

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

The decisions of the World Heritage Committee sessions and ICOMOS recommendations on the World Heritage property "Historical and Cultural Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands" (P 632) are followed by the Russian side and special attention is paid to them when making decisions concerning the Solovetsky archipelago.

In 2023-2024, important activities and documents were developed and implemented, including those aimed at safeguarding the World Heritage Site and its OUV

On October 19, 2023 the **President of the Russian Federation V.V.Putin** signed the Decree "On the celebration of the 600th anniversary of the foundation of the first monastic settlement on the Solovetsky archipelago", in which he instructed to celebrate in 2029 the 600th anniversary of the foundation of the first monastic settlement on the Solovetsky archipelago:

«...1. To accept the proposal of the Government of the Russian Federation to celebrate in 2029 the 600th anniversary of the foundation of the first monastic settlement on the Solovetsky archipelago.

2. To recommend the public authorities of the members of the Russian Federation and local self-government bodies to participate in the preparation and realization of the celebration of the 600th anniversary of the foundation of the first monastic settlement on the Solovetsky archipelago..."

The Government of the Russian Federation has formed the Organizing Committee for the preparation and holding of the celebration of the 600th anniversary of

the foundation of the first monastic settlement on the Solovetsky archipelago and has approved its composition by Order of the Government of the Russian Federation dated January 17, 2024 No. 63-r.

The Organizing Committee comprised representatives of the Government of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Arkhangelsk Region, the Republic of Karelia, St. Petersburg and Moscow, as well as other personalities, representatives of departments and regions.

The Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation has completed the project documentation for the designation of the Solovetsky archipelago as a cultural heritage site of federal significance in the form of a religious and historical site (hereinafter - SRHI, Site of religious and historic importance), which was planned in the minutes of the meeting with the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation D.A. Medvedev № DM-P44-4pr dated 24.01.2018) and envisaged within the framework of the Integrated Concept for the Development of the Solovetsky archipelago, approved by all interested parties on 30.04.2021 (hereinafter referred to as the Integrated Concept). A number of international experts have endorsed the granting of SRHI status.

The Russian Orthodox Church and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation continue to work together on the SRHI materials, the officially approved boundaries of which fully coincide with the boundaries of the buffer zone of the World Heritage Site. In addition to the entire territory of the Solovetsky archipelago, the SRHI included the 3-mile (nautical miles) sea area surrounding the Solovetsky archipelago.

Order of the Ministry of Culture of Russia No. 2784 dated 29.09.2023 approved the subject of protection of the Site of religious and historic importance. In accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 56.4 of the Federal Law of the Russian Federation No. 73-FZ, in order to preserve the object of protection of the SRHI, requirements for the implementation of activities and urban planning regulations within the boundaries of the territory of the Site of religious and historic importance shall be developed, which also provide for the preservation of the outstanding universal value of the UNESCO World Heritage Site - attributes of the UNESCO World Heritage Site (attributes of the OUV of the World Heritage Site).

On the basis of these documents, in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation, the masterplan of the Solovetsky settlement will be corrected, which currently requires serious adjustments in order to maintain the OUV of the World Heritage Site and meet the integrity criterion.

The plan of preparation of the main projects and activities related to Solovki, first of all - in the sphere of strategic planning, their terms and responsible agencies, sequence and interconnection are outlined in the Roadmaps for the preparation and adoption of normative acts and other documents necessary for the implementation of activities on the Solovetsky archipelago (approved by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation T.A. Golikova No. 8492p-P44 dated 22.07.2022, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation D.N. Chernyshenko No. 6691p-P44 dated 21.07.2023).

According to these maps and in accordance with the Russian legislation, the SRHI materials, the adjustment of the Solovetsky Village masterplan, the Draft Federal Law “On Amendments to the Federal Law ‘On Objects of Cultural Heritage (Monuments of History and Culture) of the Peoples of the Russian Federation’, the Development strategy and the Management Plan are to be consistently finalized.

The Russian Orthodox Church and the Solovetsky Museum-Reserve, being the organizations managing the World Heritage Site, as they own practically all Solovetsky monuments, are invariably the decisive coordinating parties in the preparation of these and other documents.

