in order to facilitate the immediate accommodation needs for the museum staff, is a contribution to preservation of the traditional character of the settlement.

The mission encourages the State Party to strengthen the efforts in forming an active community on the territory, interested in preserving traditions and developing their settlements, while making them attractive for the new generation who could find a future in this area. The objective difficulties should be removed and the implementation of electrification of the settlements in the island complex within the buffer zone of the property should proceed. The State Party should develop an updated Sustainable Tourism Management Plan for the property, including policies regarding the future development of the settlements in the islands of the buffer zone.

The mission underlines that comprehensive Impact Assessments should be a standard procedure on all development proposals within the World Heritage property and its buffer zone, and details of proposals accompanied by the associated impact assessments forwarded to World Heritage Centre for review by Advisory Bodies before they are implemented.

The support measures by the authorities of the Republic of Karelia and local governments to citizens living and/or ready to move to the territory of Zaonezhie (including the borders of the buffer zone and the adjacent territory), to carry out work on the preservation of cultural heritage sites, are considered to provide sufficient incentives.

The mission enthusiastically supports and recommends the continuation of the educational and research activities of the students of the Educational Centre for Wooden Architecture Preservation on Kizhi Island.

5.2 List of Recommendations

Research, conservation and restoration of the monuments

Recommendation 01

The mission recommends to keep on monitoring the movements of the log walls with binding posts, in comparison to the walls without them in order to refute or confirm, understand and evaluate any influence of the binding posts in their movements; also, whether differential movements occur, and if so, how this affects the building. The monitoring should include possible affections to the durability of the walls.

Recommendation 02

The mission is of the opinion that the issue of the coloured reconstruction of the “heaven” iconography in the Church of the Transfiguration can be solved by the implementation of virtual images. The projection of images is completely reversible and can have two main purposes: to serve as the painted “heaven” of the church during religious practices, and for visitors to understand the building and its history, as well as the symbolical meaning of the elements of its interior religious decoration. Furthermore, a projected image can be updated to match the findings of the historic, artistic and chromatic research. It also can show one-to-one scale reproductions of historic photographs of the paintings, linear schemes of the icons, or even restoration proposals for discussion. A wide-ranging dialogue among experts on the site of the project, in the presence of the authentic iconostasis, will create possibilities for approaching a more satisfactory solution. It is necessary to continue studying the colouristic solution of the sky icons for scientifically justified and reliable reconstruction of the lost ceiling-sky icons

The mission is of the opinion that the restored original painted transom beams should be returned to their original place, even if their dimensions do not fit with the present geometry of the church, solving the structural issue by supplementing the current non-painted transom beams with new beams on top of them, and by hanging the original restored painted transom beams from these. Special care will be needed to avoid interference with the metallic tension ring.

Recommendation 03

The mission advises that the protection of the wooden floor of the church be achieved by limiting the number of visitors to a sustainable level, and by providing covers for the boots and shoes of every visitor, in order to avoid contact between boots and shoes with the historic wooden planks. It recommends avoiding the installation of materials on top of the floor that might alter the conditions of ventilation and moisture of the wood.

Recommendation 04

The mission advises that the exhibition in the refectory of the Transfiguration Church can be further developed and enriched by the Museum material.

Recommendation 05

The mission recommends the State Party to provide in due course, and in any case before its implementation, a comprehensive presentation / liturgical project for the interior of the Transfiguration Church to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2023).

Recommendation 06

The State Party is advised to present a visitation plan for the monument and the church-yard, taking care of the people with special needs, as well as the difficult weather conditions during winter, given consideration so that accessibility is limited to what is necessary, and that the natural soil and the immediate natural environment of the property are not altered.

Recommendation 07

Regarding the two options developed for the conservation project of the Church of the Intercession, the mission recommends developing and implementing Option 1, which better suits the principle of minimal intervention, while fulfilling to a high level the need, to respond to the consequence of the pathologies of the building.

The development of the details of the intervention will keep the principles of delicacy, care of the existing, minimal removal of material, compatibility of materials, technologies and processes, while keeping to the reversibility of as much of the intervention as possible.

The mission recommends the use of appropriate wood for the conservation works, in terms of species, dimensions, age, moisture content, cutting, and placing. The use of traditional joinery and specifically, the retention of the existing joinery in the Church of the Intercession is paramount.

As new information will be available during the intervention process, thoughtful documentation and research will be needed.

Recommendation 08

The mission recommends designing and implementing a Management Plan aimed at creating the conditions for securing the adequate wood for the future conservation works at the Kizhi Pogost World Heritage property.

The Management Plan should: define the characteristics that the wood should have assess the future need of wood in terms of quantity, and identify an area in which to create a forest reserve to supply timber for the maintenance of wooden heritage.

The mission understands that there is no urgency for obtaining wood in the near future, but also that the process for growing adequate wood takes many years. Therefore, it is relevant that the administrative work, design of the Management Plan, and its implementation starts as soon as possible.

Management and development of the property

Recommendation 09

The mission encourages the State Party to complete the implementation of the project for switching and connecting the facilities of the Kizhi Island to new electrical networks.

Recommendation 10

The mission advises that major attention to be paid to the installation of the new fire extinguishing system, so that its functional parts (generators, pressure tanks, water pipes, water jets) do not cause any kind of visual disturbance to the monument. The mission recommends the project for the new external fire extinguishing system of Kizhi Pogost be accompanied by a comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessment, and that details of the planned installation and the assessment to be forwarded to World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Body. The mission advises that the 2022 Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage context provides an appropriate framework for such an HIA.

Recommendation 11

In order for the authenticity of the character of the Architectural and ethnographic sector of the Northern Vepsians to be preserved at a high level, as well as for the nature and the type of the proposed sector to be brought to correspond to a more authentic representation of the historic planning structure of a Vepsian traditional village, and in conformity to paragraph 86 of the Operational Guidelines, it is recommended to avoid reconstruction according to archival data of replicas of buildings which do not exist anymore. Instead, the mission encourages the museum to realize the 2024 planned scientific research expedition to the territory of the traditional residence of the Vepsians in order to collect additional scientific information and items for the museum and to negotiate with the owners of traditional Vepsian buildings to be purchased and relocated to Kizhi Island.

