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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
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**ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES
POUR L'EDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE**

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

CONVENTION CONCERNANT LA PROTECTION DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL, CULTUREL ET NATUREL

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE / COMITE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

Thirty-first session / Trente et unième session

**Christchurch, New Zealand / Christchurch, Nouvelle Zélande
23 June - 2 July 2007 / 23 juin - 2 juillet 2007**

Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and/or on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Point 7 de l'Ordre du jour provisoire: Etat de conservation de biens inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial et/ou sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en péril

MISSION REPORT / RAPPORT DE MISSION

Kizhi Pogost, Russian Federation (544) / Kizhi Pogost, Fédération de Russie (544)

**Joint UNESCO-ICOMOS mission, 8 - 17 April 2007/
Mission conjointe UNESCO-ICOMOS, 8 -17 April 2007**

This mission report should be read in conjunction with Document:
Ce rapport de mission doit être lu conjointement avec le document suivant:

- ☐ WHC-07/31.COM/7A
- ☐ WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add
- ☐ WHC-07/31.COM/7B
- ☐ WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The members of the mission are grateful to the authorities of the Russian Federation for the invitation and assistance they provided during the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS mission.

The mission wishes to thank especially the Direction and staff of the Kizhi State Museum-Reserve for the exceptional hospitality, support, availability and assistance they provided with valuable information on the current situation of the World Heritage property during numerous working meetings and site visits, and in particular to the Ms Elvira V. Averianova, Director of the Kizhi State Museum-Reserve who actively supported this mission.

Further thanks are due to the National Commission for UNESCO, in particular to Mr Grigory Ordjonikidze, Secretary-General, and Ms Aysur Belikova, staff member of the National Commission, as well as to the UNESCO Moscow Office, in particular to Mr Dendev Badarch, Director, who continuously supported and assisted the mission team.

We would also like to acknowledge the great interest of the different stakeholders from Federal and Republic of Karelia ministries and agencies associated with the World Heritage property, as well as from the Russian World Heritage Committee, who participated to the Round - Table organised by the National Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO in Saint Petersburg on 13 April 2007.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Kizhi Pogost was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1990 under criteria (i), (iv) and (v). A meeting of 100 conservation experts to identify conservation strategies for this property was organized by the ICOMOS Wood and Vernacular Committees in 1988, two years before it was inscribed on the World Heritage List. A number of expert missions have taken place since to review the state of conservation of the property. All have highlighted the serious and specific dangers facing the property.

The World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) noted with great concern that the reports provided by the State Party in 2006 had not responded to the requests made by the Committee at its 28th and 29th session. They do not address any of the main recommendations made by the Committee concerning provision of information on the management of the property, updates on the status and determination of the buffer zone, information on risk preparedness measures in place for the entire property, and clarification on the impact of tourism on the values of the inscribed property.

The state of conservation report provided by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS in 2006 had recommended that the Committee place the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The State Party opposed this recommendation. Following the request of the State Party the Committee instead requested a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS mission to assess the state of conservation and the factors affecting the outstanding universal value of the property.

As requested by the Committee, the State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 30 January 2007 two very informative and comprehensive reports whose details responded to some of the requests made by the Committee over the last several years, including the management issues and restoration concept for the Church of the Transfiguration. An English language translation of these documents was provided to the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission while in Russia.

The joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission to the Kizhi Pogost was invited by the National Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO in compliance with decision **30 COM 7B.72.** The mission successfully concluded its technical review of the situation

based on on-site visits, on extensive documentation and working meetings with relevant stakeholders.

The mission noted that significant progress had been achieved in implementing some of the recommendations made by the Committee at its previous sessions, in particular the preparation of the overall restoration concept for the Church of Transfiguration which would address the impact of continuing deterioration of the building on the authenticity and integrity of the site. It also noted the implementation of risk preparedness measures. The mission was briefed on the program of regular monitoring of the state of conservation of the Church by Kizhi Museum experts in coordination with the federal specialized institute “Spetsproectrestavratsiya”.

In order to preserve the Outstanding Universal Value of this property it is essential that the implementation of the restoration project begin immediately. Delegated authorities and predictable funding for the duration of the project are the sole remaining obstacles to starting the restoration works. These need to be established for the course of the project by September 2007.

The mission also noted progress in the management of the Kizhi Museum Reserve. However, a number of measures based on the recommendations made by the Committee following 2002 Workshop are yet to be fully implemented, in particular the development and implementation of a comprehensive management plan for the World Heritage property, which addresses tourism development, clear boundary and buffer zone definition. The steps to be taken to define of the core and buffer zones of the World Heritage property of the Kizhi Pogost are not identified by the national and local authorities. All documentation concerning the site management is available only in Russian and was established and approved only for the Kizhi Museum Reserve without reference to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property of the Kizhi Pogost. In order to prepare the Management plan of the Kizhi Pogost, the local authorities should consider requesting international assistance and bilateral cooperation through the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. The mission underlined the lack of information and knowledge of the texts relevant to the World Heritage Convention and Operational Guidelines for its implementation. It would be important if the national authorities could support the translation in Russian of the basic texts of the 1972 Convention.

The key recommendations are as follows:

a) Structural integrity of the Church of the Transfiguration:

The most critical issue at Kizhi Pogost World Heritage property is the seriously threatened state of the Church of the Transfiguration. The mission considered Sections 177-191 of the *Operational Guidelines* and concluded that if the current loss of fabric and design features is not halted immediately the outstanding universal value of the property will be in danger.[i] However, due to the great preparatory effort and progress which has been made in recent years, this mission thinks that World Heritage in Danger status for Kizhi Pogost World Heritage Site due to the condition of the Church of the Transfiguration would be counterproductive at this time. The mission recommended the Kizhi Pogost not to be placed on the World Heritage List in Danger at this stage. Project technical preparatory work is at a good stage, however, in order for this effort not to be wasted and the Outstanding Universal Value of the Church be protected it is essential that the implementation of the project begin immediately. Delegated authorities and predictable funding (the remaining obstacles to starting the restoration works) need to be established for the course of the project by September 2007.

The State Party should be requested to start with the repair and restoration works of the Church of Transfiguration and to submit to the World Heritage Centre by September 2007 all relevant documentation illustrating the availability of the necessary funding and management tools to insure the full implementation of the restoration works.

b) Restoration project of the Church of the Transfiguration:

There is a continuing tendency for some project team members to strongly support installation of a supplementary structure in the church, possibly in steel. The UNESCO/ICOMOS mission do not support this approach. The State Party should be urged to use supplementary structural support only if absolutely necessary, and to reinforce structural elements as needed rather than installing general strengthening. This recommendation is consistent with previous recommendations made by ICOMOS/Russian experts over the past 15 years. There is a need for an on-site decision-making process to allow the project to respond to detailed site conditions. Direct contact should be established between the Kizhi Museum project team and ICOMOS experts on an ongoing basis. This was recommended at the 2002 workshop but was not followed-up on. The mission considered that three further monitoring missions will be required over the restoration work period. Despite its technical excellence, the project is strongly oriented to a series of technical solutions but without any relation with the World Heritage status and the outstanding universal value of this property. In addition, the mission noted that intended "patch and glue" approach for log repair does not meet international standards, and that this approach will have a much reduced durability due to probable early joint failure. The State Party should be advised that glued wood patches should only be used in places where future repair can be made without dismantling, and that whole log replacement should be used instead of extensive patches to be consistent with repair traditions for log buildings, to extend durability and ensure long term structural performance. The State Party should be urged to avoid the use of wood preservatives due to their environmental impact and limited effectiveness on large timbers

c) Integrated management plan and boundary issues:

The mission noted that the mention of the World Heritage status, as well as of the outstanding universal values of this property are missing from all documentation, in particular, with regard to management of the Kizhi Museum Reserve. The recently elaborated Master Plan for the Kizhi Museum Reserve including the protected areas and buffer zone of the Reserve does not indicate the boundaries of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone. The mission noted the growing use of the site for religious purposes: The Church of the Intercession is again an active church and religious services were revived in 1994. The Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia His Holiness Alexis II visited Kizhi Island in 2000, and since 2003, Kizhi parish has been under the direct control of the Patriarch.

The mission also noted that different interpretation by the national authorities of the decisions of the World Heritage Committee (which requested to provide not only management of conservation works of the Church of the Transfiguration but a detailed overall management plan for this World Heritage property) has led to a sigificant misunderstandings between stakeholders. ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre believe it is important that, before the work progresses further, the State Party should provide a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, and commit itself to use this Statement as a basis for developing an Integrated Management Plan for the site. The State Party should also be requested to revise and approve all documents concerning protected areas of the Kizhi Museum Reserve to include the boundaries of the World Heritage property of the Kizhi Pogost and its buffer zone by 1 February 2008. The State Party should be requested to prepare and implement an integrated management plan to co-ordinate the activities of the many different stakeholders and agencies involved with overall management of the World Heritage property. This plan will address , in particular, the following issues:

- recognition of World Heritage Outstanding Universal Value as the core focus of all decision making for the site;
- inclusion of emerging new partners such as the Patriarch whose full integration in decision making is critical; no official existing documents mention if or how it will be integrated into site management;
- the philosophical context for decision making in relation to, for example, physical monitoring and fire protection;
- potential impacts and plans for management of dramatically increasing tourism to the site in the context of maintaining its outstanding universal value;
- an overall enabling strategy related to risk preparedness and security;

- environmental issues, taking into account the World Heritage Committee recommendation (14th session in 1990) to maintain the present balance between the natural and built environment.

d) Risk preparedness (fire prevention, detection, alarm & suppression; intrusion; lightning; visitor safety):

The mission did not receive a risk plan for review. However, the site manager has taken a comprehensive approach to management of risks, particularly fire, intrusion and construction hazards. In general, the risk awareness is very strong and the response to it has been very good on most points. New sophisticated equipment has been installed for interior and exterior fire and intrusion detection and for exterior fire extinguishing. The States Party should be requested to take into account recommendations of a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission concerning some additional issues on risk preparedness.

e) Capacity building:

The mission observed the urgent need to prepare a capacity and skills building strategy with regular training courses involving those responsible for restoration and management activities in the Kizhi Museum Reserve.

1 BACKGROUND TO THE MISSION

1.1. Inscription History

The World Heritage property of the Kizhi Pogost was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1990 (14th Session of the Committee).

The property is located on one of the many islands in Lake Onega, in the Republic of Karelia. It comprises two 18th-century wooden churches (a winter church and a summer church) , and a square bell tower, built in 1862, also in wood and a enclosing pogost, or wall of stone and timber.. These unusual constructions, in which carpenters created a bold visionary architecture, perpetuate an ancient model of parish space and are in harmony with the surrounding landscape.

The Committee made the following statement during the inscription of this site:
"The Committee recommended that the authorities concerned maintain the present balance between the natural and built environment, since the introduction of new homes or wooden churches south of Kizhi Island alters the historical and visual characteristics of the site.
The Committee congratulated the authorities concerned on the recent adoption of a conservation policy that is more in harmony with local traditions and expertise."

1.2. Inscription criteria and World Heritage values

The World Heritage Site of Kizhi Pogost was inscribed on the World Heritage List under criteria (i), (iv) and (v).

- Criterion I: Considered by Karelians 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 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 north-western Soviet territory, Kizhi Pogost offers an outstanding example of an architectural ensemble typical of medieval and post-medieval orthodox settlements in sparsely populated regions where evangelists had to cope with far-flung Christian communities and a harsh climate.

Accessible by land or sea, the pogost grouped together religious buildings which could also be used for other occasional purposes; for example the narthex or nave served also as refectory and meeting hall. Another similar structure inspired by the same principles is the Scandinavian stavkirke.

