

**Report on the state of conservation of the UNESCO World Heritage Site
“Golden Mountains of Altai” (Russian Federation, No. 768rev) in 2024**

1. Response of the Russian Federation in accordance with the Decision of the World Heritage Committee 45 COM 7B.95

On the issue of proposed Altai gas pipeline’s exact alternative route and current status of the gas pipeline project.

The Altai gas pipeline planned for installation is a facility of federal importance. The facility is displayed in the Land-use Planning Scheme of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as LPS RF) as a planned project of federal importance in the field of federal transport (in the area of pipeline transport). The responsible agency for the preparation of LPS RF in this area is the Russian Ministry of Energy. Relevant documentation will be provided in due course.

On exact location of proposed tourism infrastructure on Lake Teletskoye, as well as the conduct of an environmental impact assessment (EIA).

Currently, there are no plans for tourism infrastructure on Lake Teletskoye that would require an environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedure.

On the issue of current or planned mining activities at the Breccia or Maly Kalychak deposits, including whether they have been subject to a full EIA, with a specific assessment of potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the site.

The Breccia deposit of the Churinskaya gold ore area is located in the Turochaksky district of the Altai Republic. The right to use subsoil was granted by the Department of Subsoil Use for the Siberian Federal District (hereinafter referred to as Sibnedra) under license GOA 00258 BR, for the purpose of geological survey, exploration and mining of gold ore. The license is valid until December 31, 2025. Geological surveying of the subsoil, including prospecting and evaluation of ore gold within the deposit, is provided for by the design documentation: “Plan of operations for the project: “Geological survey, including prospecting and evaluation of deposits of primary (ore) gold in the Breccia subsoil area of the Churinskaya gold ore area in the Altai Republic”. Completion of works according to the plan is the 4th quarter of 2024.

The development of the deposit is provided for in accordance with the design documentation “Detailed Plan “Development of the Breccia deposit of the Churinskaya gold ore area”. Mining completion date for the approved reserves of ore gold within the deposit according to the project is December 31, 2025.

The Maly Kalychak River deposit is located in the Turochaksky district of the Altai Republic. The right to use the subsoil was granted to Sibnedra under license GOA 00457 BR, for the purpose of geological survey, exploration and extraction of placer gold. The license is valid until August 11, 2027.

Geological exploration works within the deposit is provided for by the design documentation “Plan of operations for the project: “Geological survey of the subsoil, including prospecting and evaluation of gold-bearing sand in the subsoil area of the Maly Kalychak river deposit in the Turochaksky district of the Altai Republic”. Completion of works according to the project is the 3rd quarter of 2022. Exploration works within the deposit have been completed. Mining operations are provided for by the conditions of subsoil use, and will be possible only after approval of the corresponding deposit development project.

On the state of conservation of all components of the site: the regional natural monument “Mount Belukha”, the natural park “Ukok Quiet Zone” and the regional natural monument “Lake Teletskoye”, in addition to the Katun State Nature Reserve and the Altai State Nature Reserve.

The natural monument of regional importance “Mount Belukha” is located on the territory of the Ust-Koksinsky and Kosh-Agachsky districts of the Altai Republic.

To preserve the unique natural ecosystems of Mount Belukha and adjacent territories, the Belukha Natural Park was established by Decree of the Government of the Altai Republic dated June 10, 1997 No. 198 “On development of the Belukha Natural Park”.

The biological diversity of the Park is quite high. In the park, 8 species of plants from the Red Book of the Russian Federation and 17 species from the Red Book of the Altai Republic, 38 endemic species of the Altai-Sayan, a snow leopard included in the IUCN Red Book and 20 birds listed in the Red Book are noted.

The territory of the Park has significant recreational potential; Lake Kucherlinskoe and Lake Akkem, which is located at the foot of Mount Belukha, remain the most visited routes.

On the territory of the Park, the protection of “Red Book” species of flora and fauna is carried out, as well as of the unique natural sites and natural monuments located here - Mount Belukha, lakes Kucherlinskoye, Akkem, Tekelyu waterfall and other valuable natural sites, within which the economic activity of the population is significantly limited.