The mission is of the opinion that the second, advanced option, as described in the provided "Scheme of the general plan of the sector "Prionezhie Vepsians" (image 30), and developed in the presentation "Prionezhie Vepsians sector" (Annex VIII – 8), will help to rehabilitate the system of traditional settlements and planning solution of northern Vepsian settlements and particularly to better understanding the most common types of traditional houses in the Prionezhie district. It is, also, recommended, that the proposed building constructions of the second option in number and size should be the final ones, within the spatial limitations indicated in the provided "Scheme of the general plan of the sector "Prionezhie Vepsians".

Recommendation 12

The mission encourages the museum to try to develop a project for the construction of a temporary waste disposal complex (at least for the winter time).

Within the frame of the Master Plan provisions, in order to assist the non-dispersal of waste by visitors, as well as for the timely collection of waste, the mission advises to develop on the island a network of metal bins, placed inside suitably shaped wooden cases.

Recommendation 13

The mission's opinion is that the whole area is facing significant tourism development pressures due to the new road construction and infrastructure projects and the high recreational value of the cultural landscape. The future needs under the increased pressure of visitors and residents, the immediate and cumulative impacts of new projects on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and in consideration to its cultural and environmental vulnerability, should be identified and addressed.

Permanent care should be taken to preserve the non-visibility of the parking area and new development projects, located visually just opposite Vasilievo village on Kizhi Island.

According to the State Party information "Draft designs for the entrance area in the village of Oyatevshchina" have been developed. The draft designs were submitted to

the World Heritage Committee as part of the Master Plan.” The mission underlines that details of proposals that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property must be subject to appropriate impact assessments and the transmission of details of those proposals and their assessments to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies should be a standard procedure on all development proposals within the World Heritage property and its buffer zone.

Recommendation 14

The mission enthusiastically supports and recommends the continuation of the educational and research activities of the students of the Educational Centre for Wooden Architecture Preservation on Kizhi Island.

Recommendation 15

Noting that exposure to asbestos can be highly hazardous to human health, it is recommended that, the State Party, with the help of the local self-government committees, identify those constructions in which this material is still in use and take care of its immediate removal, through authorized campaign.

Recommendation 16

The mission recommends that the State Party makes every effort, so that the objective difficulties are removed and it can proceed with the implementation of electrification of the settlements in the island complex within the buffer zone of the property.

Recommendation 17

The mission advises the State Party to develop an updated Sustainable Tourism Management Plan for the property, including policies regarding the future development of the settlements in the islands of the buffer zone, and in particular:

- a revised zoning proposal with adequate provisions for the protection of the landscape setting, a tourism strategy, risk preparedness and an archaeological rescue and monitoring strategy;*
- the development of guidelines for interventions to address restoration criteria and issues such as the treatment of elements from various periods, treatment of witness marks, introduction of modern materials, structural reinforcement, among others.*

The mission recommends that the State Party include a detailed update of the Tourism Management Plan as annex to the state of conservation report that the World Heritage Centre requested it submit by 1 December 2024 (Decision 45 COM 7B.198).

Recommendation 18

The mission encourages the State Party to strengthen the efforts in forming an active community on the territory, interested in preserving traditions and developing their settlements, while making them attractive for the new generation who could find a future in this area.

6. Annexes

Annex I: Terms of Reference of the mission

Background:

The World Heritage property of Kizhi Pogost was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1990 (14th Session of the Committee) under criteria (i), (iv) and (v).

The last mission to the property was the ICOMOS Advisory mission, which took place from 13 to 17 March 2018. There was a previous Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission in 2013, an ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission in 2011 and a Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission in 2007. Previous Reactive Monitoring missions have taken place in 1992, 1993, 1994, 2002: UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission and on-site workshop.

In its Decision 43 COM 7B.89 (Baku, 2019), the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to invite an ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property.

The ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property that the State Party invited in 2020 in response to Decision 43 COM 7B.89 had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In June 2022, the State Party shared with the World Heritage Centre draft terms of reference for the mission, indicating the second quarter of 2023 as the optimal period for the mission. Following consultation with ICOMOS, the World Heritage Centre has confirmed to the State Party the availability of ICOMOS experts to undertake the mission in the second half of September 2023.

The State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the property on 30 November 2022. The state of conservation reports, as well as decisions of the World Heritage Committee are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/544/documents>.

Factors affecting the property in 2023, according to the SOC report:

- Housing
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Land conversion
- Management activities
- Management systems/ management plan
- Marine transport infrastructure
- Other Threats:
Structural integrity issues at the Church of the Transfiguration

Terms of Reference
ICOMOS Advisory mission to the World Heritage property
“Kizhi Pogost” (Russian Federation) (C 544)
16-20 January 2023

The terms of reference for the ICOMOS Advisory Mission are compiled in accordance with the Decisions adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its previous sessions and the recommendations of the ICOMOS Advisory Mission at the Site “Kizhi Pogost” in 2018.

1. In relation to the restoration work on the monuments of the WHS “Kizhi Pogost”:
 - assessment of the implementation of a comprehensive restoration project of the Church of the Transfiguration;
 - consultations on the proposals for the restoration of the “heaven” ceiling painting of the Church of the Transfiguration;

- consultations on the further conservation of the Church of the Transfiguration with regard to its safety and adaption to modern use;
 - assessment of the conservation project of the Church of the Intercession;
 - assessment of the implementation of the monitoring program for the state of wooden monuments of the Kizhi Architectural Ensemble, as well as the monitoring program for the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.
2. In relation to the management and development of the WHS “Kizhi Pogost”:
- Consultation on development projects proposed within the Plan for conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS “Kizhi Pogost” and development of the Kizhi Island territory (Master Plan) and the Sustainable development plan for the buffer zone of the WHS “Kizhi Pogost”.

All the required documents will be provided to the ICOMOS experts for review at the latest ten days before the mission.

In case additional information would be necessary as identified during the mission, it should be provided ten days after completion of the mission at the latest.

The advisory mission should prepare a report (in electronic format) which will be submitted to the State Party within eight weeks following completion of the mission.