- Criterion V: The pogost and the buildings that had been grouped together to form the site museum on 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 goes back to the Middle Ages to Novgorod, had carried the art of joinery to its apogee. Irreversible changes have caused this traditional skill to disappear. Hence, it is absolutely essential that ensembles like that of Kizhi Pogost be preserved for their illustrative value in the history of ancient techniques and for what they teach us of former ways of life.

1.3. Integrity issues raised in the ICOMOS evaluation report at time of inscription

ICOMOS, aware of the exceptional beauty of the architectural landscape of Kizhi Pogost, recommends that the authorities responsible for the open air museum of history and architecture at Kizhi, which currently receives 135,000 visitors a year, maintain the present balance between nature and the constructions. Adding homes or wooden churches to the southern end of the island of Kizhi would alter the historical and visual characteristics of the site.

ICOMOS, which followed with interest the previous restorations of Kizhi Pogost (reconstruction of the iconostasis of the Church of the Intercession during the 1950s; reconstruction by the architect Opolovnikov of the fortified enclosure in 1959, notes that in-depth studies are being conducted on the current restoration of the Church of the Transfiguration, whose interior was shored up and iconostasis dismantled in 1988, and that radically different projects have been proposed.

The members of the International ICOMOS Committee for the Conservation of Wood were invited to visit Kizhi; they subsequently drafted recommendations aimed at safeguarding to the greatest possible extent the structure's authentic elements: the posts, the planks, and the shingles regionally known as "lemekh". The current restoration of Kizhi Pogost, which has also called on the expertise of Norwegian specialists, will soon be the subject of articles in ICOMOS Information.

1.4. Examination of the State of Conservation by the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau (refer to previous State of Conservation reports etc.)

The state of conservation reports, as well as decisions of the World Heritage Committee adopted at its sessions from 14th (1990) to 30th (2006) are attached in Annex 4.

1.5. Justification of the mission

The World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (July 2006) requested the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property to assess the state of conservation and the factors affecting the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and strongly urges the State Party to work jointly with this mission.

The Terms of Reference (Annex 1), Programme and composition of the mission team (Annex 2) of the mission are attached.

2 NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

2.1. Protected area legislation

The Kizhi Museum provided the mission with an extensive documentation (in Russian) on the development of the status of this property and of the exchanges between different stakeholders on the issues concerning the protected area legislation:

- On 30 August 1960, the property was taken under the auspices of the State according to the resolution of USSR Council of Ministers.
- At the date of the inscription of the Kizhi Pogost on the World Heritage List in 1990 the property was placed under State level protection.
- On 19 February 1993 the Government of Karelia, taking into account the importance for the safeguarding of the historic-cultural and natural heritage of the Kizhi Museum-Reserve, officially ordered:

1. Recognition of the territory of the protected area of the Kizhi Museum-Reserve as a territory of historical and cultural value;
2. Adoption of the protected areas' regulations of the Kizhi Museum-Reserve (attached to this order)
3. To the minister's council to clarify the exact boundaries of Kizhi Museum-Reserve and its surrounding protected area' by 1 May 1993
4. To the Minister's Council to include specific funding to the Museum-Reserve in the budget.
5. To the Minister's Council, to provide fire protection and protection of the exceptional monuments of the Kizhi Museum-Reserve
6. To the Minister's Council, to provide to the Government of Karelia a statement about exceptional historical cultural and natural territory named *Zaonhejie* by 1 July 1993.
   Following this order the land use, tourism, and technical-economic recommendations were finalized and the boundaries for the Kizhi Museum and its 'protected area' were approved by the Republic of Karelia on 19 February 1993.

- On 6 November 1993 (document n° 1847) by a decree of the President of the Russian Federation Kizhi Museum reserve (Kizhi Pogost, Republic of Karelia) was added to the national list of outstanding valuable cultural properties. According to this statement and its management the President ordered the Minister of Finance to include specific financial support from the federal budget as well as a portion of extra-budgetary funds from other sources. These funds to be managed by the Kizhi museum.

- **Current State of Protective Legislation**

The site is subject to the national law of 25 June 2002 concerning the cultural heritage properties (monuments of history and culture) of the Russian Federation.
The responsibility for the Kizhi Pogost as a federal property is under the Federal authority.

The President of the Russian World Heritage Committee brought to the attention of the mission that the special regulation concerning all World Heritage properties on the territory of the Russian Federation is under preparation but has not yet been adopted.

2.2. Institutional framework

Management /Administrative Body
The Direction of the Kizhi Museum-Reserve, as the official site manager, provided to the mission a complete documentation on this issue (in Russian):

- Since 20 February 1995 the Kizhi Pogost Museum-Reserve was placed under the federal authority (document 176). Responsibility for funding comes from the federal Ministry of Culture.
- On 5 April 2001, the Director of the Kizhi museum sent a letter to Mr Putin, President of the Russian Federation, requesting that the recognition of the Kizhi Museum as a

federal property be accelerated. The letter included problems at the museum and budget problems to be solved immediately.

- On 19 July 2001, Mr Putin, President of the Russian Federation visited the site. Following his visit on 29 August 2001, Mr Putin requested the Prime Minister to study several problems relevant to the status and management of the Kizhi Museum-Reserve.
- On 19 September 2001, the Prime Minister informed the President on the proposal to include the Kizhi under federal jurisdiction within the framework of the ongoing program "Culture of Russia". The Minister of Economic Development informed the Government of the Russian Federation that this proposal should be caaried out and funded from February 2002.
- On 31 July 2002, the Director of the Kizhi Museum informed the Prime Minister of Russian Federation that the 300th anniversary of the Church of the Transfiguration will be celebrated in 2014 and proposed to finalize its restoration for this date. A predictable 9nine year restoration program costing 100,000,000 rubles in 2001 was presented. On 26 September 2002, the Minister of Culture (Russian Federation) informed the Government of the Russian Federation on the progress of the restoration at Kizhi and transfer of responsibility to the ministry. He insisted on the issue that the Karelian Government delayed the transfer of authority to the federal level. He also was concerned that the restoration works could not start without the working project documents and approved budget covering these works.
- From 25 March 2005 to 23 November 2005 : letters exchanges concerning the consistent funding guarantee to be developed in systematic stages, year by year on the base of the working project documents. The federal agency still studying global funding.
- In 2006, the updated Status of the Federal State Cultural Institution "State historic-architectural and ethnographic Museum-Reserve Kizhi" was approved by the Federal Agency for Culture and cinematography.

The mission underlined that the responsibilities of this Institution for the management of the World Heritage property Kizhi Pogost were not mentioned in its Status. The Status indicates that the Kizhi Museum Reserve was recognised as an outstanding valuable cultural property of Russian Federation (Presidential Decree of 6 November 1993, n° 1847), without any specification relevant to the special status of the World Heritage property of the Kizhi Pogost which is a part of the Kizhi Museum Reserve.
The nomination dossier is unique official document mentioned that the Kizhi Museum Reserve is in charge of the management of this property.

- **Coordination Mechanisms between Relevant Parties**

The five year agreement signed on 8 July 2002 between the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Karelia on the collaboration in the Kizhi Museum-Reserve management will be finished this year (2007). The State Party did not inform the mission on any planned amendment of this agreement.
This agreement specifies the roles and responsibilities of each authority and mentioned the establishment of the Coordinating Council for the safeguarding and development of the Kizhi Museum-Reserve.

On 25 November 2006, the President of the Republic of Karelia approved the draft Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation establishing the 2007 – 2014 programme concerning the 300th anniversary of the Church of Transfiguration of the Kizhi Pogost, as well as of the multi-departments Organizing Committee composed by the Ministers, Directors and others high-level representatives from the local and federal authorities (transmitted by the Deputy Minister of Culture RF on 14/11/2006).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation within the framework of this draft Resolution, informed UNESCO of the 2007-2014 Programme concerning the 300th anniversary of the Church of Transfiguration of the Kizhi Pogost.

The mission recommends that the World Heritage Committee supports this Programme. During the debriefing meeting with Mr Badarch, Director UNESCO Moscow Office, on 16 April 2007, the mission suggested following this issue and to informing the World Heritage Centre on any progress in the approval of the above-mentioned Resolution.

The mission noted the growing use of the site for religious purposes: The Church of the Intercession is again an active church and religious services were revived in 1994. The Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia His Holiness Alexis II visited Kizhi Island in 2000, and since 2003, Kizhi parish has been under the direct control of the Patriarch.
The mission recommends to the World Heritage Committee to stress to the State Party the importance of establishing a clear coordination between the State bodies officially in charge of the site management and protection and this new partner implicated in the use of the World Heritage property. The mission underlined that according to paragraph 178 of the *Operational Guidelines*, a World Heritage property - as defined in Articles 1 and 2 of the *Convention* - can be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger by the Committee when it finds that the condition of the property corresponds to at least one of the criteria in either of the two cases described in the paragraph 179. The property is faced with threats which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics. Such threat is, for example, modification of juridical status of the property diminishing the degree of its protection (para. 179.b).

2.3. Management structure

Status of Master and Conservation Plans

At the present time there are 2 approved documents under which the site is managed:

- Master Plan 1972-95. This plan has lost its status due to the transfer of the Kizhi Museum-Reserve to federal authority.
- Technical and Economic Development Plan approved by the Government of Karelia on 1 March 2002.

On 15 October 2003 the draft Master Plan of the Kizhi Museum with boundary proposals was ordered by the Ministry of Culture.
On 6 February 2004, the Kizhi Museum informed the Ministry of Culture that the requested document was ready for discussion. This document was sent for consideration to the Ministry of Building of the Republic of Karelia.
On 26 April 2004, the Minister of Culture recommended that the area of each cultural monument of the Kizhi Museum-Reserve be elaborated including boundaries, buffer zone and management plan.
On 4 August 2005, the federal Ministry of Culture received the Kizhi Museum draft Master Plan and commented that it needs additional information concerning the approval of this document by the federal authority.
On 15 June 2006, the Director of the Department of Culture, Ministry of Culture RF informed the Kizhi Museum-Reserve that the proposal to prepare the Governmental Resolution on the safeguarding and using of the Kizhi Museum-Reserve (including the Master Plan, the boundaries of protected areas, management regulations) cannot be approved accordingly to the 2002 Law without the adoption of two Decrees (i) statement on the protected areas of cultural heritage properties and (ii) statement on Governmental historical-cultural expertise.

The mission studied documents submitted (in Russian) by the Kizhi Museum (Master Plan, protected area and buffer zone boundaries) which do not indicate the boundaries of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone.The mention of the World Heritage status, as well as of the Outstanding Universal Values of this property are missing from all documentation, in particular, the management of the Kizhi Museum Reserve.

The mission concluded that the draft of the management plan, including the boundaries of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone could be prepared by the Russian specialists, but cannot be approved until the above-mentioned Decrees will be adopted.

In addition, the Law on Museum-Reserve of the Russian Federation on the base of which the responsibilities of the Kizhi Museum-Reserve could be revised in order to include, in particular maintenance of the natural landscape, was not yet adopted.

The mission recommends to the State Party to adopt legal texts necessary for the approval and implementation of the management regulations of the World Heritage property.

3 IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES / THREATS

3.1. Management effectiveness

The mission was informed on numerous documents concerning management of the Kizhi Museum Reserve and the restoration of the church of the Transfiguration, as follows:

- Program of Integrated protection of the Kizhi architectural ensemble (developed, coordinated and approved by the Government of the Republic of Karelia in 1998);
- Feasibility study of the integrated protection of the Kizhi architectural ensemble (developed in 2000);
- Project of the integrated restoration of the church of the Transfiguration of the Kizhi architectural ensemble ;
- Protection measures of the world cultural heritage site "Kizhi Ensemble" (approved by the Government of the Republic of Karelia in 2003);
- Feasibility study of development of the Kizhi Federal Museum of Architecture and Cultural History (approved by Chairman of the Government of the Republic of Karelia in 2002), project implementation period is 10 years;
- Program of integrated development of the Kizhi Federal Museum of Architecture and Cultural History (designed in 2005, and coordinated in accordance with the legislative regulations in 2006).