In order to preserve the unique natural complex in its natural state, inspectors of the Directorate conduct regular raids; as part of environmental education activities, meetings are held with schoolchildren and park visitors; the “Garbage Avalanche” and “Clean Path” campaigns have been organized and carried out.

Information about the boundaries of the Belukha Natural Park and the Belukha Mountain natural monument is included in the Unified State Register of Real Estate (hereinafter referred to as the EGRN).

The natural park “Ukok Quiet Zone” was established by Decree of the Government of the Altai Republic dated May 23, 2005 No. 77 “On the natural park “Ukok Quiet Zone” on the territory of the Kosh-Agachsky district, the Altai Republic, with the aim of preserving unique natural complexes, rare species of flora and fauna, world famous historical and cultural monuments, as well as creating conditions for the development of ecological and educational tourism and support for traditional types of environmental management by the indigenous population.

Within the Park, a number of functional zones with different regimes of protection and use are allocated: reserve regime zone (A), zone with a limited regime of use (zone B), recreational zone (zone C). The reserve regime zone is located on the northern macroslope of the Tavyn-Bogdo-Ola ridge, where Red List species live - snow leopard, argali, Altai snowcock. The specially protected zone consists of three clusters - Kalgutinsky, Kanassky, Kara-Alakhinsky, where habitats and nesting sites of Red List species of animals and birds are also noted.

The territory of the Park lies at a considerable distance from populated areas; tourism is not very popular.

To achieve the main goals of the Park establishment, in 2024, the Budgetary Institution of the Altai Republic “Directorate of Specially Protected Natural Reservations of the Altai Republic” (hereinafter also referred to as the Directorate) carried out environmental supervision within the framework of its powers. Raid activities are carried out on the territory of the Park, during which compliance with the regime of a specially protected natural reservation is regularly monitored, which has consisted of the territory surveys in order to monitor the state of ecosystems in a specially protected natural reservation, eliminate and prevent incidents of environmental law violation, inform visitors about their presence within the boundaries of the Park, monitor the territory during the fire danger period.

With the participation of directorate inspectors and volunteers, garbage is regularly collected and removed from the Park, and conversations are held with local residents and visitors about compliance with the Park’s special protection regime.

Information about the boundaries of the Park is included in EGRN.

The natural monument of regional importance “Lake Teletskoye” is located on the territory of the Turochaksky and Ulagansky districts of the Altai Republic. The lake is partly included in the Altai State Biosphere Reserve. Since February 16, 1996, it has the status of a complex natural monument of regional importance.

Within the boundaries of the natural monument, employees of the Directorate also conduct regular raids; annually, together with volunteers and local community, they carry out the “Water of Russia” and “Garbage Avalanche” campaigns.

Information about the boundaries of the Lake Teletskoye natural monument has been included in the EGRN, and work continues to substantiate the boundaries of its protective zone.

The Altai Nature Reserve is one of the very first nature reserves in Russia (established in 1932), this served as a reliable basis and guarantee for the conservation of its biodiversity and natural ecosystems. The Altai Nature Reserve is one of the few corners of the planet where human activity has not led to irreversible changes in natural ecosystems. That is why the Altai-Sayan mountainous country is included in the “Global-200” list (established by the World Wildlife Fund) - a list of pristine or little-changed ecoregions of the world, in which 90% of the planet’s biodiversity is concentrated.

The diversity of natural and climatic zones of the Altai Nature Reserve determined the exceptionally rich species composition of flora and fauna on its territory. In terms of the number of species of vascular plants, the Altai Nature Reserve shares first place among Russian specially protected natural reservations (SPNR) along with the Caucasus Biosphere Reserve. In terms of the diversity of species living on the territory, it is one of the top five Russian nature reserves.

Since 1998, the UNESCO World Heritage Site “Golden Mountains of Altai” includes, among other sites, the Altai Nature Reserve and Lake Teletskoye, the pearl of the Altai Mountains, also known as the “little Baikal” of Western Siberia.