All of the above conceptual work, as well as a retrospective inventory of the OUV of the World Heritage Site, is important for the future development of a management plan, which will be a strategic tool for protecting the OUV of the World Heritage Site.

According to the State Register of the Russian Federation, there are hundreds of cultural heritage sites on the Solovetsky Islands. The end users of the vast majority of the Solovetsky cultural heritage sites (i.e. the organizations managing the World Heritage Site) are the Solovetsky Monastery of the Russian Orthodox Church and the Solovetsky State Historical, Cultural and Natural Museum-Reserve under the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation. Both organizations continue to fully ensure the preservation of the site, including in accordance with the user's obligations as set forth in the protection documents.

The development of strategic planning documents continued in 2023-2024: in accordance with the previously approved comprehensive Concept for the development of the Solovetsky archipelago. These include: documentation on the designation of the Solovetsky archipelago as an SRHI, the corrected Masterplan and the Development Strategy. These materials outline the prospects for further development of the pilgrimage and tourism strategy, the concept of monastery and museum development, etc. The main directions of archipelago development, including Solovetsky settlement, are defined.

In addition, according to the decision of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for Preservation and Development of the Solovetsky archipelago from 27.10.2023 № 1pr the Ministry of Culture of Russia is developing an updated draft of the comprehensive Concept for the development of the Solovetsky archipelago. The purpose of the Concept is to define the main directions of the development strategy of the Solovetsky archipelago and historically related territories, taking into account the preservation of spiritual, historical, cultural and natural potential, as well as taking into account the preservation of the cultural heritage site of federal significance (site of religious and historic importance) “Religious and historical site ‘Solovetsky archipelago’, 15th century - mid-20th century, the cultural heritage site of federal significance “Ensemble of the Solovetsky Monastery and separate structures of the Solovetsky Archipelago islands”, XVI century - first half of the XX century, and the criteria of Outstanding Universal Value of a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The main directions of the strategy are focused on the development of the Solovetsky archipelago as a whole (including Big Solovetsky Island, Anzer Island, Bolshaya and Malaya Muksalma Islands, Bolshaya and Malaya Zayatsky Islands, as well as about a hundred small islets), Solovetsky settlement, as well as separate territories of the Republic of Karelia historically connected with the Solovetsky archipelago, and envisage ways of preserving historical and cultural, natural and landscape, spiritual values, traditional monastic activities. At the same time, the concept takes into account the possibilities of functioning of the territory in modern conditions, without harming the preservation of the site of religious and historic importance.

The concept is being developed in conjunction with the development of requirements for the implementation of activities and urban planning regulations within

the boundaries of the territory of the landmark religious and historical site, taking into account the creation of a specially protected natural area of federal significance - a National Park on the Solovetsky archipelago and the adjacent water area of the White Sea. The documents should become the basis for amendments to administrative documents, urban planning documentation, as well as for the development of a management plan for the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Foundation for Preservation and Development of the Solovetsky Archipelago, established in response to the appeal of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, continues to operate within the framework of its authority, with the stipulation that the Foundation should deal "not only with the restoration of the cultural heritage sites of the Solovetsky archipelago, but also to coordinate the creation of a religious and historical site on Solovki, the development and approval of an archipelago management plan, and the construction and reconstruction of its engineering, transport, social and municipal infrastructure". The Foundation was established by the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation dated 06.04.2018 No. 145 and the Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation dated 26.04.2018 No. 505. The Foundation has an expert council consisting of experienced scientists, architects and restorers, as well as representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church.

The approved SRHI materials provide a foundation for developing and adapting other strategic planning documents in a consistent manner. This will serve to preserve the World Heritage Site and its OUV in its entirety, taking into account spiritual, historical, cultural and natural values.

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

The report on the state of preservation in the Russian language will be published on the official portal of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation: <http://mkrf.ru>.

This report is a reactive monitoring document and is submitted by a Party to the Convention to the WHC.

The Russian side expresses its readiness to continue cooperation with the World Heritage Committee and its Advisory Bodies and will make every effort

to achieve positive results in the issues of preservation of the OUV of the unique World Heritage Site.