Annex II: Last Decisions of the World Heritage Committee

Decision 45 COM 7B.198 (Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2023)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.160** adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Welcomes the completion of the 'Plan for conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site "Kizhi Pogost" and development of the Kizhi Island territory' and 'The Sustainable Development Plan for the Buffer Zone of the WHS "Kizhi Pogost" (2022-2032)';
4. Notes the continuous monitoring of the structural stability of the built structures of the Kizhi Pogost and the continuous research undertaken at the property and its buffer zone;
5. Also notes the selection of a preferred design project for the restoration of the Church of the Intercession, the Heritage Impact Assessment of this project and the State Party's commitment to submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before its implementation;
6. Requests that the State Party provide details on the project for fire extinguishing and safety systems for the Church of the Transfiguration and on the project to reconstruct the 'Worship Cross' at the eastern side of the property to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before implementation;
7. Further notes the commitment of the State Party to submit details of any proposals for development of the entrance of Zone A to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before its implementation, as outlined in the 'Plan for conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site "Kizhi Pogost" and development of the Kizhi Island territory';
8. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to defining spatial limits for new construction and land uses within the buffer zone;
9. Also recommends that the State Party reconsider globally the proposed removal of twentieth century structures in the buffer zone so as to avoid erasing historical layers in the development of the property's setting;
10. Acknowledges again the invitation from the State Party for an ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property and welcomes the preparations that are underway to finalise the planning for the mission;

Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.

Annex III: Recommendations of the 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission

Recommendations regarding the restoration works in the Church of the Transfiguration

Recommendation 1, concerning the structural reinforcement of the building: The mission recommends that all the binding posts are adjusted to make vertical movement possible. Adaption of newer logs in the wall would be acceptable to some extent, but it might also be that only the binding posts are adapted. The bolt holes must also be elongated. The state of the binding posts and the bolts should be regularly checked to assure that they function as intended.

Recommendation 2, concerning the supporting ring of the “heaven” ceiling (“Nebo”): The mission reiterates the recommendations of earlier missions, to reduce added reinforcement interventions to an absolute minimum, and to keep it as simple as possible. The mission recommends to consider the possibility of installing just four simple tension rods straight between the binding posts of the diagonal walls, angled approx. 90 degrees on the walls. This should be sufficient to support the ring of the “heaven” ceiling, and more complicated solutions will be unnecessary.

Recommendation 3, concerning the strengthening of the quadrangle beams in the upper part of the octagon:

The mission recommends to trust the old construction, and to re-establish it in its original state in the building. Nevertheless, the mission accepts the installation of Dr Kickler’s solution to strengthen the quadrangle beams, provided that caution is taken to ensure that the metal parts will not cause any damage to the wood where the different materials are joined together. The optimal placement of the binding posts also needs to be considered.

Recommendation 4, concerning the missing parts of the interior “heaven”- ceiling (“Nebo”): The general recommendation of the mission is to first complete the conservation and the fitting of the original iconostasis currently in place, while, in parallel, fit the original painted transom structures of the “heaven” ceiling that have been preserved. In the meantime, with the help of a good-quality large-scale model, a study group could develop alternative approaches. Only after completing the iconostasis and the original painted transom structures of the “heaven” ceiling can the specific “load” of the original material, in comparison to the “load” created by the absence of the material of the “heaven” ceiling, that is by the “lacuna” be understood. After this, the museum should organize a pan-Russian or even international conference to discuss the issue, on the basis of the already-elaborated alternative approaches. A wide-ranging dialogue among experts on the site of the project, in the presence of the authentic iconostasis, will create possibilities for approaching a satisfactory solution.

The wooden parts of the missing pieces could be reconstructed for the sake of completion of the construction, if the documentation of the traditional methods of building is sufficient. If not, new panels could be made in a modern way.

Recommendation 5, concerning surface treatment of roof elements and other building parts:

The mission reiterates previous recommendations that treatment with modern chemicals for the purpose of prolonging the life of wooden parts, or to prevent growth of fungus and moss, should be avoided. Only traditional methods and materials should be used. The maintenance of the church should be based on carefully-chosen materials and high-quality carpentry, followed by regular inspections and maintenance. Fire protection should also be solved with other means than chemical treatment of wood.

Recommendation 6, concerning the project proposal for the boarding of the church:
The mission recommends to base the reconstruction of wall boarding on thorough and specific documentation, and on general principles of reconstruction. This would imply a solution that reflected a situation that had previously existed for a period of time. The most obvious choices would either be to choose the situation created by Alexander Opolovnikov, or the situation before his restoration. A situation in which only part of the church walls are covered, would not reflect an historical situation.

Recommendation 7, concerning the project proposal for a glass window in the floor of the church:

The mission recommends that the project examine all alternatives to ensure that a possible exposure of the older floor will not affect the experience of the church interior in a negative way. If realized, it is crucial that the introduced elements can be installed without inflicting any damage or marks on the building parts. It must also be possible to remove the introduced parts completely so that the top floor can be reassembled at a later stage if wanted.

Recommendation regarding the restoration plans for the Church of the Intercession:

Recommendation 8, concerning the plans for restoration of the Church of the Intercession: The mission recommends that the total amount of timber which would need to be replaced should be determined for both methods. The alternative method needs to be described in more detail in order to find out to what extent it will be possible to repair or conserve damaged timber. During the planning, the project team should assume that the same methods for log repair must be applied as for the current project. Details of alternative proposals should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before a decision is taken.

Recommendation regarding site improvement:

Recommendation 9, concerning the project proposal for site improvement:

The mission recommends that as little change as possible is inflicted on the terrain, and preferably it should be adjusted only if needed to facilitate the flow of water away from the buildings. Edges between different surfaces should be smooth rather than sharp to keep the rural feeling of the surroundings. Sharp-defined structures might give an overwhelming impression of urban elements.

Recommendations regarding the revised Management Plan, updated in accordance with the ICOMOS Technical Review:

Recommendation 10, concerning the implementation of the Management Plan:

The main objective of a future development cannot just be a tourist mono-culture. The income of the inhabitants who decide to resettle these isolated villages could and should come from a combination of economic sources. The provision of tourist services (such as accommodation and traditional food) should be combined with the development of the rest of the traditional economy - cultivation of land, development of traditional handicrafts, etc. These will create the conditions for the long-term settlement of the inhabitants of the surrounding villages over the whole year.