The Altai Nature Reserve includes four Important Bird Areas (IBA) of international importance under the Important Bird Areas program developed by the International Association for the Protection of Birds (BirdLife International).

The main activities of the Altai Nature Reserve are:

- protection of natural territories in order to preserve biological diversity and maintain protected natural complexes and sites in a natural state;
- organization and conduction of scientific research, including keeping the Chronicle of Nature;
- environmental monitoring;
- environmental education, including development of ecotourism.

In 2009, by decision of the 21st session of the International Coordination Council of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), the Altai Nature Reserve was included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The total area of the Altai biosphere territory was more than 3.5 million hectares, with a cooperation zone including as much as two administrative districts - Turochaksky and Ulagansky. In addition to its primary task of preserving the protected area, the Altai Nature Reserve has also undertaken obligations to promote its development and ensure the socio-economic stability of the local community as a whole.

In 2020, the Altai Biosphere Reserve submitted a report on its activities for ten years to the UNESCO International Committee for the Man and the Biosphere Programme. The report of the Altai Biosphere Reserve was approved and adopted in 2021 without any comments.

Acting as a biosphere reserve, the Altai Nature Reserve pays special attention to the development and popularization of alternative sources of electricity, supporting local communities and interacting with the media.

By 2024, 11 facilities of the Altai Biosphere Reserve (1 village, 8 cordons and 2 checkpoints) located in the core zone will be equipped with electric generators powered by solar panels, wind and water power. This area of works at the World Natural Heritage site is aimed at using renewable alternative energy sources to mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing the use of forest resources and carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere. This project, in addition to its life support function for the reserve's employees, has a demonstration function - showing local communities that the use of environmentally friendly sources of electricity is possible.

The Katunsky Biosphere Reserve is a part of the Russian-Kazakh transboundary reserve “Altai”, which in 2017 received the status of the UNESCO transboundary biosphere reserve “Great Altai”. In order to manage the transboundary reserve, a Mixed Commission has been created with equal participation of representatives from the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan, whose tasks include assessing implemented and planning new joint activities. In August 2024, a regular meeting of the Mixed Commission was held, at which a plan of joint activities for 2024-25 was approved, including measures to improve the efficient protection of border areas, joint environmental monitoring, environmental and educational campaigns and events. Joint activities within the Great Altai TBR in 2023-24 was highly assessed: joint scientific expeditions were carried out to study transboundary migration of animals, a unified system indicating the state of biodiversity in the transboundary territory was developed, various environmental awareness events and international firefighter tactical trainings were carried out aimed at developing coordination skills in the event of natural fires in a transboundary zone.

In addition, the Katunsky Nature Reserve cooperates with other SPNRs located in the transboundary zone of Great Altai: Markakol and Western Altai biosphere reserves (Republic of Kazakhstan), and the Administration of the Mongolian Altai SPNR. In 2023-24, cooperation with the Chinese side intensified: two joint scientific expeditions were carried out, during which mechanisms for expanding the UNESCO Great Altai transboundary biosphere reserve by including border SPNRs of the People's Republic of China were discussed. Conceptually, at joint scientific events, the issue of expanding the Golden Mountains of Altai site to include Chinese SPNRs is discussed; a voluntary alliance for transboundary cooperation in the Altai region has been formed, i.e. an informal association of

representatives of the scientific and environmental community of the region, with the participation of representatives from the PRC, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the MPR, setting itself the task of strengthening transboundary cooperation in order to preserve biodiversity in the region. Such activities directly serve to execute the World Heritage Committee Decision 44 COM 7B.106 in terms of stimulating cooperation while implementing the World Heritage Convention.

The administration of the Katunsky Biosphere Reserve fully complies with the requirements to ensure preservation of the global value of the territory. In particular, the territory of the Reserve is protected; the state of biological and landscape diversity is monitored, as well as the anthropogenic impact on natural ecosystems. Works have been continued to study and monitor the impact of climate change on high-mountain ecosystems.

In order to popularize the Golden Mountains of Altai WH site, a new visitor center of the Katunsky Nature Reserve was opened in the village of Ust-Koksa (Altai Republic) in 2023, which disseminates information about the global value of this territory and measures for its conservation. The number of visitors to the visitor center is 5-6 thousand people per year.