Numerous documents describe and illustrate different activities, as follows:

- measures taken to insure safety of the Church of the Intercession, the safety of the Bell Tower, and the safety of the wall around the Kizhi ensemble,
- system developed for integrated preventive maintenance of the wooden heritage of the site,
- efforts to prepare for the reconstitution of the interiors of the Kizhi architectural monuments,
- new physical monitoring methods developed for wooden materials using recent information technologies,
- use of new technologies to permit virtual reconstruction and visualization of earlier forms and configurations,

The mission underlined during the meetings with the Kizhi Museum Reserve the lack of information and knowledge of the texts relevant to the World Heritage Convention and *Operational Guidelines* for its implementation. All documentation concerning the property is available only in Russian and was established and approved only for the Kizhi Museum Reserve without any emphasis on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property of the Kizhi Pogost. It would be very useful for site and ministry staff working on various aspects of the site if the national authorities could support the translation of the Operational Guidelines and the 1972 Convention to Russian..

Evaluation of progress made concerning the development of a management plan

The State Party provided information on the management principles in place at the site (concerning, for example, site safety, "absolute preservation", providing for cultural tourism, etc.) and a related site management structure focussed on key museum functions (site security, preservation, infrastructure, documentation and inventory, presentation to

the public, visitors safety). A number of studies and long term planning initiatives are in place since 1998.

However concerning management issues, detailed presentation of management principles and structures appears to miss the major thrust of the Committee's often repeated request to develop a fully integrated management plan for the site. The mission noted that probably different interpretation by the national authorities of the decisions of the World Heritage Committee (which requested to provide not only management of conservation works of the Church of the Transfiguration but a detailed overall management plan for this World Heritage property) led to an important misunderstanding between stakeholders. The mission confirmed the urgent need for an integrated management plan developed to co-ordinate the activities of many different stakeholders and agencies involved with site management.
The mission recommends that, before the work progresses further, the State Party should provide a *Statement of Outstanding Universal Value*, and commit itself to use this Statement as a basis for developing an Integrated Management Plan for the site. The State Party should be requested to prepare and implement an integrated management plan to co-ordinate the activities of the many different stakeholders and agencies involved with overall management of the World Heritage property. This plan should include and address, in particular, following issues:

- recognition of World Heritage *Outstanding Universal Value* as the core focus of all decision making for the site;
- emergence of new partners such as the Patriarch whose full integration in decision making is critical; no official existing documents mention his involvement in management process;
- reference to the philosophical context within which decisions are made.
- the need to manage dramatically increasing tourism to the site in the context of maintaining its *Outstanding Universal Value*;
- overall strategy related to risk preparedness and security;
- environmental issues, taking into account the World Heritage Committee recommendation (14th session in 1990) to maintain the present balance between the natural and built environment.

1. Site boundary definition and documentation.

The mission noted recent efforts to define the protected area and buffer zone for the Kizhi Federal Museum of Architecture and Cultural History. The project for "Design of the Site Boundary" and "Design of Protected Area boundary", developed and coordinated in 2004-2005 is awaiting approval. However, the distinction between the boundary of Kizhi Museum-Reserve and the Kizhi Pogost World Heritage property still needs to be defined, as well as the boundary of Kizhi Museum-Reserve protected area and the Kizhi Pogost World Heritage Site buffer zone. The State Party should be requested to revise and approve all documents concerning protected areas of the Kizhi Museum Reserve including the boundaries of the World Heritage property of the Kizhi Pogost and its buffer zone by 1 February 2008.

2. Risk Preparedness (fire prevention, detection, alarm & suppression; intrusion; lightning; visitor safety).

The mission did not receive a risk plan for review, however, the site has taken a comprehensive approach to management of risks, particularly fore, intrusion and construction hazards. Since the 1995 ICOMOS review of fire protection at the site, improvements have been significant. In general the situation is good and on some points excellent. Guarding and fire fighting is effective 24 hours per day, is well equipped and is capable of responding within minutes. New sophisticated equipment has been installed for interior and exterior detection and for exterior fire extinguishing. Preventive measures such as grass cutting have been included in the maintenance program.
The mission recommends that the State Party should be requested to carry out the following activities:

- Maintain risk awareness and management measures during the restoration process.

- Install a new lightning protection system, according to international codes after restoration of the Church of the Transfiguration including preventative measures such as bonding and earth connecting for temporary scaffolding and other equipment
- Install the planned indoor extinguishing system in the Church of Transfiguration
- Evaluate new technology to add smoke detection to the advanced flame detection already installed inside the Church of the Transfiguration.

The Kizhi Museum Reserve Direction indicated no intention to close the Kizhi Pogost to visitors during the restoration works. However, at a round-table with concerned national and local authorities on 16 April 2007 in Saint Petersburg, the mission was informed that the Kizhi Pogost World Heritage Site would be closed to visitors. To close the site for this extended period will have a major impact on the site and visitor appreciation of the site. The mission recommends that the States Party be requested to include safe visitor access in its project planning, even if limited.

3. Tourism Strategy.

The mission noted recent efforts of the Kizhi Museum Reserve to improve tourist management (numbers of visitors have doubled from about 80,000 in 1990 to 170,000 today) and to develop "tourist-social infrastructure facilities" (project of construction of the tourist centre near to the ship station).
However, the mission did not receive a tourism strategy for review. Visitation statistics are kept and show a steady increase. The site limits the number of cruise ships to 6 at one time. The Kizhi Pogost is being developed as a major tourism destination for inland waterway cruises. Plans are advanced for a new tourist reception area some distance from the existing one. Tourism and its impacts and service requirements will continue to increase at Kizhi, however, the restoration project may reduce pressure on the site until 2014. Now is the right time for the State Party to prepare a comprehensive tourism strategy.
The mission recommends that the State Party be requested to start work on a comprehensive tourism strategy in 2007 before further tourism infrastructure work and to fund its implementation.

3.2. Nature and extent of threats to the property, taking into consideration the values for which the property was inscribed and specific issues outlined by the World Heritage Committee

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- Tourism development pressures affecting the property;
- Need to strengthen overall management of the property under an integrated management plan.
- Structural integrity of the Church of the Transfiguration

The main threat to the *Outstanding Universal Value* of the Kizhi Pogost identified during the UNESCO/ICOMOS joint mission is the deteriorated condition of the Church of the Transfiguration and lack of predictable funding to address it. Other threats are:

- Lack of a confirmed restoration project schedule and funding covering (2007-2014)
- Lack of Management Plan specific to the World Heritage property
- Lack of specific World Heritage property boundaries and its buffer zone
- Lack of risk management
- Lack of a tourism management plan for the World Heritage property
- Expired agreements and changing jurisdiction and delegation of authorities between the Museum Reserve, Karellia and the Russian Ministry of Culture.

The *Outstanding Universal Value* of Kizhi Pogost is defined by the following:

1. The architectural ensemble is a unique artistic achievement, one of the most prominent masterpieces of world architecture. It is distinguished by harmony of architectural forms, integrity, proportionality of its volumes, subordination of all its parts to one common architectural idea. The monuments are closely connected with the surrounding landscape and are a perfect example of harmony between nature and architecture.
2. The ensemble is one of the five surviving pogost ensembles, typical of the North Russian in the Middle Ages and the 17-19 centuries. Traditionally these ensembles consist of three structures characterized by integrity of their architectural aspect. The peculiarity of the Kizhi Pogost is that both churches of the ensemble are similar to the constructive type of multicupolated churches, rare in Russian wooden architecture. The combination of two multi-copulated churches in the same pogost makes it unique.
3. The Kizhi Pogost includes the 22-cupolated church of the Transfiguration, unique in its structural composition and decorative values. It has no analogues in the world.
4. The monuments of the ensemble are examples of a highly developed building culture, characteristic of Russian wooden architecture. The most traditional methods of building, constructive and decorative elements, applied in Russian architecture for many centuries, are incarnated in the structures of the ensemble. Nowadays only few monuments of such kind not subjected to fundamental reconstruction are preserved. This makes the Kizhi structures to be an unique object of research and of great scientific value.
5. The structures of the Kizhi Pogost have never been subjected to fundamental reconstructions or restoration; their material and constructions are authentic and their authenticity is very high..

3.3. Positive or negative developments in the conservation of the property since the last report to the World Heritage Committee

The annual reports submitted by the State Party for 2005 and 2006 were found to be inconsistent with the situation at the site particularly with regard to the Church of the Transfiguration, the state of risk management and some aspects of Management Planning. The annual reports were summaries of much more comprehensive documents which gave a more accurate description.

The concept for the restoration project which was presented at the workshop in 2002 has been developed and is nearing completion as a design. A great many pre-project preparatory activities have been completed. These include:

- purchase of materials;
- construction of storage facilities for materials;
- construction of workshops and other infrastructure development such as standby electrical power);
- skills development;
- training program including a small team of industrial alpinists;
- monitoring
- testing of lifting methods and tools.

Urgently required work has been carried out at the property in recent years:

- Re-roofing part of the Church of the Intercession
- Removal of toxic preservatives from the Church of the Intercession
- Roof repairs to the Church of the Transfiguration;
- Repair of the porch and roofs of the Church of the Transfiguration.

All of this work appears to have been carried out to a good standard.

Evaluation of annual monitoring reports on the stability of the property

Systematic monitoring and response has been implemented for the property. Regular inspections of the structures are carried out by trained 'industrial alpinists'. Identified roof repairs and removal of plants is carried out immediately. Laser scanning and measurement from fixed points is used to monitor structural movements.

This monitoring suggests the Church of the Transfiguration is not moving today (which is to be expected as it is now hanging on the internal steel framework). Lightning protection and other technical equipment are also annually inspected and tested. Two other areas of regular measurement are wood moisture content in critical areas and insect populations. Grass is regularly cut at the site and where necessary the grass surface is repaired. Data is also collected on flora and fauna species, water quality and other ecological subjects.

The mission regards the monitoring program as a very positive part of the site management.

4 ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY

4.1. Review whether the values, on the basis of which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List, and the conditions of integrity are being maintained

The overall state of conservation of the property

The property consists of the Church of the Transfiguration, the Church of the Intercession, the Bell Tower, the surrounding pogost and the landscape within. It is presumed that this comprises the World Heritage Site but the exact site boundaries have not been delineated.

At the present time the Church of the Transfiguration is in an advanced state of deterioration. The States Party maintains that the Church is not at risk due to the steel reinforcing structure installed 26 years ago. Despite that, it is the opinion of this mission that the fabric and structure of the church are continuing to deteriorate and are now in a perilous state. The values for which the property was inscribed are definitely jeopardized.

The ICOMOS experts, during their works at Kizhi Pogost in 1993-1995, stressed the need to start major repair and restoration works within 10-15 years aimed at protecting the outstanding universal values of the Church of the Transfiguration Over the course of recent years the States Party has made significant progress in preparing for a major repair and restoration project at this church. However, the mission detected a desire by the project team to resolve all details before starting work. We strongly advise against this for two reasons: the church cannot wait any longer for intervention, and, it's structure is so complex that decisions will inevitably have to be made as the project evolves.

The State Party informed the mission that the monitoring report confirmed that the Church is "not in danger". The mission underlined that the building fabric continues to bio-deteriorate. The mission considered Sections 177-191 of the *Operational Guidelines* and concluded that if the current loss of fabric and design features is not halted immediately the outstanding universal value of the property will be in danger. However, due to the great preparatory effort and progress which has been made in recent years, this mission considers that World Heritage in Danger status for Kizhi Pogost World Heritage Site due to the condition of the Church of the Transfiguration would be not appropriate at this time. The mission recommends that the Kizhi Pogost World Heritage Site not to be placed on the World Heritage List in Danger at this stage.

