



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 Western Caucasus

The State Party of the Russian Federation has changed the protection status of the property (on its territory it has been allowed to allocate a biosphere polygon, where it is permissible to build sports, tourist facilities and infrastructure). This means there are specific plans for the development of tourism and sports infrastructure within the property.

The State Party has made decisions to allocate land for large-scale construction on the border of the property, which will lead to the degradation of natural complexes (including the cessation of migration routes of animals living on the site).

In March and June 2018, the Ministry of North Caucasus Affairs notified plans for a highway construction through the Property. The planned construction will disrupt the migration corridor and cause the isolation of most valuable ecosystems which provide important habitats for species that are listed as threatened or endangered.

WHW asks the World Heritage Committee to amend the draft decision regarding Western Caucasus:

1. **Noting** 40 COM 7B.101 and 41COM 7B.8 regarding:
 - a. previous legislative changes potentially affecting the property;
 - b. the proposed installation of infrastructure in the property and in the areas in the upper streams of Mzymta River valley which adjoin the property.
2. Also **noting** that the State Party did not submit the information about the existing plans of large scale tourism and sport projects inside the property
3. **Reiterating its extreme concern** that recent legislative changes proposed by the State Party will weaken the protection regime of the property;
4. **Reiterating** its position that such continuing degradation of the protection regime of the property represents potential danger to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
5. **Decides to inscribe the Western Caucasus (Russian Federation) on the List of World Heritage in Danger** in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;

6. Further **requests** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Center, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd Session in 2019.

Manama, 23 June 2018