It is recommended that the State Party develop a Sustainable Development Plan for the property clarifying:

- the areas in the near islands where the State Party intends to support future development;
- the nature of development that the State Party intends to support and strengthen;

- the conditions which the State Party deems necessary to support sustainable development (e.g. ensuring infrastructure preconditions, (eventual) financial support, technical advice support (for rehabilitation of the traditional houses and equipment of facilities for tourist accommodation) etc.), in order to achieve the objectives of this development.
- The necessary protective and supportive mechanisms that would be put in place to foster such sustainable development.

A draft of such a Plan should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Recommendation 11, concerning the creation of zones A and B:

The mission underlines that the development plans for zones A and B will reach the maximum permissible level of development of administrative and other service buildings on the island. Therefore, it is not possible for the island to build any further new constructions in the future.

Recommendations regarding the visitor management strategy of Kizhi Pogost:

Recommendation 12, concerning the use of the Church of the Transfiguration in winter time:

The carrying capacity of the Church of the Transfiguration during touristic peak seasons should be determined in close collaboration with the conservationists after the completion of the conservation of the iconostasis and of the adjacent icons, and their final fitting in the concrete conditions of the interior of the Church.

Recommendation 13, concerning visiting traditional houses and chapels – “the Kizhi Necklace”:

An essential factor that will increase visitors' alternatives during the winter months will be the traditional houses in the village of Vasilevo (photo 39), the village of Yamka (photo 40), and Pudozh sector (photo 41), which, after being released from the temporary storage of material objects, will be rehabilitated and could be organized to host thematic exhibitions. Similarly, the “Architectural and ethnographic sector Northern Vepsians” project has been proposed (see 5.6.1.). Such thematic exhibitions could relate to traditional housework, arts and crafts, workshops, or the cycle of fests during the year. The

houses or parts of the houses that will be visited should be heated.

Solving the basic underlying problems in the villages of the “Kizhi Necklace” will create, firstly, better living conditions for the locals. Furthermore, the conversion of houses into tourist accommodation will increase the possibilities for longer stays on the territory for a greater number of tourists and will improve the tourist flow, which will, in turn, increase the income of residents.

Recommendation 14, concerning visiting traditional houses and chapels – “the Kizhi Necklace”: In order for the original character of the place to be preserved at a high level, all rehabilitation and conversion work on the traditional houses in the villages of the “Kizhi Necklace” should be carried out under the direct supervision of the adequate republic services.

Recommendation 15, concerning facilities for visitors – transport connections:

The need for proper parking, camping and storage of materials will increase sharply in the near future and it is absolutely necessary that the State Party present plans for these functions in Oyatevshchina village, while keeping these elements visibly sheltered from the lake and from the World Heritage property.

Recommendations regarding the project of development of the Entrance zone on Kizhi Island (Zone A and zone B):

Recommendation 16, regarding the renovated existing administrative buildings (No8 and No9) in zone A:

In general, strong colouration of the wood in renovations of old wooden buildings, as well as for the construction of new buildings, should be avoided. The final appearance of the buildings should show as much as possible the natural colour of old building's wood. Therefore, on new buildings it should either be left unpainted or painted in a discrete colour. It is important, of course, to use materials of a high quality, in new buildings as well.

Recommendation 17, regarding Building No. 1 in zone A:

The two materials (glass and plastic) used on the exterior windows do not complement each other cooperate at all and therefore the plastic parts - where light permeability is desired but not transparency - should be replaced with light tinted glass of the same quality.

Recommendation 18, regarding the visitor centre in zone A

a) Reduce the area of glass openings/windows. There is no need for the window openings to be so large and reach the roof.

b) On the facades, the balcony parapets are designed as frameless fence of hardened glass (drawings - page 11). This is unacceptable, firstly for security reasons and secondly for morphological reasons. The parapets should be made of wood, in a simple, traditional form. Particularly on the rear side, the construction of an emergency exit is foreseen (drawings – page 12 – upper design). In this case, the balcony parapets, as well as the exit staircase, will be made of iron for safety reasons, following the State Party safety regulations (drawings - page 13 - upper design).

Recommendation 19, regarding overall conclusions and recommendations for zone B:

The mission agrees with the proposed project of the Kizhi Open Air Museum entrance area on Kizhi Island – zone B, and, in particular, with the proposed buildings as regards their location, size and construction materials. It also agrees with the proposed planned planting of vegetation for the upgrading of the natural environment. All existing buildings and rough auxiliary structures between the restoration complex and the historic village of Vasilievo will be removed immediately after the completion of the residential buildings. The boat–restaurant, which is currently abandoned in front of the pier of zone B, is to be removed as soon as possible because it directly degrades the natural environment (photos 57).

Recommendations regarding development project:

Recommendation 20, regarding the “Architectural and ethnographic sector Northern Vepsians”:

Firstly, a complete local topographic plan should be developed, showing the exact location of each of the existing and future constructions. Additionally, a general plan, should show how the nature and the type of the proposed sector correspond to a more authentic representation of the historic planning structure of a Vepsian traditional village. Architectural aspects, showing elevations of the complex, would describe the relationship of the structural volumes and natural environment (e.g. general view of the sector from the lake, views from the main directions of the connecting roads).

Architectural drawings of the traditional houses and household structures to be reconstructed have not yet been provided. The mission recommends this information to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Recommendation 21, concerning the construction of the warehouse building on Kizhi Island:

The mission is of the opinion that the reconstruction of the warehouse building meets the urgent needs for safeguarding contemporary conditions for the storage of construction and restoration materials, and equipment for the various maintenance and restoration work carried out under difficult climatic conditions on the island. The reconstruction of the warehouse building will contribute to a significant increase in the physical security of the federal property and ecological safety of the environment. Furthermore, it will facilitate the removal of materials currently kept in monuments, as well as the rehabilitation of the natural environment on the sites occupied by temporary storage constructions

Recommendation 22, concerning the construction of the specialized exposition, restoration and storage complex on Kizhi Island:

The opinion of the mission is that there is no negative impact on the historical and cultural landscape of World Heritage property. The storage complex is not visually connected with Kizhi Pogost. It is located on the shoreline area of Moshguba, outside the boundaries of historic settlements of the 19th – 20th centuries, and has no visual connection with them. The impact on the natural environment is minimal.