Works are underway to create alternative sources of income for local residents living near the World Heritage site by involving them in the development of local environmentally responsible entrepreneurship. As part of the program for sustainable livelihoods of local communities implemented with the participation of the Katunsky Nature Reserve, mechanisms have been created to involve civil society in environmental activities.

Against the backdrop of an increase in the flow of tourists, works are underway to develop environmental educational routes and visitor centers, including with the participation of volunteers. For all environmental educational routes passing through the territory of the Reserve, on the basis of scientific research, the maximum permissible recreational capacity was determined, taking into account environmental, socio-psychological and logistics factors (the current recreational load in the 2023 and 2024 seasons did not exceed the established values of the permissible recreational capacity). At the same time, at all tourist sites of the Katunsky Nature Reserve, strict control of recreational load and monitoring of the state of natural ecosystems are carried out, which helps prevent negative consequences for biodiversity.

Part of the Katunsky Biosphere Reserve's territory became part of the World Cultural Heritage Site "Treasures of Pazyryk Culture" included in the Preliminary List. A full-format nomination of this site is currently being prepared. Practical activities to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of Altai, including the intangible culture of the indigenous population, are carried out by the administration of the Katunsky Nature Reserve on the basis of its own ethno-ecological museum.

On legally protected part of the Lake Teletskoye buffer zone.

A certain problem exists in connection with the unknown status of the second half of Lake Teletskoye, which is not included in the territory of the Altai State Natural Biosphere Reserve. Poaching of valuable fish species occurs on the left bank of the water area, which does not have the SPNR status. Due to the impossibility of controlling the migration of valuable fish species from the protected half of the Lake Teletskoye World Natural Heritage Site, security measures and control over the number of large specimens, which are the main prey of poachers, are impossible.

To prevent adverse anthropogenic impacts on state nature reserves, national parks, natural parks and natural monuments, protective zones are established on adjacent land plots and water bodies in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 95 of the Land Code of the Russian Federation and paragraph 10 of Article 2 of the Federal Law dated March 14, 1995 No. 33-FZ "On Specially Protected Natural Reservations".

Within the boundaries of these zones, activities that have a negative impact on the natural complexes of these specially protected natural reservations are prohibited.

Currently, the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources, jointly with the Federal State Budgetary Institution "Altai State Nature Reserve", is designing the protective zone of the Altai State Natural Biosphere Reserve.

Considering that the right part of the water area of Lake Teletskoye is located within the boundaries of the Altai State Natural Biosphere Reserve, the planned protective zone of the reserve will in any case be located on the left part of the Lake Teletskoye water area.

The Russian Ministry of Natural Resources recommended that the institution prepare materials for including the entire remaining part of Lake Teletskoye within the boundaries of the reserve's designed protective zone, which will contribute to the preservation of the entire ecosystem of Lake Teletskoye.

On the issue of improving transboundary cooperation with participating states - China, Kazakhstan and Mongolia.

The Altai Biosphere Reserve is a member of the Association of Nature Reserves and National Parks of the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion. The Altai Nature Reserve takes an active part in the Association's programs. One of the programs: Ensuring long-term conservation of biodiversity in the Altai-Sayan ecoregion. The goal of the program is to ensure conservation of biological diversity of the Altai-Sayan ecoregion in the long term through development of sustainable eco-regional environmental cooperation.

Long-term transboundary cooperation with Silkhem National Park (Mongolia) is underway. Joint censuses of rare animals are being conducted - the Altai mountain argali sheep and the snow leopard. The Chikhachev Ridge is home to groups of argali and snow leopards that have transboundary status. Their habitat area covers the northernmost part of the range, which, in a narrow tongue-shaped strip along the Chikhachev ridge, reaches the Chulyshman Highlands and includes part of its southern macroslope in the Bogoyash River basin (Altai Nature Reserve). In the south, the ridge goes to Mongolia, where these animals also live in the Khara-Magnai-Gol river basin.