Delegated authorities and approved, predictable funding for years of the project are remaining obstacles to starting the restoration works. These need to be established for the course of the project by September 2007.

The State Party should be requested to start immediately with the repair and restoration works of the Church of Transfiguration and to submit to the World Heritage Centre by September 2007 all relevant documentation illustrating the availability of the necessary funding and management tools to ensure the full implementation of the restoration works.

4.2. Review any follow-up measures to previous decisions of the World Heritage Committee on the state of conservation of the property and measures which the State Party plans to take to protect the outstanding universal value of the property

Implementation of the main stages of the restoration of the Transfiguration Church

The Kizhi Museum Reserve has prepared a materials handling facility next to the church, a workshop, a timber repair facility and an indoor test assembly area on Kizhi island two miles away from the church and storage facilities for the timber required for the restoration. Timber moving equipment has been assembled and special lifting equipment has been installed and tested inside the church. These facilities and equipment will perform the consecutive stage-by-stage restoration of the seven structural tiers of the church.

The restoration concept for the Church of the Transfiguration, which was presented in the 2002 Workshop has been developed further consistent with the general principles and scheme discussed at the workshop. Due to extensive planning, monitoring, testing and other preparations, the feasibility of the major aspects of the project has been considered as far as reasonably possible.

Every complex project has an element of risk and there will be issues to be resolved during the course of the work. Two possible problem areas have been foreseen by the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS mission (the Russian experts do not anticipate any problems):

a) realignment of the building to reduce vertical deformations, and

b) conflict with the steel structure during reassembly of the log sections.

In our opinion these aspects would be best resolved during the work but should be anticipated.

A project schedule in which the main stages of the work are brocken down, described and scheduled is not available.

The mission recommended that the State Party should be urged to provide a project schedule which describes the main stages and activities of the project 2007-2014.

Concept plan for restoration the Church of the Transfiguration

The Kizhi Museum Reserve described in its report how the level of integrity of the restored church can be guided by a number of key integrity statements:

- “the integrity of the church means that not a single detail of the church would be lost during the restoration;
- the integrity of the church means that the authentic elements of the church would be restored with the maximum preservation of original shape and materials;
- the integrity of the church means that the authentic elements of the church would obtain the ability to operate with optimal working load;
- the integrity of the church means that the cultural history would be preserved safely without any chances of destruction of its separate members during the restoration”.

A critical part of the project is the plan for lifting the building in separate sections to allow removal and repair of the fabric and construction of new foundations. This plan, which has been developed since the 2002 Workshop, has been tested and the equipment installed to begin the work. This mission fully supports this aspect of the proposal. The mission recommended that the State Party should be commended for its work on development of the design in response to a unique and complex requirements.

Despite its technical excellence, the project is strongly oriented to a series of technical solutions without any relation to the World Heritage property status and its Outstanding Universal Values. These are not evident as guiding principles but will become increasingly important when they are needed to guide detailed decisions. It would help with future decision making if these were developed and brought into the project.

The concept for the restoration of the Church of the Transfiguration includes extensive repairs to individual logs using joints and glues so they can be re-installed in the building. While this approach will protect the authenticity of the fabric it will have a negative effect of the authenticity of the design and the long term performance of the structure due to:

- the dynamic characteristics of large timbers,
- the water barrier characteristics of glue joints,
- the effects of weathering (especially ultra-violet light and repeated wetting and drying) on exterior glued joints.

The mission strongly advised that this approach:

a) this approach does not meet international standards which caution against using untested methods,

b) this approach will have a much reduced durability (about 10-15 years) due to inevitable joint failure.

The mission recommends that glued wood patches only be used in places where future repair can be made without dismantling (for example at corner joint extensions). The mission recommend that whole log replacement should be used instead of extensive patches to be consistent with repair traditions for log buildings, to extend durability and ensure long term structural performance. In the case of log buildings in general and Kizhi Pogost in particular the emphasis on preservation of material integrity as described in the "levels of integrity" statement (above) might be inappropriate.

The mission recommended that the State Party be advised that the intended patch and glue approach for log repair does not meet international standards and that this approach will have a much reduced durability due to early joint failure. The mission recommended that the State Party should be informed that glued wood patches only be used in places where future repair can be made without dismantling (for example at corner joint extensions) and that whole log replacement should be used instead of extensive patches to be consistent with repair traditions for log buildings, to extend durability and ensure long term structural performance (ICOMOIS 1993-95, Venice Charter, Principles and Practices for Repair of Timber Buildings, ICOMOS).

Chemical preservatives are being used for stored logs, new roofs and in decayed areas of the Church of the Transfiguration. The mission noted that this method is of limited effectiveness and in disaccord with international standards. The mission recommended that the State Party should be urged to avoid the use of wood preservatives due to their environmental Impact and limited effectiveness.

The mission reviewed only very early, preliminary sketches for permanent supplementary structure in the church. Previously (1993-95) ICOMOS recommended that the building should be self-supporting on its traditional structure without additional support unless it is confirmed that the structure is over stressed and requires supplementary support for an adequate service life. This advice is still valid. The case for the necessity of supplementary structure has not yet been made. Some structural elements might require strengthening. Structural elements requiring strengthening (for example, the compound beam which supports the second octagon) should be reinforced as necessary rather than as a part of the overall building reinforcement scheme. Proposals for supplementary support, as well as for reinforcement of elements should be reviewed at a future date if added to the project .
The mission recommended that the State Party should be urged to resort to supplementary structural support only if absolutely necessary and that the church be allowed to be supported by its own structure to the maximum extent possible[ii]. Any required supplementary structure should be minimal and should be developed to reinforce with local conditions. (for example, ring beam connections or *botchka* attachement points)

The mission also recommended that the State Party should be urged to reinforce structural elements as needed rather than install general strengthening[1] [iii].

The mission underlined that the establishment of an on-site decision-making process including the participation of specialised experts which will be able, when conditions require it, to make appropriate decision on design changes is necessary.
The 2002 workshop concluded that the Kizhi Museum Reserve project team should maintain an informal professional dialogue with ICOMOS experts with experience at Kizhi Pogost. This dialogue has not taken place over past 5 years. The mission recommended that the Kizhi Museum Reserve and the project team establish a direct contact with ICOMOS representatives to facilitate fast communication on various points regarding the Church of the Transfiguration. Contact will be in the form of e-mail, circulated graphic material, web FTP site and missions. All contact could be established in coordination with the World Heritage Centre and State Party's representative. In addition, three ICOMOS experts' missions could be required over the implementation of the project.

Integrated management plan and boundary issues:

(See paragraph 3.1 on evaluation of progress made concerning the development of a management plan)

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Recommendations for any additional action to be taken by the State Party, including draft recommendations to the World Heritage Committee

The upcoming project at Kizhi Pogost is one of the most challenging wood structure projects in the world today from both a technical and conservation point of view. It would be of great benefit to the world heritage site community and to Kizhi Pogost if it was shared widely through a well thought out cooperation program. The present web site at www.kizhi.karelia.ru:carpenter_world is an excellent step in this direction.

The mission recommended that the World Heritage Committee:

- *Commends the State Party for providing two reports which well respond to some of the requests made by the Committee over the last several years, as well as for inviting a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission to the Kizhi Pogost from 8 to 17 April 2007;*

- *Notes the significant progress made in the management of the Kizhi Museum Reserve and the preparation of the restoration works of the Church of Transfiguration and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts;*

- *Strongly requests the State Party to start with the repair and restoration works of the Church of Transfiguration and to submit to the World Heritage Centre by September 2007 the multi-year (2007 to 2014) financial plan, as well as the confirmation of fund systematically available for restoration works for the duration of the project; confirmation of necessary administrative arrangements concerning the delegation of authorities for the restoration works; information on the results of tender; information on finalization of working project documents including completed and approved conservation/restoration project schedule and selected working drawings; date of the beginning of the restoration works;*

[1] ICOMOS 1993-95, Principles and Practices for Repair of Timber Buildings, ICOMOS, 2002 Workshop recommendations

- *Requests the State Party to take into account all recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission concerning technical and risk preparedness issues;*

- *Further requests the State Party to provide a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, and commit itself to use this Statement as a basis for developing an Integrated Management Plan for the property, as well as to incorporate the framework of World Heritage Site status, the Outstanding Universal Value and their protection in the decision making framework for the restoration project;*

- *Urges the State Party to revise and approve documents concerning protected areas of the Kizhi Museum Reserve including the boundaries of the World Heritage property of the Kizhi Pogost and its buffer zone;*

- *Further urges the State Party to prepare and implement an integrated management plan, including a tourism strategy, risk preparedness measures and clear boundary and buffer zone definitions, to co-ordinate the activities of the many different stakeholders and agencies involved with the overall management of the World Heritage property;*

- *Recommends the World Heritage Centre, in coordination with ICOMOS/International Secretariat and ICCROM, as well as UNESCO Moscow office, to establish a direct permanent contact with the Direction of the Kizhi Museum Reserve in order to develop a capacity building programme for local experts involving for restoration and management activities in the Kizhi Museum Reserve; and for dialogue and monitoring of the on-going development and progress of the project in order to ensure a smooth decision making and implementation process.*

- *Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a progress report by 1 February 2008, on all issues mentioned above including the draft of the integrated management plan of the Kizhi Pogost and maps indicating the boundaries of the World heritage property and its buffer zone for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.*

5.2. Whenever further action is needed, clear benchmarks indicating the corrective measures to be taken in order to achieve significant improvement of the state of conservation and a timeframe within which the benchmarks will have to be met

The mission concluded that substantial progress in the conservation of the World Heritage property was achieved over the years. However the mission highlighted a number of concerns and provided its specific recommendations which were discussed and approved during the Round-Table held in Saint Petersburg on 13 April 2007 in presence of concerned national and local authorities (para. 5.1).

The mission assisted the authorities in the elaboration of detailed benchmarks, as follows:

Part I. By **September 2007** :

1. multi-year (2007-2014) financial plan for the restoration project (federal budget commitments (2007-2014) for the repair and restoration of the Church of Transfiguration were not provided to the mission);
2. funds systematically available for restoration works for the duration of the project
3. necessary administrative arrangements concerning the delegation of authorities for the restoration works
4. results of the tender
5. finalization of working project documents including completed and approved conservation/restoration project schedule and selected working drawings

elaborated within the framework of World Heritage Site status, the Outstanding Universal Value and their protection;
6. the date, within 2007, of the beginning of the repair and restoration works of the Church of Transfiguration;

Part II. By **February 2008**:
7. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property
8. Integrated Management Plan of the World Heritage property, including a tourism strategy, risk preparedness measures and clear boundary and buffer zone definitions
9. Completion of Tourism Plan for the World Heritage property

The mission recommended that the State Party should be requested to provide a detailed report on the Part I. by September 2007 and detailed report on Part II. by February 2008 which will be presented to the World Heritage Centre at its 32nd Session in 2008.

5.3. Recommendation as to whether the level of threats to the property warrants the property being placed on or removed of the List of World Heritage in Danger

The last State Party report stressed the comments of ICOMOS over the last decade: "It is evident that urgent measures for saving the church must be undertaken. The church has been closed for conservation during the last twenty five years and no efficient measures have been applied. This considerable delay is caused by scientific debates and some confusion of government establishment as the result."

While the state of conservation report provided by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS in 2006 had recommended that the Committee places the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, informing the Committee that the State Party was against this recommendation, the Committee followed the request of the State Party instead and requested a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS mission to assess the state of conservation and the factors affecting the outstanding universal value of the property.