It is, furthermore, advised that the museum develop ways for the visitors to have the possibility of observing the conservation process of the museum artefacts in the workshop areas, as well as ensuring the possibility of developing corresponding teaching courses for organized groups of pupils and students etc. This will additionally increase the number of attractions for the visitors in this area of the Kizhi Pogost World Heritage property all year long.

Recommendation 23, concerning water supplies and sewage disposal systems: As there was no discussion on the matters of waste disposal nor contamination, the mission recommends that the State Party provide more details on how these issues will be addressed and particularly on sewage treatment and on the supply and storage of water.

Annex IV: Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the property

Brief synthesis

The architectural ensemble of the Kizhi Pogost is located on a narrow spit in the southern part of Kizhi Island, a small island of the Kizhi Archipelago in Lake Onega. The architectural ensemble includes two 18th-century wooden churches: the Church of the Transfiguration and the Church of the Intercession and an octagonal wooden bell tower built in 1862 and considerably reconstructed in 1874.

The churches on Kizhi Island were mentioned for the first time in chronicles of the 16th century. They burned down after being struck by lightning in 1693 and the currently existing churches were built on the very site of the former ones.

The ensemble bears evidence of the highly developed carpentry skills of the Russian people. Nowadays it is the only ensemble with two multi-domed wooden churches preserved in Russia. The Church of the Transfiguration is a monument with exceptional architectural and structural features. It has no parallel in either Russian or global wooden architecture. Considered by locals as the true wonder of the world, it gave birth to the legend about Master Nestor, who built the 37m high nail-less church using nothing but an axe. The Church of the Transfiguration was used during the summer, when the faithful journeyed from the outermost regions of the parish to attend services. A dendrochronological study of the materials sets its construction date after 1713-14. The octagon, which defines the composition of the cruciform church, is extended by oblong bays facing the four cardinal points. The nave, flanked with side aisles, is preceded on the west by a projecting narthex reached via two staircases. The height of the Church of the Transfiguration, whose central cupola culminates at 37m, is a masterpiece of a multi-storey, multi-cupola, and single-block structure. Here, over a central volume covered with three octagonal frames, the architect placed *bochkas* (roofs whose peak is shaped like a horizontal cylinder with the upper surface extended into a pointed ridge) topped with 22 bulbous cupolas. Inside, under the so-called 'heaven' - a superb vault shaped like a truncated pyramid - there is a gilded wood iconostasis holding 102 icons from the 17th and 18th centuries.

The Church of the Intercession, the Winter Church, refers to "ship type" churches and is a simpler structure. Built in 1764, it is of the "octagonal prism on a cube" type. Its elegant crown of eight cupolas is a unique element in Russian wooden architecture as this type of church was traditionally crowned with a tent roof. The eight cupolas encircle the 27m high central onion dome, and which covers the central parallelepiped space, gives it a more static appearance. To the east a five-sided small apse contains the altar. To the west is a long nave accessible by a single stairway.

The 30 meters-high bell tower is of the traditional "octagon on cube" type with a high cube (2/3 of the structure height). The belfry crowns the structure. It has nine posts supporting the tent roof with an onion dome covered with shingles.

The Kizhi Pogost is a unique monument of Russian wooden architecture, a universally recognized masterpiece of world architecture. It is noted for the harmony of its dimensions and shapes, and the artistic unity of its structures, built at different times. The architectural beauty of the ensemble is emphasized by the expressive landscape, which can be considered as a national landscape.

Criterion (i): Perceived by people of Karelia as "the true eighth wonder of the world", Kizhi Pogost is indeed a unique artistic achievement. Not only does it combine two multi-cupola churches and a bell tower within the same enclosure, but also these unusually designed, perfectly proportioned wooden structures are in perfect harmony with the surrounding landscape.

Criterion (iv): Among the five surviving pogosts in the extreme northwest of Russia, Kizhi Pogost offers an outstanding example of an architectural ensemble typical of medieval and post-medieval Orthodox settlements in sparsely populated regions, where missionaries had to cope with far-flung Christian communities and harsh climate. Accessible by land or water, the pogost clustered religious buildings, which could also be used for other occasional purposes; for example, the spacious refectory was used as a meeting hall for the village community.

Criterion (v): The Pogost and the buildings, which had been grouped together to form the museum site in the southern part of Kizhi, are exceptional examples of the traditional wooden architecture of Karelia and, more generally, of that of northern Russia and the Finnish-Scandinavian region.

Russian carpenters, whose fame takes root from the Medieval Novgorod, had carried the art of carpentry to its apogee. Irreversible changes have caused this traditional skill to disappear. Hence, it is absolutely essential that ensembles like that of the Kizhi Pogost be preserved for their illustrative value in the history of ancient techniques and for what they tell us about old lifestyles.

Integrity

All attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value of the property are included within the boundaries of the property and have the adequate size to ensure the complete representation of features conveying its significance. The integrity of the architectural ensemble of the Kizhi Pogost, encircled by a wooden fence, has been largely maintained and is not threatened by contemporary development or neglect.

Since ancient times, parish churches on Kizhi Island have been the centre of spiritual life of the region and a symbol of community for a large peasant world united by economic, social and family ties. It was therefore necessary that the church, the graveyard and the buildings needed for the far-flung communities' religious life be grouped together in one place.

The Kizhi Pogost has dominated the holistic territory for many centuries. The structures are located in the form of a triangle, which creates the integrity of the ensemble. The structure of villages and the landscape, reflecting the system of traditional land management in peasant agriculture, undisturbed by modern building activity, have been preserved up to the present time. To maintain these conditions, developments in the vicinity of the property and its setting need to be controlled.

Authenticity

The Kizhi Pogost is an illustration of a carpenter pushing a technique to its furthest limits. The traditional building techniques and the structural and decorative elements that have been used in Russian architecture for centuries are brilliantly and perfectly implemented in the ensemble structures.

Throughout its 300-year history, the monuments have been periodically repaired. In the 19th century, the walls of the churches were covered with protective siding boards and painted white and the domes were covered with metal sheets. Restoration works in 1949-59 returned the churches to their previous original appearance. In 1980-83, a steel framework was installed in the interior of the Church of the Transfiguration and the iconostasis and interior elements were removed from the structure.

In spite of these interventions, the structures have not been significantly reconstructed and have preserved a substantial part of the original elements and material. To maintain the conditions of authenticity, restoration criteria and guidelines are crucial to address the treatment of elements from different periods, of witness marks, among other issues.

