

I. Summary

The present report contains information on conservation activities regarding World Heritage property (hereinafter - WHS) Petroglyphs of Lake Onega and the White Sea and response to requests of the World Heritage Committee defined on the 45 UNESCO session.

In March 2023, in accordance with the action plan for the development of WHS, the Government of the Republic of Karelia established the State Autonomous Institution of the Republic of Karelia "State Center for the Management, Conservation and Study of Petroglyphs of Karelia" (hereinafter – the Center), subordinate to the Administration for Cultural Heritage Protection of the Republic of Karelia, to which the functions of working with WHS were transferred. A head office was formed in Petrozavodsk and a structural unit in Belomorsk.

In 2023-2024, in order to implement the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee 45 COM 7B.199, the Center adjusted the World Heritage Site Management Plan of WHS "Petroglyphs of Lake Onega and the White Sea", the Center's structure, taking into account the phased formation of the institution during 2023-2029, the WHS conservation monitoring program and risk reduction plan, as well as the program of conducting comprehensive (interdisciplinary) scientific research of the WHS.

During the reporting period, the Center organized and conducted research work on monitoring the territory of the WHS and its buffer zones with the involvement of specialists from Petrozavodsk and St. Petersburg State Universities, the Karelian Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences. A lot of work has been done in the field of popularization of the WHS "Petroglyphs of Lake Onega and the White Sea", organization of cultural, and educational activities for different ages and segments of the population. Partnerships have been established with the tourism business, and with institutions overseeing the World cultural heritage sites.

As part of the work to attract visitors, the Government of the Karelian Republic has approved a concept for the development of the Onega Petroglyphs complex territory, a Master Plan for the development of the Kemsko-Belomorskaya agglomeration of the is being worked out. It contains a section on the development of tourism in the Belomorsky district on the territory of the petroglyphic archaeological complex.