The mission noted a number of problems at Kizhi Pogost World Heritage Site – lack of a Management Plan, risk management plan, boundary and buffer zone definition, and tourism strategy. These are serious shortcomings as these are essential World Heritage Site management tools.
The most critical issue at Kizhi Pogost World Heritage Site is the seriously threatened state of the Church of the Transfiguration. The mission considered Sections 177-191 of the Operational Guidelines and concluded that if the current loss of fabric and design features is not halted immediately the Outstanding Universal Value of the site will be threatened.[iv]
However, due to the great preparatory effort and progress which has been made in recent years, this mission thinks that World Heritage in Danger status for Kizhi Pogost World Heritage Site due to the condition of the Church of the Transfiguration would be counterproductive at this time. The mission recommended the Kizhi Pogost not to be placed on the World Heritage List in Danger at this stage. Project technical preparatory work is at a good stage. In order for this effort not to be wasted and the Outstanding Universal Value of the Church be protected it is essential that the implementation of the project begin immediately. Delegated authorities and predictable funding (the principle remaining obstacles to starting the restoration works) need to be established for the course of the project by September 2007.

The State Party should be requested to start immediately with the repair and restoration works of the Church of Transfiguration and to submit to the World Heritage Centre by September 2007 all relevant documentation illustrating the availability of the necessary funding and management tools to insure the full implementation of the restoration works.

ANNEX 1

TERMS OF REFERENCE
Joint UNESCO – ICOMOS mission
Kizhi Pogost, Russian Federation (April 2007)

1. Carry out a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS mission, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (**30 COM 7B.72**), to review the state of conservation of the World Heritage site of the Kizhi Pogost, Russian Federation, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1990;

2. Review the overall situation of the property of the Kizhi Pogost with regard to the state of conservation of the property and specifically to the factors affecting the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;

3. Evaluate the implementation of the "main stages of the restoration of the Transfiguration Church and the schedule of their implementation (1999-2014)" elaborated on the base of the recommendations of a number of expert meetings and specifically the "International Workshop on Kizhi Pogost and the Preservation and Conservation of Wooden Structures of the Church of the Transfiguration" (2002, St. Petersburg - Kizhi Pogost);

4. Review presentation of agreed upon concept plan for restoration guiding the works on the Church of the Transfiguration and the completion of restoration work on this Church;

5. Evaluate the progress made concerning the development of a management plan of the property (to address boundary issues, buffer zone definition and risk preparedness measures in place for the entire property), and the development of a tourism strategy;

6. Evaluate the annual monitoring reports on the stability of the property elaborated by the Institute "Spetsproectrestavratsiya";

7. Assist national and local authorities in the elaboration of detailed benchmarks (completion of restoration work on the Church of the Transfiguration; and the development and implementation of a comprehensive management plan for the property, which addresses tourism development, risk preparedness, boundary definition and buffer zone issues), in compliance with decision 30 COM 7B.72 and 29 COM 7B.83;

8. Ascertain national level budget commitments for all aspects of the project of the restoration of the Transfiguration Church.

9. Discuss with national and local authorities a timescale and a work plan for:
   - A comprehensive management plan, including a tourism strategy, risk preparedness measures and clear boundary and buffer zone definitions;
   - The preparation of a buffer zone for the property;

10. Discuss opportunities for co-operation on conservation management and development and exchange of experiences with other World Heritage sites;

11. Prepare a detailed report by 1 May 2007 for review by the World Heritage Committee considering Operational Guidelines paragraphs 178-186 (List of World Heritage in Danger) and 192-198 (Procedure for the eventual deletion of properties from the World Heritage List), specifically reviewing the possibility of inclusion of the property in the List of World Heritage in Danger, including benchmarks and timeframes for corrective action, and submit the report to the World Heritage Centre in electronic form (not exceeding 10 pages; according to the enclosed format).

ANNEX 2

PROGRAMME
Joint UNESCO World Heritage Centre – ICOMOS mission
Kizhi Pogost
8 – 17 April, Russian Federation

Composition of mission team :

- ***Ms Anna Sidorenko-Dulom***
  Programme Specialist in charge of Central and Eastern Europe
  Europe and North America Section
  UNESCO World Heritage Centre
- ***Mr Andrew Powter***, ICOMOS representative
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- ***Mr. Sjur Helseth***, ICOMOS representative
  Riksantigvaren,
  Oslo, Norway
- ***Mr Bjarne Lofthus***, ICOMOS representative
  Oslo, Norway

Sun.	8 April 2007	*Arrival to Saint-Petersburg*
Mon.	9 April 2007	Working meeting WHC/ICOMOS *Departure from St. Petersburg to Petrozavodsk (by night train)*
Tue.	10 April 2007	*Departure to the Kizhi island by helicopter* Meetings with the Kizhi Museum Reserves' representatives Evaluation of the state of conservation of the Kizhi Pogost and technical visit of the Church of the Transfiguration
Wed.	11 April 2007	Continuation of evaluation and technical visit of the property Working meetings with the Kizhi Museum Reserves' representatives
Thu.	12 April 2007	Working meeting with the Kizhi Museum Reserves' representatives *Departure from the Kizhi island by helicopter to Petrozavodsk* *Departure to St Petersburg by night train*
Fri.	13 April 2007	Round-table / Presentation of missions' recommendations - National Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO - Russian National World Heritage Committee - ICOMOS Russian Federation - Federal authorities in charge of the Kizhi Pogost - Direction of the Kizhi Museum Reserve - Technical team in charge of the project of the restoration of the Church of the Transfiguration - Representative of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Karelia *Departure to Moscow by night train*

Sat.	14 April 2007	Expert's working day / Finalization of the draft mission report
Sun.	15 April 2007	Expert's working day
Mon.	16 April 2007	Debriefing at the National Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO Debriefing in the Moscow Office
Tue.	17 April 2007	Departure from Moscow

ANNEX 3

Round Table on safeguarding the World Heritage site of the Kizhi Pogost
St. Petersburg, 13 April 2007

The Round Table on safeguarding the World Heritage site of the Kizhi Pogost organized by the National Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO was attended by representatives of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and national and local authorities (see list of participants below).

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS representatives noted the significant progress made in the management of the Kizhi Museum Reserve and the preparation of the restoration works of the Church of Transfiguration.
The UNESCO/ICOMOS mission recommended:

- to start urgently with the repair and restoration works of the Church of Transfiguration;
- to upkeep risk awareness and management measures during the restoration process.
- to install new lightning protection system, according to international codes after restoration of the Church of the Transfiguration including preventative measures such as bonding and earth connecting for temporary scaffolding and other equipment
- to install the planned indoor extinguishing system in Church of Transfiguration
- to evaluate up coming technology to add smoke detection to the advanced flame detection already install inside the Church of the Transfiguration.
- to submit to the World Heritage Centre **by September 2007:**
    - The multi-year (2007 to 2014) financial plan;
    - The confirmation of fund systematically available for restoration works for the duration of the project;
    - The confirmation of necessary administrative arrangements concerning the delegation of authorities for the restoration works;
    - Information on the results of tender;
    - Information on finalization of working project documents including completed and approved conservation/restoration project schedule and selected working drawings;
    - The date of the beginning of the restoration works.

The mission also recommended:

- that glued wood patches only be used in places where future repair can be made without dismantling (for example at corner joint extensions);
- that whole log replacement should be used instead of extensive patches to be consistent with repair traditions for log buildings, to extend durability and ensure long term structural performance;
- to avoid the use of wood preservatives due to their environmental Impact and limited effectiveness;
- to resort to supplementary structural support only if absolutely necessary and that the church be allowed to be supported by its own structure to the maximum extent possible[v];
- to reinforce structural elements as needed rather than install general strengthening[2 vi].

Concerning the management of the World Heritage property, the mission recommended:

- to revise and approve documents concerning protected areas of the Kizhi Museum Reserve including the boundaries of the World Heritage property of the Kizhi Pogost and its buffer zone;
- to prepare and implement an integrated management plan, including a tourism strategy, risk preparedness measures and clear boundary and buffer zone definitions,

[2] ICOMOS 1993-95, Principles and Practices for Repair of Timber Buildings, ICOMOS, 2002 Workshop recommendations

and to co-ordinate the activities of the many different stakeholders and agencies involved with the overall management of the World Heritage property;

- to establish a direct permanent contact between the World Heritage Centre, in coordination with ICOMOS and ICCROM, and the Direction of the Kizhi Museum Reserve in order to develop capacity building programmes for local experts involving restoration and management activities in the Kizhi Museum Reserve; and continue a dialogue on the monitoring of the on-going development and progress of the project in order to ensure a smooth decision making and implementation process;

The national and local authorities participated to the round-table recognizing, in particular, the urgent need to start with the repair and restoration works of the Church of Transfiguration, approved all missions' recommendations.

Minutes *(in Russian)* **of the Round-Table in St.Petersburg, 13 April 2007**
by National Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO

Рекомендация №1

Реставрация Преображенской Церкви.

Что касается реставрации Преображенской церкви, у нас (ICOMOS) несколько рекомендаций. Очередность не обозначена иерархией, степенью важности. Мы (ICOMOS) использовали рекомендации 2002 г. – это как отправная база, которой мы руководствовались.

Концепция, представленная в 2002 г. на семинаре, была хорошо разработана в соответствии с общим принципами, обсуждаемыми в то время. Принимая во внимание активную планировку, мониторинг, проверку и другие подготовительные работ по внедрению основных аспектов проекта – были воплощены как в принципе возможные. Несмотря на то, что любой такой сложный проект может нести определенный риск в его исполнении.

Только в течении выполнения этих работ, этот риск можно снизить.

2^{e} основные возможные проблемы, которые с нашей точки зрения возможны:

- Выравнивание конструкции с наклоненного состояния в вертикальное.
- При поднятии конструкции возможен «конфликт» ярусных конструкций.

Рекомендация №2.

Вторая рекомендация касается воздвижения дополнительных структур. Это те конструкции, которые являются вспомогательными. Согласно рекомендациям 1995 г . и отчету семинара 2002 г. целью проекта было - постепенное снятие каркаса. Необходимо минимизировать дополнительные конструкции. Когда реставрация закончится, нужно использовать все возможности, чтобы церковь стояла сама, опираться на ее возможности. Необходимо понимать, что данный вопрос будет ясен исключительно в ходе реставрационных работ.

Вниманию экспертов миссии были представлены предварительные эскизы, подготовленные для реставрации церкви. Еще окончательно не решен вопрос о

дополнительных поддерживающих конструкциях. Необходимо добиваться того, чтобы церковь в итоге опиралась полностью на фундамент.

Отвечает федеральный архитектор В.С.Рахманов:

Действительного рабочего проекта в настоящее время нет. Но все проектные предложения готовы. Мы к этому вернемся тогда, когда все проектные конструкции будут завершены. Сначала максимально используем возможности церкви, а потом изучим возможность возведения дополнительных конструкций.

Рекомендация №3.

Концепция реставрация Преображенской церкви опирается на то, что необходимо реставрировать поврежденные бревна. Имеется ввиду использование исторически оригинальных бревен после их полной реставрации. Такой процесс обеспечит сохранение исторической ценности памятника. Однако, учитывая динамические характеристики бревен (протечка, погодные условия, ультрафиолет, влага и сушка бревен и т.д.), мы, эксперты (ICOMOS) полагаем, что такой подход не отвечает международным стандартам. Предложенный Вами подход снизит долговечность бревен до 10-15 лет. А самое приемлемое время сохранности памятника – 200 лет. Мы (ICOMOS) рекомендуем использовать клей только там, где элементы могут ремонтироваться без разборки конструкции. Мы (ICOMOS) считаем, чтобы все бревна должны быть заменены на новые, цельные (без склеивания) так как в соответствии с традициями деревянного зодчества необходимо обеспечить постоянство конструкции и длительность.