The Kizhi Pogost represents an important step in the establishment of Orthodoxy in the Russian North. The churches have been used for liturgical services since their construction, except during the Soviet period of 1937-1994.

Protection and management requirements

The Kizhi Pogost is a federal monument of history and culture protected in accordance with Federal Law No. 73 "On cultural heritage (monuments of history and culture) of the peoples of the Russian Federation", dated June 25, 2002. In 1993, by the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation, it was listed in the State Code of Most Valuable Objects of Cultural Heritage of the Peoples of the Russian Federation. The establishment of the buffer zone for the Kizhi Pogost represents a crucial step in preserving the visual integrity of the historic landscape and ensuring the integrity of the property and its setting. Much attention needs to be paid to establishing effective partnerships between authorities, businesses and communities, to the strategic protection of this historical landscape, to the promotion of the Kizhi Pogost as a cultural and historical destination. It is necessary to clearly identify specificities of valuable elements of the territory and establish legally permissible forms of their use.

The "Management Plan for the World Heritage property Kizhi Pogost" is an essential tool to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and to coordinate stakeholder activities. The day-to-day management of the Kizhi Pogost is the responsibility of the Kizhi State Open-Air Museum, which carries out monitoring, maintenance, and restoration of the Pogost monuments. As a particularly valuable object of cultural heritage, the fire emergency team and the special police unit guard the Kizhi Pogost.

Maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property requires understanding of the specificities of its natural and cultural environment and developing of appropriate guidance for the selection of restoration methods of monuments. The restoration of the Church of the Transfiguration, which aims to preserve the framework, the interior and the iconostasis, is a priority. The lessons learned in the process will be critical for addressing further specific conservation challenges.

Annex V: Composition of the Mission Team

Mikel Landa
ICOMOS Wooden Architecture Expert, Spain

Alkiviadis Prepis
ICOMOS Cultural Heritage Expert, Greece

Annex VI: Itinerary and programme of the mission as implemented

Date/ Time	Activity	Venue
March 25	Arrival of foreign ICOMOS experts in Petrozavodsk	
16.40- 17.30	Arrival of foreign ICOMOS experts in Petrozavodsk. Meeting, accommodation	Hotel "Fregat"
March 26	Arrival of foreign ICOMOS experts at Kizhi Island and arrival of mission participants in Petrozavodsk	
Group of foreign ICOMOS experts		
08.00- 09.00	Breakfast in Petrozavodsk	Hotel "Fregat"
09.30- 12.30	Work of ICOMOS experts in Petrozavodsk	1, Karl Marx Street
12.30- 13.30	Lunch	
14.00	Transfer of the participants to the hovercraft boarding area in Petrozavodsk	
14.00- 16.30	Transfer to Kizhi Island (with a stop in the village of Zharnikovo). Meeting on the island of Gogolevsky, accommodation	Zharnikovo village, Gogolevsky Island
16.30 – 16.40	Transfer of the ICOMOS experts to the place of work on Kizhi Island (the village of Yamka, Anikins' house)	Kizhi Island (bus from the house of Yakovlev)
16.40 - 18.00	Experts working on Kizhi Island: getting acquainted with the work of the All-Russian Center	Kizhi Island, Yamka village
18.00- 18.10	Transfer of the participants to the island of Gogolevsky	Gogolevsky Island
18.10- 19.00	Dinner	Gogolevsky Island
19.00- 19.20	Transfer of mission participants to the place of accommodation	Zharnikovo village
Work with Russian participants of the mission in Petrozavodsk		
10.50- 12.00	Arrival of Russian participants in Petrozavodsk from Moscow. Meeting. Visit to the exhibition on Kirov sq.	Airport "Petrozavodsk" – Petrozavodsk
12.30- 13.30	Lunch	
14.00- 15.30	Transfer of the participants to the hovercraft boarding area in Petrozavodsk	Lake Onega embankment
14.00- 16.30	Transfer to the village of Zharnikovo, accommodation. Transfer to Kizhi Island (Gogolevsky)	Zharnikovo village, Gogolevsky Island
16.30 – 16.40	Transfer of the mission participants to the place of work on Kizhi Island (the village of Yamka, Anikins' house)	Kizhi Island (bus from the house of Yakovlev)
16.30 - 18.00	Mission participants working on Kizhi Island: getting acquainted with the work of the All-Russian Center Educational activities in the field of wooden architecture conservation in the Kizhi Open Air Museum (implementation of the ICOMOS recommendations) <u>Speaker: Alipova Yu.B.</u>	Kizhi Island, Yamka village
18.00- 18.10	Transfer of mission participants to Gogolevsky Island	Gogolevsky Island

18.10-19.00	Dinner	Gogolevsky Island
19.00-19.20	Transfer of mission participants to the place of accommodation	Zharnikovo village
23.00	Arrival of Russian participants in Petrozavodsk from St. Petersburg. Meeting	Railway station — Hotel “Piter-Inn”
March 27	Arrival of mission participants at Kizhi Island. Opening ceremony. The 1st day of the mission	
Group 1. Foreign ICOMOS experts on Kizhi Island		
08.00-08.45	Breakfast	Gogolevsky Island, Zharnikovo village
09.00-09.15	Transfer of mission participants to Kizhi island	Zharnikovo village— Kizhi Island (main exposition)
09.15-10.15	Work on the monuments of the Kizhi pogost. General acquaintance with the state of conservation and the works performed	Kizhi pogost
10.15-11.40	Hovercraft boarding (near the Kizhi pogost). Travel around the WHS buffer zone. Presentation of the projects implemented and the immediate development plans (in accordance with the Master Plan, Concept for sustainable development, and the WHS “Kizhi Pogost” Management Plan). <u>Stops at the sites:</u> - former settlement of Oyatevshchina - village of Kurguenitsy - village of Zharnikovo	Kizhi necklace
11.30-13.00	Meeting at the house of the Kizhi village head. Discussion of the issues on territory development and implemented projects	Village of Kurguenitsy
13.05-13.15	Travel by hovercraft to the Klymenetsky Holy Trinity Monastery	Village of Kurguenitsy — Bolshhoy Klimentetsky Island
13.30-15.00	Meeting with the rector of the monastery, visit of the monastery	Bolshhoy Klimentetsky Island
15.00-15.25	Hovercraft boarding, transfer to Kizhi Island, Yamka village	Kizhi Island, Yamka village
15.25-16.00	Excursion around the village of Yamka	Kizhi Island, Yamka village
Group 2. Russian participants of the mission (Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, Department of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the Northwestern Federal District)		
10.50-12.10	Arrival of the representative of the Ministry of Culture in Petrozavodsk. Meeting, transfer to the hovercraft boarding area	Airport “Petrozavodsk”
12.10 – 13.30	Travel by hovercraft to the Klymenetsky Holy Trinity Monastery	Petrozavodsk — Bolshhoy Klimentetsky Island
13.30-15.00	Meeting with the rector of the monastery, visit of the monastery	Bolshhoy Klimentetsky Island
15.00-15.25	Hovercraft boarding, transfer to Kizhi Island, accommodation (Gogolevsky Island)	Kizhi Island, Gogolevsky Island
15.50-16.00	Bus transfer of the participants to the place of the mission	Yamka village, Anikins’ house