As part of the Katunsky Nature Reserve's competence, there is a protocol of intent for cooperation with the Mongolian Altai SPNR Directorate and cooperation agreements with the Kazakh Markakol and Western Altai Nature Reserves in force, within the framework of which experience and information are exchanged and joint environmental educational events are held. In 2023-24, joint works were initiated with interested parties from PRC through scientific cooperation. Two scientific expeditions and a workshop were held, during which the conceptual foundations and technical features of expanding transboundary cooperation within the Great Altai TBR, through the participation of Chinese SPNRs, were discussed. In development of this initiative, an alliance has been formed, with the participation of representatives of the scientific and environmental spheres from interested organizations in Russia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and China, aimed at developing transboundary cooperation, including through the World Heritage Convention.

2. Information on other current issues related to conservation of the heritage site

There are eleven cordons on the territory of the **Altai State Nature Reserve**. Communication with cordons and areas is carried out via radio, mobile communications (at six cordons) and satellite communications (in emergency cases). The cordons of the biosphere reserve are equipped with vehicles and fire-fighting equipment.

The reserve's territory is protected by security service of the Altai State Nature Reserve. The core zone of the biosphere reserve is equipped with fire-fighting equipment, 23 inspectors guard the territory, they are duly equipped. Patrol groups are equipped with navigation devices, an unmanned aerial vehicle, photographic equipment for recording violations, and communications equipment. Protecting the territory is the most important activity of the reserve. Most violations of the reserve regime are associated with poaching and illegal presence on the territory. In 2023, 25 administrative proceedings were initiated for violations of the protected area regime and 2 criminal cases were initiated. For the reporting period, during patrolling, the security department covered 10,048 km on foot, 710 km on horseback, and 7,500 km on a motorboat. Routine repairs were carried out on 2 winter huts in the Belinsky area.

Together with the science department, 2 field expeditions were carried out.

The staff participated in 2 training events for third-party organizations (workshop for inspectors of the Kologrivsky Forest Nature Reserve, advanced training courses for Roszapovedtsentr, RUDN University).

11 employees completed advanced training and additional training: "Tour guide (guide) (basic level)" organized by the Federal State Budgetary Educational Institution of Higher Education "Gorno-Altai State University" - 8 people; online training under the program "Introduction to geographic information systems with QGIS" - 1 person, "Introduction to remote sensing of the Earth from space" based on the Online platform "Kartoteka" - 1 person, training under the program "Project Management: theory and practice according to the "PM Standard" model" organized by the "Development Center of the

Altai Republic” ANO - 3 people, training under the program “Second educational workshop on camera traps “Reserve camera trap 2023” organized by the Federal State Budgetary Institution “Central Forest State Reserve” - 1 person, training under the program “Operator of Ground Controls of an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle” organized by the Humanitarian and Technical Institute, Autonomous Non-profit Organization of Additional Professional Education, with a qualification certificate received by 1 person.

To organize joint extinguishing of natural fires, an agreement was entered into with the Altai Republic Autonomous Institution “Altai Base of Aviation Forest Protection “Avialesookhrana”. A set of preventive measures is being carried out to prevent fires in the Reserve.

In 2023, the scientific and legal departments prepared documents on the protective zone of the Altai Nature Reserve, including the second half of the Lake Teletskoye water area.

Scientific and monitoring research.

In 2023, works were carried out aimed at promoting and preserving the World Natural Heritage Site. Planned research works were carried out monitoring the condition of living and inanimate nature objects, as well as the main threats to the heritage site.

The scientific department plays an important role in the activities of the Reserve. Employees of the scientific department are working in several areas: inventory, monitoring and task oriented research. The main topics are: monitoring of the snow leopard and argali populations in key areas of the Altai-Sayan ecoregion and Russia - Mongolia - China transboundary groups, key ornithological territories of International importance, current state of the reindeer population (forest subspecies), monitoring the dynamics of populations of rare and endangered animal species, studying the Reserve fauna, including with the use of photo recording devices, studying the ecology and biology of species of economic importance, monitoring of anthropogenic impact.