Отвечает заместитель директора Музея-заповедника Н.Л.Попов:

Абсолютно разделяем Вашу точку зрения и примем ее к сведению.

Рекомендация №4.

Мы (WHC/ICOMOS) считаем, что государственные структуры должны признать огромную подготовительную работу, проделанную музеем (хранилище для бревен, реставрационно-производственный комплекс, подготовка и повышение квалификации специалистов, условия для жилья, логистика, планирование и также значительные улучшения по безопасности церкви) в **соответствии с утвержденным в 2002 г. планом 2002 – 2010.**

Цель этой рекомендации - объяснить, что колоссальные подготовительные работы были уже проведены на высоком уровне.

Что касается пожарной безопасности, то по сравнению с 1993 г., налицо - значительные улучшения. Ситуация в данном направлении положительная. Наблюдение за пожарной ситуацией – ведется 24 часа в сутки. Время реагирования – минимальное. Это большое преимущество. Однако хотелось бы выделить следующие моменты:

- Необходимо организовать безопасность по ходу выполнения работ, т.е. обеспечить производственную безопасность. После окончания реставрационных работ необходимо установить молниезащитную установку. Кроме этого необходимо обсудить вопрос о дополнительных сенсорах – сенсоры от дыма (не только на пламя как это в настоящее время). Техническая сторона установки сенсоров на дым требует более тщательного изучения.

Отвечает заместитель директора Музея-заповедника Н.Л.Попов:

В настоящее время музеем закуплено оборудование для внутреннего применения. Это точки распыления водой. Эти установки могут запускаться, как дистанционно, так и механически. В этом году мы уже начнем это монтировать на металлокаркасе. Это позволит начать обеспечение производственной безопасности. На двух объектах - уже стоит новое оборудование, медное.

Эксперты ИКОМОС:

Просим обратить внимание: они должны быть установлены после реставрационных работ. **Риск идентифицирован как: огонь, вандализм и молния.**

Рекомендация №5.

В рамках рекомендации 1995 г. и 2002 г. и предыдущих рекомендаций по элементам конструкций. Структурные элементы деревянной конструкции собора в ходе ее реставрации и восстановления должны принять на себя функции самообеспечения устойчивости в максимально возможной степени.

Отвечает федеральный архитектор В.С.Рахманов.

Совершенно верно. Реставрационные работы будут вестись в соответствии с принятыми ранее рекомендациями.

Рекомендация №6.

Диалог с реставрационной группой и представителями ИКОМОС в случае необходимости. По необходимости привлекать экспертов ИКОМОС для консультаций в решении важных вопросов в реставрационном проекте.

Mr. Маковецкий (President Russian Wormd Heritage Committee): в случае возникновения сложных ситуаций, обращаться за консультацией в ИКОМОС и другие страны, занимающиеся этими вопросами.

В итоге после дискуссий с российской стороны:

Установить прямой и постоянный взаимный диалог для консультаций и обмена информаций в ходе реставрационных работ между ИКОМОСом и музеем-заповедником и при необходимости решения технических вопросов – организация миссии ИКОМОС на объект в установленном порядке.

Рекомендация №7.

Необходимо представить дату, начало реставрационных работ.

Обсуждая этот вопрос, пришли к такому выводу, что к сентябрю 2007 г. необходимо представить информацию о принятии решения на государственном уровне, касающееся сроков начала реставрационных работ, о начале этапов реставрационных работ по утвержденному проекту, а также об объемах необходимого финансирования

Рекомендация №8.

Ознакомившись, с проектом зоны охраны объекта культурного объекта Музея-заповедника «Кижи» и проектом границы территории музея-заповедника Кижи, миссия просит в кратчайшие сроки обозначить в этих проектах границу территории объекта Всемирного наследия «Кижский погост», как описано в номинационном досье и обозначить его буферную зону и в кратчайшие сроки утвердить эти проекты и приступить к их реализации.

После дискуссии с российской стороны:

Миссия просит представить уточненный план управления объекта Всемирного наследия «Кижский погост», включая границу территории объекта и его буферной зоны.

Рекомендация №9.

Миссия рекомендует направить в Секретариат (WHC) запрос о финансовой поддержке по повышению квалификации для подготовки management plan).

Г.Э.Орджоникидзе (Secretary-General, National Commission of the Russian Federation): Полностью поддерживаем данную инициативу.

List of national and local authorities participated to the Round-Table

Mr. Ordjonikidze G.	Secretary-General, National Commission of the RF for UNESCO
Ms Belekova A.T.	3rd Secretary, National Commission of the RF for UNESCO
Mr. Makovetski I.	President of the Russian Committee of ICOMOS President of the Russian National World Heritage Committee
Mr Chevelev V.V.	Chef of the Programme “Information for all”
Ms Berdnikova T.B. .	Federal Agency for Culture and Cinematography, Ministry of Culture and Mass Media, Russian Federation
Ms L. M. Kolesnikova	Federal Agency for Culture and Cinematography, Ministry of Culture and Mass Media, Russian Federation
Mr A. V. Zaizev	Federal Agency for inspectorate of legislation in domain of Mass Media and Cultural Heritage
Ms S. O. Kuspak	Chief of Section of legal affairs and control, Minsitry of Culture, Republic of Karelia
Mrs. Averjanova E.	Director of the Kizhi State Open-Air Museum of History, Architecture and Ethnography
Mr. Popov Y.	Deputy director, the State museum "Kizhi"
Mr. Popov N.	Participant of the restoration project
Mr. Rasha I.	Chief engineer "Stroireconstrukzia", Saint-Petersburg
Mr. Rakhmanov V.	St.-Petersburg "Spezproektrestravrazia", Chief of the restoration project of the Church of the Transfiguration
Mr A. U. Lubimzev	Chief Curator of architectural monuments of the Kizhi Museum Reserve
Mr A. S. Kuusela	Ведущий инженер Музея-заповедника «Кижи».

Evaluation of state of conservation by the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau

**30th session of the World Heritage Committee,
Vilnius, Lituania, 8-16 July 2006
Document WHC-06/30.COM/7B.ADD**

Main threats identified in previous reports:

a) Structural integrity of the Church of the Transfiguration as well as the overall restoration and conservation project to replace the scaffolding within the Church;

b) Tourism development pressures affecting the property;

c) The need to strengthen management of the property.

Current conservation issues:

The Russian Federation has submitted two reports to the World Heritage Centre concerning the state of the conservation of the World Heritage property dated 12 July 2005 and December 2005 and received on 8 February 2006.

These reports do not meet the expectations of the World Heritage Committee as expressed in its decision at its 29th session. Both reports were prepared by the local management authority (Kizhi Museum) and do not show any involvement on the part of the national authorities in this process. They do not address any of the main recommendations made by the Committee concerning provision of information on the management of the property, updates on the status and determination of the buffer zone, information on risk preparedness measures in place for the entire property, and clarification on the impact of tourism on the values of the inscribed property. While to some extent both reports provide information on aspects of the construction work plan for the Church of the Transfiguration, the precise budget data requested is not provided, and the "Detailed Report" describes information that at the time of the 30th session will be 19 months out of date. The "Brief Report" of December 2005, together with its attached photos and chart showing "main stages of the restoration of the Transfiguration Church and the schedule of their implementation (1999-2014)" provides some updated information but is of limited value as the report is only one page in length.

The response of the State Party to the requests made by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session is entirely inadequate, maintaining a pattern repeated over many years for this property of providing limited information to the Committee, prepared by the local management authorities without any understanding of the nature of the Committee's requests. There is no evidence, in spite of the detailed planning and scheduling being carried out for the restoration work on the Church of the Transfiguration at the local level, that the national authorities have committed themselves to fund this work. No detailed budget for this work is available showing budget commitments over time. Nor is there any evidence of effort to address the larger over-arching issues important for the site and State of conservation reports of properties inscribed WHC-06/30.COM/7B.Add, p. 31 on the World Heritage List - ADDENDUM stated by the Committee in its recommendations: development of a management plan (which would address boundary issues, buffer zone definition and risk preparedness), and development of a tourism strategy.

A meeting of 100 conservation experts to identify conservation strategies for this property was already organized in 1988, two years before it was inscribed on the World Heritage List. A number of expert missions have taken place since to review the state of conservation of the property. All have highlighted the serious and specific dangers facing the property. Little evidence of commitment at the national level has come forth in those many years to provide confidence that the outstanding universal value recognized by the inscription is maintained.

ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre consider that the property should be placed on the World Heritage List in Danger, and that the property should not be removed from this List until the following benchmarks are agreed upon and reached:

a) Completion of restoration work on the Church of the Transfiguration;

b) The development and implementation of a comprehensive management plan for the property (addressing tourism development, risk preparedness, boundary definition and buffer zone issues).

The State Party should provide, by 1 February 2007, the outline plans and a timescale for the development of a comprehensive management plan and strategy, to provide a clear description of the restoration concept guiding the works on the Church of the Transfiguration, and a detailed long term (10 year) budget commitment for all activities on the site, prepared and endorsed by the concerned national authorities and the Ministry of Culture. Detailed benchmarks could then be agreed upon between the Advisory Bodies, the World Heritage Centre and the authorities.

An additional brief report with an explanatory note on the most important activities of the preparatory period and some updated information by the Kizhi Federal Museum was transmitted by the national authorities on 8 June 2006.

The report mentioned new information concerning, in particular the assembly and adjustment of the fire alarm system inside and outside of the Church, as well as the replacement of the old electric supply cabinet and installation of a new power supply, communication and alarm systems.

Some information concerning new restoration approaches and preparation of timber conservation was also provided. The report mentioned in particular, that the main cross has been reinforced temporally with metallic plates and that the zones infected by wood beetles have been identified. The entrance of the Church has been repaired and a metallic tie-bar installed in the northern wall of the refectory.

An attached chart showing the “main stages of the restoration of the Transfiguration Church and the schedule of their implementation (1999-2014)” is the same as provided in the previous reports. The report further notes that the annual monitoring of the stability of the property conducted by the Institute “Spetsproectrestavratsiya” shows continued stability of all monuments and indicates that none of then is considered to be in danger.

By letter of 9 June 2006, the authorities of the Russian Federation underline that they consider that the State Party is fulfilling its obligations concerning the protection of the property and object to the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

However, the latest report provides no information concerning the detailed budget and funding sources, the overall state of conservation of the property, nor details of management measures for the property or the determination of the buffer zone, as requested by the Committee. As a result, the requests for information made by the Committee at its 29th session in Durban remain unanswered.

Decision 30 COM 7B.72

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-06/30.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decisions **28 COM 15B.95** and **29 COM 7B.83**, adopted at its 28th (Suzhou, 2004) and 29th (Durban, 2005) sessions respectively,
3. Notes with great concern that the reports provided by the State Party do not respond to the requests made by the Committee at its 29th session;
4. Urges the State Party to collaborate closely with the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre to elaborate detailed benchmarks (completion of restoration work on the Church of the Transfiguration; and the development and implementation of a comprehensive management plan for the property, which addresses tourism development, risk preparedness, boundary definition and buffer zone issues);
5. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission to the property to assess the state of conservation and the factors affecting the

Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and strongly urges the State Party to work jointly with this mission;

6. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2007**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session in 2007, with a detailed report, a timescale and a work plan for:
    a) A comprehensive management plan, including a tourism strategy, risk preparedness measures and clear boundary and buffer zone definitions;
    b) The preparation of a buffer zone for the property;
7. Invites the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2007** an overall restoration concept for the Church of Transfiguration, as well as a report on the status and the likely impact of proposed interventions on the authenticity and integrity of the property.