Group 3. Russian participants of the mission		
1 subgroup (architects)		
07.51-08.15	Arrival of Russian participants in Petrozavodsk from Moscow. Meeting, transfer to the hovercraft boarding area	Railway station — Petrozavodsk embankment
08.15 – 9.45	Transfer of mission participants to Kizhi Island with a stop in the village of Zharnikovo (immediate transfer to the Kizhi pogost)	Petrozavodsk — Zharnikovo village— Kizhi Island
2 subgroup		
09.00-11.00	Breakfast in Petrozavodsk for mission participants who arrived the day before. Transfer of the participants to the hovercraft boarding area in Petrozavodsk	
11.00-12.30	Transfer to Kizhi Island, accommodation in the village of Zharnikovo	
12.30-13.30	Meeting in the village of Zharnikovo, accommodation, free time	Zharnikovo village, Gogolevsky Island
13.40-14.00	Transfer of mission participants to Kizhi Island, Yamka village	
14.00–15.00	Lunch for mission participants living in the village of Zharnikovo	Yamka village, House of Beryozkina
15.00-16.00	Work with mission participants on Kizhi Island (excursion around the village of Yamka)	
All mission participants and foreign ICOMOS experts		
16.00 – 16.30	Opening of the mission Welcome words Presentation of the participants Goals and objectives for the mission Program of the mission (handouts).	Yamka village, Anikins' house
16.30-16.50	Report on the implementation of the recommendations of the mission 2018 and 43, 44, and 45 sessions of the WHC. <u>Speaker:</u> Bogdanova E.V.	
16.50-17.20	Presentation of the results of the restoration and the plan for the further conservation of the Church of the Transfiguration ensuring its safety and adaptation for the modern use. <u>Speakers:</u> Alipova Yu.B. Dibrova A.V. – regarding restoration of the iconostasis	
17.20-17.40	The first steps taken and immediate development plans in accordance with the Plan for Preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS “Kizhi Pogost” (Master Plan). <u>Speaker:</u> Lugovoy D.D.	
17.40-18.00	Discussion	
18.00 – 18.10	Transfer of mission participants living on Gogolevsky Island to dinner	Gogolevsky Island
18.00 – 19.00	Dinner of mission participants living in the village of Zharnikovo	Yamka village, House of Beryozkina
19.10-19.30	Transfer of mission participants to the place of living	Zharnikovo village
March 28	The 2nd day of the mission	

	Breakfast	
08.45-09.00	Hovercraft transfer of the participants living in Zharnikovo to the place of the mission on Kizhi island	Zharnikovo village—Kizhi Island (main exposition)
08.50 – 09.00	Bus transfer of the participants to the place of the mission	
09.00-10.30	Visit of the monuments of the Kizhi pogost. The results of the restoration of the Church of the Transfiguration and the iconostasis, the plans for conservation and safety of the Kizhi pogost monuments, restoration of the interiors (Alipova Yu.B., Kovalchuk A.L., Dibrova A.V., Kisternaya M.V., Lyubimtsev A.Yu).	Kizhi Pogost
10.30-10.50	Bus transfer of the participants to the place of the mission	Kizhi Island (main exposition) –Yamka village, Anikins' house
10.50-11.10	Brief analysis of the restoration of the Church of the Transfiguration. <u>Speaker:</u> Kovalchuk A.L.	Yamka village, Anikins' house
11.10-11.30	Presentation of the conservation project for the Church of the Intercession. <u>Speaker:</u> Matveev M.Yu.	
11.30-11.50	Monitoring program for the state of conservation of the wooden monuments of the Kizhi pogost. Implementation of the program, analysis of the results. <u>Speaker:</u> Lyubimtsev A.Yu.	
11.50-12.10	Presentation of the Concept for the sustainable development of the WHS “Kizhi Pogost” buffer zone. Work with the local community. The steps taken and immediate plans for implementation of the Concept. <u>Speaker:</u> Kiryanov V.A.	
12.10 - 12.20	Presentation of the project for formation of the architectural and exposition sector “Prionezhie Vepsians” <u>Speaker:</u> Vakhrameeva T.I.	
12.20 – 13.10	Discussion of the agenda issues. Work with the documents. Consultations	Flextime coffee-break
13.00 – 13.20	Bus transfer of the participants for lunch	
13.20 – 14.20	LUNCH	Gogolevsky Island, Yamka village, House of Beryozkina
14.20 – 14.40	Bus transfer of the participants to the house of Belyaev in the Pudozhsky sector	
14.35-15.00	Discussion of the “heaven” ceiling rehabilitation in the house of Belyaev	
15.00-15.15	Bus transfer of the participants to the place of the mission	
15.15 – 17.15	1. Rehabilitation of the “heaven” ceiling of the Church of the Transfiguration of the Kizhi pogost. <u>Speaker:</u> Dibrova A.V. 2. Peculiar features of the “heaven” ceiling of the Church of the Transfiguration of the Kizhi pogost. <u>Speaker:</u> Moskin B.D.	Yamka village, Anikins' house <u>Flextime coffee-break</u>