One of the main areas of scientific activity on the territory of the Altai Biosphere Reserve is comprehensive environmental monitoring (annual data collection to assess the state and changes in the natural complexes of the Reserve), which has been carried out under the Chronicle of Nature programme since 1932.

The scientific direction of the Reserve’s activities is carried out by the research department. In 2023, the department included: 2 researchers, 2 senior researchers, 2 leading researchers, 1 head of department (7 people in total). Of these, two are employees with a PhD degree and one is a graduate student. Currently, employees have the following scientific specializations: theriology, zoology, ornithology, ecology, history and archeology.

The Altai Nature Reserve has a Scientific and Technical Council, which is a consultative and advisory body. The composition of the Council is formed from qualified specialists from the scientific department, as well as representatives of the security service and other divisions of the state reserve, other research institutions, and regional environmental organizations.

Research activities on the territory of the Reserve are carried out by staff members of the scientific department and researchers from Russian research institutions and relevant higher educational institutions, on a contractual basis, under common programs with the Reserve. In 2023, 4 new agreements on joint scientific activities were concluded.

In 2024, master’s theses were defended with “excellent” marks by employees of the Reserve S.V. Trifanova and O.N. Yurchenko in “Ecology and Environmental Management. Geoecology” (Gorno-Altai State University) and in “Ecology. Biology” on the topic “Distribution of wolverine in the ecosystems of the Altai State Natural Biosphere Reserve”.

In 2023, employees of the science department published 29 scientific articles and prepared 68 popular scientific notes for the media.

In 2023, the fifth issue of the scientific journal “Field Research in the Altai Biosphere Reserve” was published. The journal included 17 articles by department staff and third-party scientists. All issues of the journal are already traditionally posted in the RSCI (Russian Science Citation Index) system, on the Elibrary portal, and on the Cyberleninka portal. The articles are assigned an international DOI code.

In 2023, the Altai Nature Reserve published a monograph by senior researcher O.B. Mitrofanov “Annotated list of birds of the Altai State Nature Reserve: Passerines.” Circulation: 100 copies.

In total, in 2023, the staff took part in 43 scientific events organized by third-party institutions, most of the events were held online.

Over the past year, all employees of the scientific department of the Altai Nature Reserve took part in multi-day field works according to the schedule. The total mileage of walking routes in 2021 was 1,726.1 km. There were also joint field trips, both in collaboration with the Reserve’s security department, and with other research institutes and third-party scientists.

In 2023, 2 grants were successfully implemented, under the project “Protection and study of Altai reindeer” by the Grass company and “Jylgayak - Spring New Year” under a grant from the Head of the Altai Republic.

5 master's students completed internships at the department of environmental education and educational tourism of the Altai Nature Reserve. 5 master's students wrote and defended their final qualification theses under the supervision of Reserve staff.

In 2023, the Altai Nature Reserve took part in the activities of two volunteer expeditions “In the Footsteps of the Snow Leopard” (Chikhachev Ridge, Kuraisky Ridge, Altai Republic). June 2023, 18th expedition, - 18 people; September 2023, 19th expedition - 16 people. Expedition participants installed and tested camera traps to assess the size of the snow leopard group as part of the Snow Leopard Monitoring Program in the Russian Federation. The expeditions took place with the financial and informational support of the Altai Nature Reserve, Sailugemsky Park, the Association of Volunteer Centers, the Interregional Irbis Association and volunteers from Russian regions. The preparation of expeditions and remote guidance was carried out by senior researcher of the Altai Nature Reserve, S.V. Spitsyn. Monitoring using camera traps on the Chikhachev Ridge has been carried out on an ongoing basis since 2011, and with the participation of volunteers since 2015. The data obtained makes it possible to determine the degree of well-being of the Chikhachev group of snow leopards and identify existing threats.

Promotion of the World Natural Heritage Site.

The environmental education & educational tourism department staff accounts 10 employees. The department has multimedia projectors and screens, a large library with information and methodological materials on environmental education and educational tourism, and the necessary computer equipment.