29th session of the World Heritage Committee,
Durban, South Africa, 10-17 July 2005
Document WHC-05/29.COM/22 / Document WHC.05/29.COM/7B.Rev

Current conservation issues:
The Russian authorities submitted a progress report on an international workshop for the Conservation of the "Church of the Transfiguration of Kizhi Pogost" (18-20 December, 2003) to the World Heritage Centre on 2 February 2005. The report reviews the main recommendations of the August 2002 International Workshop: A planned approach to restoration of the Church over four main stages up to 2014 is briefly described. The stages include: (1) preliminary works (1999-2002); preparation period (2002-2006); main restoration works (2006-2012); final period (2010 – 2014); (2) The report describes expenditures in 2003 and 2004 in line with the overall plan of expenditures; (3) The report further notes submission by the Administration of "Kizhi Pogost" of a financial plan for conservation and restoration of the Church of the Transfiguration until 2010 to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, which was approved; (4) The representatives of "Kizhi Pogost" also noted that funding has been neither sufficient nor regular; (5) The report notes that participants expressed appreciation for the high quality of the design and restoration works carried out from July 2002 until December 2003 by the project leaders and site managers of the museum-reserve; Nevertheless, the report leaves a number of questions open for review.

While the World Heritage Committee, in its Decision **28 COM 15 B. 95**, calls for the "Russian Federation to collaborate closely with the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre regarding the developments of the conservation works", the international workshop of December 2003 was organised without the involvement of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. Hence, it is difficult to compare the conclusions of the 2003 Workshop with those resulting from the 2002 Workshop, and assess progress made in meeting earlier recommendations. Given the serious nature of the structural problems of the Church of the Transfiguration, and the decade ahead before planned works are to be completed, it would be useful to have detailed information concerning monitoring methods in place to measure any change in the structure. The work plan contained in the report does not provide sufficient information or details to secure the large amount of funding necessary. Given that funding is described as inadequate and irregular, it would be useful for the Russian authorities to describe the full amount of funds required, the nature of commitments of all concerned to support the work, any expected shortfalls, and fund-raising plans to cover outstanding commitments. The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS appreciate the continuing efforts by the State Party to improve the state of conservation of the Church of the Transfiguration.

However, the State Party needs to look beyond the problems of the Church of the Transfiguration to the management problems of the overall property, as recommended by the 2002 Workshop. It would be particularly useful for the Russian authorities to clarify current efforts to strengthen the management regime for the island property, including: clarification of the boundaries and management strategies and the buffer zones of the

property; clarification of risk preparedness measures in place for the entire property; clarification of tourism management in the region in relation to the values of the inscribed property. Given the management needs of the property, it would also be useful for the Russian authorities to give priority to printing the Russian translation of the ICCROM Management Guidelines for World Heritage Properties. As has been noted by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS on several occasions, and as contained in the recommendations of the 2002 International Workshop, the author/translator and the Advisory Bodies and World Heritage Centre have already contributed substantially to the development of this manuscript. The Russian authorities should complete this long outstanding project. The situation of Kizhi Pogost was further discussed at a meeting at the World Heritage Centre with the Permanent Delegation of Russia and the Chairperson of the Russian World Heritage Committee on 25 April 2005.

Decision 29 COM 7B.83

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document ***WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev***,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.95**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Thanks the State Party of the Russian Federation for the progress report on the organisation of the restoration works of the Church of the Transfiguration and the continuing efforts to improve the state of conservation of the property,
4. Regrets that the State Party did not provide a detailed report, as requested by the World Heritage Committee, on the progress of the actual conservation works, detailed budget and funding sources as well as the overall state of conservation of the property;
5. Notes with concern the continuing uncertainty of funding for the restoration works and the overall inconsistent information on the management of the property;
6. Urges the State Party to collaborate closely with the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre regarding the development of the conservation works and the management of the property;
7. Considers that in view of the lack of information on the state of conservation of the property and lack of follow-up to the recommendation of the 2002 Workshop and the recommendation of the Committee, the threats to the property are considerable;
8. Requests the State Party to submit reports by **1 February 2006** to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), containing the following:
   a) a detailed work plan with precise budget;
   b) a comprehensive report on the steps of the conservation works including information on the impact of interventions on the conservation works;
   c) information on the management measures for the property;
   d) an update on the status and determination of the buffer zone;
   e) information on risk preparedness measures in place for the entire property; and
   f) clarification on the management of tourism in the region in relation to the values of the inscribed property;
9. Decides to consider, on the basis of this report, whether or not the property should be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

28th session of the World Heritage Committee,
Suzhou, China, 28 June - 7 July 2004
Document WHC-04/28.COM/26 ; Document WHC-04/28.COM/15B

Conservation issues:
From 18 to 20 December 2003, a workshop on the conservation of the Church of the Transfiguration was held in St. Petersburg at which participants were informed of the

progress made for the preparatory works for the conservation project as well as follow-up actions to the recommendations made by the Committee and the International workshop of August 2002 were discussed.

The main steps of the restoration project have been approved as well as the workplan for the creation of the infrastructure for the works to be carried out (moorage for boats, construction site, energy structure, wood storage and procurement, fire protection, lodging for workers, etc). The financial plan of the restoration project has been submitted and approved by the Ministry of Culture. However, the participants mentioned insufficient and irregular funding for the conservation project.

The Russian National Committee for World Heritage together with the Ministry of Culture will be preparing a proposal concerning the approval of the buffer zone taking into account the possible enlargement of the site. Monitoring of the state of the Church of the Transfiguration is ensured by the site manager together with architects and restorers.

The workshop participants reiterated the request that the ICCROM Guidelines for management of cultural sites be translated into Russian.

The Centre has asked for more detailed information regarding some of the issues discussed during this second workshop. In particular, details on the overall budget of the project, information on the current state of conservation of the church and the follow-up to the recommendations made by the first workshop. At the time of the preparation of this document, no information was received from the State Party.

ICOMOS and ICCROM commented that national level financing is unpredictable and insufficient and that no matter how much care and study is given to analysis of conservation problems, without commitment of necessary funding in a timely manner, the threats to this site remain severe and unimpaired.

Decision 28 COM 15B.95

The World Heritage Committee[46],

1. Thanking the authorities of the Russian Federation for their continued commitment to analyze conservation problems of the Church of the Transfiguration through the holding of workshops,
2. Notes with concern the lack of funding and hereby lack of commitment by the Russian Federation for the conservation project without which the threats to this property remain severe and unimpaired;
3. Regrets that the State Party did not provide a progress report as requested by the Committee (Decision **27 COM 7B.74**);
4. Urges the authorities of the Russian Federation to collaborate closely with the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre regarding the developments of the conservation works;
5. Requests the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2005, a report on the commitment of the necessary funds to carry out the work plan for 2004 and 2005 as well as on the progress made in the conservation works with information on the impact of interventions of the conservation works, in order that the World Heritage Committee can examine the state of conservation of the property at its 29th session in 2005.

27th session of the World Heritage Committee,
UNESCO Headquarters, 30 June - 5 July 2003
Document WHC.03/27.COM/07B

Following the request by the 25th session of the World Heritage Committee to elaborate « a work plan for the safeguarding of the site » and the approval of funds under emergency assistance, the “International Workshop on Kizhi Pogost and the Preservation and Conservation of Wooden Structures of the Church of the Transfiguration” was held from 31 July to 5 August 2002, St. Petersburg-Kizhi Pogost. It was organized by the UNESCO

Chair in Urban and Architectural Conservation (Moscow), in collaboration with the UNESCO Moscow Office and the World Heritage Centre.

The extensive discussions during the workshop and the site visit to Kizhi Pogost resulted in a full report of the meeting and a document with recommendations, which was transmitted to the appropriate authorities and organizations and bodies, for consideration and follow-up. The recommendations concern the following points:

1. The presentations on the project of the restoration of the Church of the Transfiguration enhanced the dialogue between the Russian and the international participants and the confidence of all in the careful, systematic and thorough approach in place for the conservation of this property. The care with which this project has been undertaken could provide useful lessons on the safeguarding of complex wooden structures, the promotion of the protection and conservation of wooden heritage in Eastern Europe, and for exemplary international cooperation involving different stakeholders, international organizations (UNESCO, ICOMOS, ICCROM, etc.) as well as national and international experts.

2. While recalling the resolution of the Novgorod Meeting (17 September 1999) to examine the possibility of inscription of Kizhi Pogost on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the participants noted that a multi-disciplinary project team has been assembled and is working actively on the project. There is an extensive restoration plan, which has received Government approval and funding.

3. The participants discussed extensively the state of conservation of the Church of the Transfiguration and the restoration project planned for it. The participants expressed their appreciation to the authors of the current project for the quality of analysis evident in their work, for their efforts to learn from the results of past interventions, for their efforts to work in continuity with the findings of the ICOMOS-Russian conservation plan of 1993-1995 and for their commitment to cautious approaches which would minimize the replacement of original material.

4. While expressing support in general for the approach proposed and its guiding philosophy, the participants expressed the need to be cautious in implementation and therefore propose: to ensure comprehensive monitoring of impacts of interventions described in detailed plans and to use a careful approach to ensure respect for the heritage values and a full re-examination of the basic principles and strategies of the adopted restoration approach; Concerning the question of chemical treatment of the logs, the World Heritage Committee and the Advisory Bodies are asked to provide general advice for the preservation of wood.

5. During the field visit to the site, the participants also reviewed the situation regarding the other buildings included in the site, and encouraged the Russian authorities to develop plans for the long-term maintenance of all wooden structures, in the World Heritage property and its environment, to ensure that the World Heritage values and the integrity of the site are preserved.

6. Concerning the surroundings of the World Heritage site, the participants were informed of ongoing conservation efforts for the 84 buildings comprising the Open Air Museum. They urged that the integrity of this unique landscape be maintained in its overall management.

7. It is recommended that reports on the progress of the project and its results, as well as the monitoring of the state of conservation be regularly transmitted to the World Heritage Committee. It is further recommended that the expertise and insights of the international experts, and in particular members of the ICOMOS International Wood Committee, involved with this site since 1988 be called to maintain the professional dialogue now in place.

8. The workshop suggested that a meeting of all Russian speaking World Heritage site managers and national coordinators be organized, in collaboration with the East European Centre of the countries of the CIS for the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, proposed by Russia.

9. The workshop proposed to extend the ICCROM digest of Kizhi international co-operation activities to include all Russian activities, the contribution of ICOMOS Germany relating to structural renewal and restoration of the iconostasis and a list of all documents available to be published.

10. In order to ensure regular update on activities and other necessary information on World Heritage to be made available to all persons involved, the participants recommended that the Moscow Office update the existing web site with Russian material and that the Russian World Heritage Committee take responsibility to maintain contact with all site managers. Furthermore, it was recommended that the Management Guidelines for Cultural Heritage Sites (Jokilehto/Fielden, ICCROM 1992) (translated into Russian), be published.

Decision 27 COM 7B.74

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling its decisions taken at the 25th extraordinary session of the Bureau in 2001 (Helsinki);
2. Expresses its appreciation to the authorities of the State Party for their commitment to the preservation of the property;
3. Takes note of the report and recommendations provided by the International Workshop with regard to the future conservation of this property under threat;
4. Encourages the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to continue to collaborate and to closely follow the future development of the conservation works;
5. Requests the State Party to provide an updated report the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2004 on progress made in order that the World Heritage Committee can examine the state of conservation of the property at its 28th session in 2004.

25th Session of the World Heritage Committee,
Helsinki, Finland, 11-16 December 2001
Document WHC-01/CONF.208/10

New information:
The National Commission of the Russian Federation submitted a report on the state of conservation on 2 October 2001 which has been sent to ICOMOS and ICCROM for comments. In general, the report confirms that the wooden structure of the Church is in an alarming state of dilapidation and that urgent restoration measures should be undertaken.
Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine information that will be provided by ICCROM and ICOMOS at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon, and review whether or not the site should be included on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Decision adopted / Document WHC-01/CONF.208/24

VIII.148 The Committee examined the state of conservation of the site and took note that an emergency assistance request for an international technical workshop had been approved by the former Chairperson of the Committee. This workshop would also include the elaboration of a workplan for the safeguarding of the site.

