

The 4th International NGO Forum on World Heritage at Risk

Villa Decius, Krakow, 30 June - 1 July 2017

Resolution

On the Lake Baikal World Heritage Site

The 4th International Civil Society Forum on World Heritage has the following comments and recommendations regarding Draft Decision **41 COM 7B.6** - in the Report to the 41st Session of the World Heritage Committee on the Lake Baikal WHS (Russian Federation) (**N 754**).

- According to our observations none of the Decisions taken by the WHC in 2013-2016 on the environmental assessments of proposed and existing dams has been implemented by the state parties of Russia and Mongolia so far.
- We welcome the requirement to undertake the Strategic Environmental Assessment before all other assessments\planning. We suggest that the World Heritage Centre could take a lead in assisting Mongolia and Russia in launching the SEA of Water Ecosystem Management in the Lake Baikal Basin, also involving in the SEA process concerned communities, NGOs, IUCN, WB, and other parties. We suggest the possibility of the World Heritage Centre taking that role in its Decision of the 41 Session.
- To avoid ambiguity, add clarification to paragraph #3 of the Decision: "*... urges the State Party (Russia) to elaborate an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of potential impacts of existing water use and management regulations on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment , **and not to extend beyond 2017 the present exemption** or introduce any further changes in the **water level management** regulations until their effects on the property are fully understood;*"
- To reflect in paragraph #7 of the Decision, that in response to information provided by the State party of Mongolia "*... notes that according to assessment plans outlined in the documents of the MINIS Project the CIA could and should be undertaken before the feasibility studies for individual dams are undertaken in order to inform the design of those studies.*"
- Add in paragraph #9 "*...expresses concern that the Government of Mongolia in April 2017 made a decision on establishment of a new state company for construction and management of the Eg River Hydro and requests it NOT to approve any of the projects until the above-mentioned EIAs, SEA and assessment of cumulative impacts have been reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*".

Krakow, 1 July 2017