In 2023, systematic work on environmental education continued (competitions, exhibitions, holidays, festivals, quizzes, conferences, etc.). A total of 3,145 people took part in environmental education events.

As part of developing event tourism in Yailyu village, the following events were held: the folklore festival “Apple Saviour” (August 2023, 155 people participated); calendar holiday “Jylgayak - Spring New Year” (March 2023, 77 people participated).

During the year, the department continued to interact with key institutions in the region in the field of education and awareness promotion: the National Museum of the Altai Republic named after A.V. Anokhin, Gorno-Altai State University, National Library of the Altai Republic, Republican Center for Continuing Education, etc. With them, traditional environmental holidays and events were organized and carried out - Water Day, Earth Day and March of Parks, Environmental Protection Day, Sinichkin Day, etc.

As part of collaboration with educational institutions, a cooperation agreement was entered into with the UNESCO Associated School, Budgetary General Educational Institution of the Altai Republic “Republican Gymnasium named after V.K. Plakas.” A number of events were held for students of the school.

In addition, the Reserve staff conducts master classes and workshops for participants in regional competitions.

Every year, the Altai Nature Reserve is one of the co-organizers of the Interregional photo competition “Wildlife of Altai” and the open Interregional environmental festival “Tree of Life”.

A drawing competition “Jylgayak – Spring New Year” was organized and held for students of rural schools located in the biosphere territory.

The purpose of the competition is to introduce children to the traditions of the indigenous minorities of the Northern Altai, to preserve and enhance the original folk traditional culture of the indigenous minorities of the Altai Republic, the accumulated cultural heritage, and historical memory.

Exhibition activities

In 2023, the department of environmental education and educational tourism prepared 6 exhibitions, which were visited by 42,185 people.

Press center

During the year, systematic distribution of press releases was carried out through the established Press Center of the Altai Nature Reserve (4 social networks). 293 news items were prepared and posted on the Reserve's website.

During 2023, 13 presentation videos and documentaries about SPNRs were presented (with high image quality alone - at least 4K).

Educational tourism is developing in the Reserve along ecological routes located in the vicinity of the cordons. There is a strict regulation of visitor access to certain areas of the Reserve (allowed to visit), information and educational training and control over visitors' activities in the specially protected natural reservation. The nature conservation measures of the Reserve are communicated to land users permanently residing near and in the SPNR.

In 2023, the functioning of the main routes and facilities ensuring the development of eco-tourism took place with the interaction of all the Reserve's departments. In total, 81,314 people visited the territory of the Altai Nature Reserve in 2023.

There is strict regulation of visitor access to certain areas of the Reserve (allowed to visit), information and educational training and control over visitors' activities in the specially protected natural reservation. The nature conservation measures of the Reserve are communicated to land users permanently residing near and in the SPNR.

Co-management of the World Heritage site with local communities and interested parties **Territorial public self-government (TPS) "Reserved Village":**

In order to raise additional potential, the Altai Nature Reserve is creating conditions for the development of management partnerships between all interested parties. Defining partnership as joint efforts of the parties to achieve a common goal, the management of the Reserve is guided by such key principles as solidarity in purpose, openness, equality of partners, mutual benefit, respect and responsibility.

Joint activities of the Altai Nature Reserve and the Territorial Public Self-Government "Reserved Village" help resolve such issues as waste collection and removal, compliance with the Reserve regime and participation of local residents in development of the territory.

Non-Profit Organization "Lake Teletskoye Council"

Non-Profit Organization "Lake Teletskoye Council" established in 2009 is one of the brilliant examples of trustful partnership in the management and development of the Altai biosphere territory. The Altai Nature Reserve was one of the initiators that established this organization and became one of its founders. The goals of "Lake Teletskoye Council" were defined as follows: – to create conditions for preservation of the unique UNESCO World Heritage Site – Lake Teletskoye based on compliance with environmental and nature protection requirements during socio-economic development of the territory; – to develop and implement a strategic plan for socio-economic development of the near-Teletskoye territory taking into account the conservation of natural complexes and biological diversity; – to promote the development of environmental, cultural, educational, sports and ethnotourism; – to interact with the executive and legislative authorities, business, the public, environmental foundations, etc., – to educate in the field of ecology, promotion of rational use of natural resources. The "Lake Teletskoye Council" has become a specific platform for communication and interaction of various structures represented on Lake Teletskoye and aware of their responsibility for preservation and development of the territory - the UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site.

