

## **WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION – IUCN COMMENTS TO ICOMOS TESTAMENT OF KENOZERO LAKE (RUSSIAN FEDERATION)**

IUCN provides the following comments based on a review of the nomination by the IUCN World Heritage Panel and the views of two external desk reviewers. The nominated property is proposed under criteria (i), (iii), (v) and (vi) and covers an area of 71,030.91 ha with a buffer zone of 68,989.40 ha. It is situated in the middle subzone of the taiga, at the crossroads of Fennoscandia and the Russian Plain within the watershed of the White and Baltic Seas. Located within Kenozero National Park, the nominated property hosts high species richness which are noted in the nomination document, including 640 plant species, over 200 species of fungi, 29 fish species, 50 mammal species and 260 bird species. The high number of waterfowl and the importance of Kenozero Lake for migratory birds led to its recognition as Important Bird Area. 79 species of flora and fauna are listed in the Red Books at federal, Republic- and Oblast-levels. The nomination highlights the traditional use of the cultural landscape by the local community and the combination of the undisturbed nature with traditional peasantry culture, both characterizing the nominated property.

The nomination notes that the management body addresses both the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage of the nominated property. Kenozero National Park contains three different management zones: the cultural landscape protection zone, the recreational zone and the protected zone. The protected zone focuses on nature conservation values but is the smallest of the three zones straddling along the Eastern boundary of the national park. Whilst IUCN welcomes the protection of the nominated property's nature conservation values, IUCN notes that expert reviewers recommended considering the expansion of the protected zones to enhance connectivity. Reviewers also recommended considering a stronger emphasis on the linkages between the cultural and natural values of the nominated property.