



The 5th International NGO Forum on World Heritage at Risk

Ramada City Center Hotel, Manama, 22 - 23 June 2018

We, the Civil Society Organizations who have attended the 5th International NGO Forum on World Heritage at Risk organized by World Heritage Watch on 22-23 June 2018 in Bahrain, coming from 24 countries in 6 continents, as active and concerned citizens dealing with Natural and Cultural World Heritage properties at different places, would like to bring the following to the attention of the World Heritage Committee:

Resolution

On the Virgin Komi Forests

The State Party of the Russian Federation is preparing amendments to the legislation that allows withdrawing the lands of nature reserves and national parks including lands of Yugyd Va National Park for the development of Chudnoe Gold Deposit.

At the Chudnoe deposit, no restoration work has been carried out to reclaim the lands that were disturbed during the geological exploration work of 2011-2012. Drilling rigs and other equipment remain on the property. Under various pretexts, the implementation of the court decision on the removal of the exploration equipment from the property has been postponed until Sept 2018.

The number of tourist routes inside the Pechoro-Ilychsky Reserve have increased. These routes are fixed by a decision of the Ministry of Natural Resources. At the same time, the Committee's demand to develop a strategy for integrated sustainable management of tourism activities has not been fulfilled.

Many parts of the Committee's decision at 40 COM 7B therefore have not been implemented by the State Party.

The World Heritage Committee is asked to amend the draft decision regarding Western Caucasus:

1. **Recalling** 40 COM 7B.99 regarding concerns about the Chudnoe deposit and tourism impacts on the Pechoro-Ilychsky Reserve, both inside the property;
2. **Reiterating** its established position that mining exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage;
3. **Noting with extreme concern** that, according to official information, the license granted to the ZAO "Gold Minerals" company for exploration and extraction at the

Chudnoe gold deposit has not been revoked, but furthermore, the current license has been amended;

4. **Considering that these issues clearly constitute an ascertained danger to the property's Outstanding Universal Value, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;**
5. **Requesting** that the State Party ensure that tourism is effectively managed across all components of the property in order to minimize negative impacts on its Outstanding Universal Value; and
6. Further **requesting** that the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2019, an updated report on the state of conservation of the entire property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019, with a view to considering, in case of the confirmation of ascertained or potential danger to the property's OUV, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Manama, 23 June 2018