III.149 The Delegate of the Russian Federation informed the Committee that the workshop will be held from 31 July to 5 August 2002. During this workshop the participants will be given the opportunity to study the project that has been developed and approved by experts. He thanked the Committee and the Director of the UNESCO Moscow Office for their support.

VIII.150 Speaking on behalf of ICCROM and ICOMOS, ICCROM congratulated the Russian authorities for their initiative to organise a workshop to develop a workplan for the safeguarding of the site. He stressed that the international workshop should, apart from

looking at the severe structural problems of the Church of the Transfiguration, focus on the ensemble of buildings as well as on a wide set of issues: the biological deterioration of the wood, structural stability, conservation of icons and management of visitors. The initial multidisciplinary conservation plan, adopted for the site in 1995, although never implemented, remains an excellent starting point to address the "old" as well as the new issues such as the potential development of mineral deposits in the landscape around Kizhi Pogost. In conclusion, in addressing the structural problems, ICOMOS and ICCROM stressed the importance of providing a scientific review of all options available for the stabilisation of the Church in order to assure that an appropriate solution respecting the authenticity of the structure can be found.

VIII.151 The Committee took note of the information provided by ICCROM and thanked the authorities of the Russian Federation for having initiated the process to ensure the protection of the site. In view of the alarming state of conservation of the site, the Committee requested the Secretariat to work in close collaboration with the authorities of the Russian Federation and the Advisory Bodies with regard to the international workshop on conservation measures for Kizhi Pogost. Furthermore, the Committee requested the State Party to provide a detailed update of the situation, by 1 February 2003, and requested the Centre to provide a full report on the results of the workshop, in collaboration with the authorities of the Russian Federation and the Advisory Bodies, for its twenty-seventh session in June 2003.

Bureau of the World Heritage Committee,
Paris, 25 - 30 June 2001
Document WHC-2001/CONF.205/10

V.279 The Bureau requested the Russian authorities to submit a report on the state of conservation of the site by 15 September 2001 to assess, at its twenty-fifth extraordinary session, the ways in which the Bureau may be able to collaborate with the Russian authorities to ensure proper conservation of the site.

Extraordinary Session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee,
Helsinki, Finland, 7-8 December 2001
Document WHC-01/CONF.208/4

III.198 The Bureau took note of the information contained in the World Document WHC-01/CONF.207/3. It also took note that a request for emergency assistance from the State Party to hold an international workshop at the site had been received by the Centre and was approved on 14 October 2001 for a total amount of US$ 29,540. This workshop would also include the elaboration of a workplan for the safeguarding of the site.

III.199 The Delegate of Finland underlined that the site has been facing permanent and continual problems since its inscription, notably with regard to the conservation work, management and security measures. He proposed that given an increasing number of wooden churches are being inscribed on the World Heritage List, or were being proposed for inscription, a network of experts and responsible persons at the different sites could be created to respond to different problems. He also recommended that in the future, direct assistance from the Committee to the responsible person at the site be proposed.

III.200 Recalling the structural problems encountered at the site, the Representative of ICCROM indicated that a multidisciplinary conservation plan had been adopted for the site in 1995 but that it had never been implemented. He supported the proposal of the Delegate of Finland and informed that ICCROM would provide assistance, recommending, however, that this approach be global and that all questions affecting the site be treated.

III.201 The Representative of ICOMOS commended the Delegate of Finland for this proposal. He indicated that the services of the International Committee for Wood and Vernacular Architecture of ICOMOS were at the disposal of the Committee for the study suggested by the Delegate of Finland.

III.202 After this debate, the Bureau adopted the following recommendation for examination by the Committee at its twenty-fifth session:

"The Committee takes note of the information provided by ICCROM and thanks the authorities of the Russian Federation for having initiated the process to ensure the protection of the site. In view of the alarming state of consevation of the site, the Committee requests the Secretariat to work in close collaboration with the authorities of the Russian Federation and the Advisory Bodies with regard to the international workshop on conservation measures for Kizhi Pogost. Furthermore, the Committee requests the State Party to provide a detailed update of the situation, by 1 February 2002, and requests the Centre to provide a full report on the results of the workshop, in collaboration with the authorities of the Russian Federation and the Advisory Bodies, for its twenty-sixth session in June 2002."

World Heritage Committee, SESSION XVIII,
Phuket, Thailand, 12-17 December 1994,
Document WHC-94/CONF.003/16

It was recalled that since 1991 ICOMOS had presented to the Committee and the Bureau reports on its involvement in the monitoring of this site and on the efforts to conserve and restore its monuments. ICOMOS reported that the legal protection of the monument and the buffer zone had been considerably improved and that a conservation professional had been assigned. The workplan for 1994 had been completed and included:

- the installation of a system of lightning protection as part of a major reworking of fire protection and security at the site;
- studies of wood deterioration conditions;
- measurement of deformations by hand and photogrammetric techniques;
- analysis of defects to the iconostasis. Completion of the structural analysis is scheduled for the end of January 1995.

A short and a long-term budget and workplans had been established and ICOMOS involvement was foreseen for its implementation. In view of the financial constraints in the Russian Federation, ICOMOS recommended the following:

- high priority be given to undertaking with the Russian and other national authorities, a full discussion of feasible alternative strategies for continued support and activity in conjunction with the already planned March 1995 concept selection meeting;
- on-going monitoring activity be continued; and
- other funding sources be identified and coordinated with the approved conservation plan and priority site needs.

The Committee endorsed these recommendations and requested ICOMOS in consultation with the Secretariat to implement them.

The Committee adopted several ICOMOS recommendations concerning the site:

- endorsed the ICOMOS proposed selection meeting for Helsinki March 1995 held to determine a suitable conservation approach for the Church of the Transfiguration.

  The ICOMOS conservation study of 1993-95 mandate was completed with elaboration of a conservation goals and approach document prepared March 1995 by Andrew Powter, Maija Kairemo and the international and Russian team; subsequently endorsed by the Russian Ministry of Culture. This concept has provided a base for the development of the current Church of the Transfiguration restoration scheme.

  A detailed implementation plan for restoration of the Church of the Transfiguration (including year by year work phases and funding requirements) was made available to participants by the restoration project team.

- the committee endorsed further ICOMOS recommendations regarding:

a) monitoring activity be continued;

Monitoring activity has continued from the1995 completion of the ICOMOS conservation plan, including, in particular the support given this activity by the World Monuments Fund for the purchase of equipment.

b) other funding sources be identified for implementation m of the conservation plan.

Discussions are continuing concerning sources of funding for the conservation of the site. Urgent attention must be given to strengthening efforts in this area and specific projects should be identified which can be submitted to international bilateral funding agencies.

17th session of the Committee World Heritage
Cartagena, Colombia, 6-11 December 1993
Document WHC-93/CONF.002/14

At the seventeenth session of the Bureau, ICOMOS informed about its involvement in the conservation efforts for Kizhi Pogost and that an expert mission would be undertaken to the site. The Bureau approved a technical assistance request to support this mission with funds provided under the Canadian Green Plan. The mission took place in summer 1993 and a full report was available. In collaboration with the Russian counterparts, the mission addressed issues such as legal protection, conservation management, fire protection, iconostasis conservation, documentation, and monitoring, history and authenticity, biological/chemical deterioration, structure and conservation philosophy and goals.

Based on the findings of the mission, ICOMOS recommended that in 1994 high priority be given to finding means to support the following study and decision-making activities:

- monitoring and documentation
- completion of all required preliminary studies and
- reaching consensus on the conservation concept
- completion of individual conservation studies and
- their consolidation within a comprehensive and
- integrated conservation plan.

A major conservation project at the site could then start in 1995.

The Committee commended ICOMOS for its excellent collaboration with the Russian authorities and experts and the collaboration provided by the Governments of Canada, Finland and Norway and the individual ICOMOS members who participated in the mission. The Committee endorsed the recommendations formulated by ICOMOS.

The Committee adopted the recommendations of the August 1993 report on the ICOMOS mission to Kizhi Pogost as part of the ICOMOS conservation study of 1993-95 calling in particular for:

- completion of all required preliminary studies in order to reach consensus on the conservation concept, and to ensure their development within a comprehensive and integrated conservation plan;

See Phuket, December 1994 World Heritage Committee report.

16th session World Heritage Committee,
Santa Fe, USA, December, 7-l4 1992
Document WHC-92/CONF.002/12

With the help of slide illustrations, the ICOMOS Representative introduced the status of the site of Kizhi Pogost, explaining the nature of the problems and the manner in which

urgent problems were determined. This presentation was followed by a discussion during which several technical questions were raised. The Committee decided to support the coordination effort undertaken by ICOMOS for this site, and requested that a report be provided during the next meeting of the Bureau in view of implementing an assistance project. The Committee adopted the recommendation formulated in the ICOMOS report.

The Committee supported ICOMOS coordination efforts for this site and adopted ICOMOS recommendations which suggested need for:

- - further structural analysis of the timber churches.

  Fully carried out during the ICOMOS conservation study of 1993-95 and the current Church of the Transfiguration project, 1999-2002.

- fire protection of timber buildings.

  Fire protection has been fully integrated into the Kizhi Museum management team;

  The 1st stage of the Kizhi Pogost basic protection scheme, supported by the World Monuments Fund is expected to be complete in October 2002;

  The 2nd stage fire protection of the site: feasibility study complete and now under discussion;

  The Ministry of Culture fire protection system for the island now under development; 1st phase funds are allocated, and tender call is underway.

- detailed analysis of biological/chemical decay of the timber structures.

  Carried out during the ICOMOS conservation study of 1993-95;

- conservation analysis of artwork removed from the Church of the Transfiguration

  Analysis carried out prior to and during development of ICOMOS conservation study of 1993-95; iconostasis and all constituent icons and elements are now in appropriately designed storage conditions on Kizhi Island and restoration of individual elements is proceeding. Training and advice has also been provided by ICOMOS Germany in summer 1994. Completion of restoration work with present resources expected to require 8-9 years.

- detailed and accurate documentation of the structures by photogrametric and other means

  Carried out in support of ICOMOS conservation study of 1993-95; also addressed by ICOMOS Germany experts in summer 1993 (Strehler) ; further addressed during development of current Church of Transfiguration project.

- detailed analysis of the degree of original material remaining in the structure (survey of authenticity)

  Carried out during development of the ICOMOS conservation study of 1993-95.

- development of adequate legislative protection for the inscribed site

  The 2002 Masterplan makes provision for use of land within the protected area: regretfully the boundaries of the museum remain undefined and the museum itself is not owner of the lands on which their buildings sit. <u>These unresolved issues should be addressed urgently</u>.

14th session World Heritage Committee,
Banff, Alberta, Canada, 7-12 December 1990,
Document CLT-90/CONF.004/13

The Committee recommended that the authorities concerned maintain the present balance between the natural and built environment, since the introduction of new homes

or wooden churches south of Kizhi Island alters the historical and visual characteristics of the site.

The Committee congratulated the authorities concerned on the recent adoption of a conservation policy that is more in harmony with local traditions and expertise.

[i] Operational Guidelines
179a i) serious deterioration of materials
179aii) serious deterioration of structure or ornamental materials,
179b i) modification of judicial status…
179bii) lack of conservation policy
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[ii] ICOMOS 1993-95; Principles and Practices for Repair of Timber Buildings, ICOMOS; 2002 Workshop recommendations

[iv] Operational Guidelines
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[v] ICOMOS 1993-95; Principles and Practices for Repair of Timber Buildings, ICOMOS; 2002 Workshop recommendations