In relation to the cluster site "**Katunsky Nature Reserve**", works were carried out in the reporting year, which was aimed at preserving global value of the World Heritage site, its promotion, studying and monitoring the main threats to the site, as well as involving civil society (including the indigenous population) in practical activities on conservation of the World Heritage area.

Works to preserve the World Heritage site included patrolling the territory of the Reserve (71 raids were carried out in 2023, 70 raids in 2024) and fire-fighting arrangement of the territory. Five fire-fighting equipment concentration sites have been set up on the territory of the Reserve; monitoring of fire situation is provided using satellite data. During patrols in 2023-24, 17 violations of the territory's protected regime were identified; all of them are associated with illegal (without a pass) visits to the Reserve by tourists.

Research and monitoring. The monitoring program in the Reserve and in adjacent areas is aimed at organizing combined observations of biodiversity objects and the main threats (anthropogenic impact, climate change). Methodologically, this program is based on the GLOCHAMORE (Global Changes in Mountain Biosphere Reserves of UNESCO) Research Strategy and is focused on the use of international monitoring protocols. Currently, the following types of monitoring are carried out in the Reserve:

1. *Hydrometeorological monitoring* using automatic weather stations installed in different altitude zones, as well as snow course survey methods. The Reserve received a special license to carry out hydrometeorological works.
2. *Monitoring the abundance of common animal species* (large mammals, mouse-like rodents, ichthyofauna), the results of which indicate a stable abundance of almost all species.

3. *Monitoring the state of natural ecosystems* along the environmental educational routes of the Reserve, allowing to evaluate the degree of recreational impact on ecosystems. Based on the results of these observations, it was established that the recreational impact is local and does not unbalance the functioning of natural ecosystems. The monitoring results made it possible to determine the permissible recreational load on natural complexes.

4. *Glacier monitoring* is long-term and carried out jointly with interested third-party scientific organizations. Based on repeated photography of the Reserve's glaciers and other natural sites, a photo exhibition "Altai: 130 years in the camera lens" is being created, clearly demonstrating the impact of climate change on high-mountain landscapes. In 2023-24, the exhibition was shown in museums in nearby regions; the total number of visitors to the exhibition exceeds 30,000 people. In addition to scientific data, the exhibition also helps to popularize the Katunsky Nature Reserve, its global value and the threats associated with climate change for mountain ecosystems.

5. *Monitoring the dynamics of plant communities* in various types of phytocenoses was organized in 1999 and makes it possible to judge not only about natural changes in the vegetation of the protected area but also about the speed of restoration processes in mountain ecosystems subject to intense grazing influence in the past.

6. *Geochemical monitoring* is aimed at identifying contamination of the territory due to transboundary transport of pollutants in the air. In the reporting year, geochemical monitoring of natural waters and snow cover was carried out, which showed the absence of significant pollution in the protected area.

The boundaries of specially protected natural reservations of regional importance, which are an integral part of the UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site "Altai - Golden Mountains", are marked on the ground with local information boards, indicating goals and objectives for their conservation, special protection regime of the reservations and basic rules for visiting the reservations.

The Directorate of Specially Protected Natural Reservations of the Altai Republic has established interdepartmental cooperation within the framework of Agreements with the Committee for the Protection, Use and Reproduction of Fauna of the Altai Republic and the Federal State Budgetary Institution "Sailyugemsky National Park".

Every year expeditions are carried out to monitor the animal world, and camera traps are installed. The analysis shows that the number of Red List animals is at a stable level, while the number of snow leopards is growing.

In general, it can be noted that the condition of the UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site "Altai - Golden Mountains" components located within the boundaries of regional SPNRs has not deteriorated; there are no factors contributing to the degradation of natural complexes.

3. No major changes within the concerned World Heritage Site have been noted or are predicted.