	Discussion of the rehabilitation of the “heaven” painting ceiling, consultations	
17.20 – 18.40	Additional discussions in groups on individual issues (if necessary)	Yamka village, Anikins’ house
18.40-19.00	Bus transfer of mission participants living on Gogolevsky Island for dinner	
18.40-19.30	DINNER	Gogolevsky Island, Yamka village, House of Beryozkina
19.30-19.50	Transfer of mission participants to the place of living	Zharnikovo village
March 29	The 3rd day of the mission Closing ceremony. Departure of the participants from Kizhi Island and from Petrozavodsk	
	Breakfast	
08.20 – 08.45	Moving out of accommodation Bus/hovercraft (Zharnikovo village) transfer of the participants to the place of the mission	
08.45 – 11.00	Summing up the work of every group. Presentation of the results Joint work on the issues requiring additional discussion Visit of the sites for additional work (if necessary) Summing up the work of the Advisory mission Closing the mission	Yamka village, Anikins’ house
11.00 – 12.30	Departure from Kizhi Island	
	Departure from Petrozavodsk	According to the transport schedule

Annex VII: List of people met

№	Name	Position
Representatives of ministries and departments, local governments		
1	Rybalo Roman Alekseevich	Director of the Department of State Protection of Cultural Heritage
2	Guryanova Anastasiya Sergeevna	Deputy Head of the Department for UNESCO sites and Certification in Restoration of the Department of State Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation
3	Marchenko Maria Igorevna	3rd Secretary of the Department for Multilateral Humanitarian Cooperation and Cultural Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
4	Ermakov Andrey Mikhailovich	Head of the Office of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the Northwestern Federal District
5	Antonov Andrey Mikhailovich	Head of the Department for the State Control and Supervision of the Directorate of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the Northwestern Federal District
6	Gurtova Victoria Konstantinovna	Head of the Department for the Cultural Heritage Protection of the Republic of Karelia
7	Antipov Maxim Leonidovich	Head of the Administration of the Medvezhiegorsk Municipal District
8	Bobrovskaya Ksenia Mikhailovna	Temporarily for the Head of the Velikaya Guba rural settlement
Guest participants and experts		
9	Vakhrameeva Tatyana Ivanovna	Director of "ZAO Lad" (specialized restoration research and design organization), member of the Section of Wooden Architecture of the Scientific Council of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, expert of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for state historical and cultural examination, Ph.D. in Architecture, architect-restorer of the highest rank
10	Skopin Vitaly Alexandrovich	Director of "OOO Architectural and Restoration Center Zaonezhie" (specialized restoration organization), member of the Section of Wooden Architecture of the Scientific Council of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, restorer of wooden architecture monuments of the highest rank
11	Chusov Aleksey Aleksandrovich	Deputy Director of "OOO Architectural and Restoration Center Zaonezhie" (specialized restoration organization), restorer of wooden architecture monuments of the highest rank, cultural heritage engineer of the highest rank
12	Matveev Mikhail Yurievich	Chief Project Architect of the Federal State Unitary Enterprise "Central Scientific and Restoration Design Workshops", Third category architect- restorer
13	Krylov Alexander Konstantinovich	Academician of the Russian Academy of Arts, artist, fine art expert, professor
14	Selivanov Dmitry Evgenievich	Teacher at the St. Petersburg Academy of Arts named after Ilya Repin, teacher at St. Petersburg Theological Academy, corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Arts
15	Pankratov Vasily Yurievich	Director of Gatchina State Historical and Artistic Palace and Park Open Air Museum, chairperson of the Russian Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM Russia)

16	Itsikson Sergey Meerovich	Expert of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for state historical and cultural examination
17	Archpriest Pavel Lekhmus	Archpriest of the parish of the Church of the Transfiguration (Kizhi Island)
Employees of the Kizhi Open Air Museum		
18	Bogdanova Elena Viktorovna	Director
19	Alipova Yulia Borisovna	Deputy Director for Restoration
20	Kisternaya Margarita Vasilievna	Deputy Director for Scientific and Exhibition Activities
21	Lugovoi Dmitry Dmitrievich	Deputy Director for Construction and Maintenance of Kizhi Island
22	Dibrova Anastasia Vladimirovna	Chief Curator
23	Lukin Vladimir Nikolayevich	Chief Architect, first category architect- restorer
24	Nezvitskaya Tatyana Viktorovna	Head of the Department of Scientific and Methodological Work of the all-Russian Center for Wooden Architecture Conservation n. a. V. S. Rakhmanov
25	Kovalchuk Andrey Lvovich	Leading specialist in ensuring the safety of cultural heritage of the all-Russian Center for Wooden Architecture Conservation n. a. V. S. Rakhmanov, restorer of wooden architecture monuments of the highest rank cultural heritage engineer of the highest rank
26	Lyubimtsev Alexander Yurievich	Leading specialist in ensuring the safety of cultural heritage of the all-Russian Center for Wooden Architecture Conservation n. a. V. S. Rakhmanov, first category cultural heritage engineer
27	Moskin Boris Dmitrievich	Research associate of the sector of traditional farming exhibition
Interpreters		
28	Bukchina Olga Georgievna	Leading specialist in ensuring the safety of cultural heritage of the Service for the World Heritage Site "Kizhi Pogost" Management and the all-Russian Center for Wooden Architecture Conservation n. a. V. S. Rakhmanov
29	Bryguina Tatiana Sergueevna	Specialist in cultural education of the Service for excursion and promotion activities of the Kizhi Open Air Museum
30	Filatova Victoria Victorovna	Interpreter
31	Gromov Jurgen Mikhailovich	Interpreter

Annex VIII: Documentation received from the State Party to inform the mission

Documentation received prior to the mission:

1. Conservation of the monuments of the WHS “Kizhi Pogost”
2. Plan for Conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS “Kizhi Pogost” (Master Plan) - First results and short-term plans for the implementation of the Master Plan
3. Interaction with the local community

Documentation received following the mission upon request by the mission members:

4. Additional information on issues raised during the mission
5. Brief analysis of the framework restoration
6. Presentation: “Monitoring and comprehensive preventive maintenance”
7. Brief information on the project for the creation of the architectural and exposition sector Prionezhie Vepsians
8. Presentation: “Prionezhie Vepsians sector”
9. Reconstruction of the heaven ceiling of the Transfiguration Church
10. Church of the Intercession, project options
11. Explanations on the implementation of the UNESCO expert recommendation (2018) on binding post fastener system