

**Updated report on the state of preservation of the  
UNESCO World Heritage Site "Volcanoes of Kamchatka"  
(Russian Federation, No. 765bis) in 2023**

**1. The response of the Russian Federation in accordance with the Decision of the World Heritage Committee 45 COM 7B.27**

*On the issue of depriving part of the object of legal protection and the possibility of improper development in connection with the change in the boundaries of the South Kamchatka Natural Park at the national level, as well as in connection with reports on a draft law allowing the boundaries of protected areas to be changed at the federal level.*

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Based on the appeal of the Government of the Kamchatka Territory, in accordance with paragraph 6 of Article 2 of Federal Law No. 33-FZ dated 14.03.1995 "On Specially Protected Natural Territories" (hereinafter referred to as the Law on Protected Areas) and the Law of the Kamchatka Territory dated 29.12.2014 No. 564 "On Specially Protected Natural Territories in the Kamchatka Territory", the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation agreed on a draft Government resolution Kamchatka Territory "On the South Kamchatka Natural Park of Regional Importance, which provides for an increase in the area of the South Kamchatka Natural Park and clarifying its boundaries in order to implement a project for the socio-economic development of the Kamchatka region.

At the same time, in 2022 The Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, in accordance with the instruction of the President of the Russian Federation dated 05.09.2022 No. Pr-1626, supported the initiative of the Governor of the Kamchatka Territory V.V. Solodov to create a specially protected natural area (hereinafter – protected areas) of federal significance in the Kamchatka Territory – a national park with the project name "Volcanoes of Kamchatka" on the basis of protected areas of regional significance – natural parks Klyuchevskoy and South Kamchatka. The Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation has prepared a draft decree of the Government of the Russian Federation "On the creation of the Volcanoes of Kamchatka National Park".

Currently, the draft resolution is undergoing the approval procedure with the interested federal executive authorities and the Government of the Kamchatka Territory. After the approval procedure is completed, the draft resolution will be sent to the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation for legal and anti-corruption expertise, and then submitted to the Government of the Russian Federation in accordance with the established procedure.

Based on the results of the creation of the national park in 2024, the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation will organize work on the establishment of

a protected area of the national park in accordance with clause 10 of Article 2 of the Law on Protected Areas and the Rules for the Creation of protected areas of Certain categories of specially protected natural territories, establishing their borders, determining the regime of protection and use of land and water bodies within the boundaries of such zones, approved by Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 138 dated 19.02.2015.

Thus, the creation of a federal protected area in the Kamchatka Territory under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation and the establishment of its protection zone will ensure the integrity of the UNESCO World Natural Heritage site "Volcanoes of Kamchatka", as well as control over the growing tourist flow.

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*On the issue of organizing a joint mission of responsive monitoring of the World Heritage Center and the IUCN*

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The Russian side will inform about the expected dates of the joint reactive monitoring mission of the World Heritage Center and the IUCN to the World Heritage site "Volcanoes of Kamchatka" in the near future in an official manner.

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*Regarding the implementation of the Three Volcanoes project*

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We again draw the attention of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee to the fact that the investment project "Creation of a resort of international standard and publicly accessible resort infrastructure around the volcanoes Mutnovsky, Vilyuchinsky and Gorely - "Three Volcanoes Park" is being implemented outside the lands of the World Heritage site "Volcanoes of Kamchatka", at a distance from it, in the valley of the Paratunka River, near the Goryachaya hill. No land plots were provided for the implementation of the Three Volcanoes Park project on the territory of the Kamchatka Volcanoes World Heritage Site. One of the missions of the Three Volcanoes Park project is to reduce the anthropogenic load on the World Heritage site "Volcanoes of Kamchatka" by creating a regulated tourism and recreation infrastructure in the adjacent territory.

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*On the issue of ensuring the implementation of the improvement of the zoning of the facility, the creation of effective buffer zones around its components and the adoption of measures to control and limit unsustainable tourism*

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Based on the results of the creation of the national park with project name "Volcanoes of Kamchatka" on the basis of protected areas of regional significance -

natural parks "Klyuchevskoy" and "South Kamchatka", in 2024, the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation will organize work on the establishment of a protected area of the national park in accordance with clause 10 of Article 2 of the Law on Protected Areas and the Rules for the Creation of protected areas of Certain categories of specially protected natural territories, establishing their borders, determining the regime of protection and use of land and water bodies within the boundaries of such zones, approved by Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 138 dated 19.02.2015.

Thus, the creation of a federal protected area in the Kamchatka Territory under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation and the establishment of its protection zone will ensure the integrity of the UNESCO World Natural Heritage site "Volcanoes of Kamchatka", as well as control over the growing tourist flow.

*On the issue of clarifying the functional zoning of the facility, as well as on the establishment of a strictly protected area of federal significance "Kamchatka Volcanoes National Park", including the Klyuchevskoy and South Kamchatka natural parks*

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The Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation has prepared a draft decree of the Government of the Russian Federation "On the creation of the Volcanoes of Kamchatka National Park". Based on the results of the creation of the national park in 2024, the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation will organize work on the establishment of a protected area of the national park in accordance with clause 10 of Article 2 of the Law on Protected Areas and the Rules for the Creation of protected areas of Certain categories of specially protected natural territories, establishing their borders, determining the regime of protection and use of land and water bodies within the boundaries of such zones, approved by Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 138 dated 19.02.2015.

*On the issue of expanding the boundaries of the national park and including the South Kamchatka Natural Park and the Vilyuchinskaya and Zhirovaya bays into its composition*

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It is assumed that the Zhirovaya and Vilyuchinskaya bays will be included in the boundaries of the protected zone of the national park after its creation.

## **2. Information on other current issues related to the preservation of the heritage site**

### **Preservation of natural complexes the World Heritage Site "Volcanoes of Kamchatka"**

1. The degree of anthropogenic impact on the territory of the Kronotsky State Nature Reserve and the South Kamchatka State Nature Reserve of federal significance is estimated as very low. For tourist activities, equipped ecological routes are used, which are mainly accessible only by helicopter.

In 2024, it is planned to assess the capacity and maximum permissible changes in the Uzon-Geysersky area, the most visited area of the Kronotsky Reserve.

In 2022 and 2023, an assessment of the capacity and maximum permissible changes in the South Kamchatka Nature Reserve was carried out, and the results are currently being processed in-house.

In general, the development of tourist and economic activities in the Kamchatka Territory does not expose the territories of the South Kamchatka State Nature Reserve of Federal significance and the Kronotsky State Nature Reserve to dangerous effects, due to the limited attendance regime, limited tourist season and the remoteness of the display objects from the main settlements.

2. In general, the degree of anthropogenic impact on the object in the territories of natural parks of regional significance of the Kamchatka Territory "Bystrinsky", "Nalychevo", "South Kamchatka", "Klyuchevskoy" is estimated as moderate.

In order to minimize the impact of anthropogenic factors, work has been carried out on the functional zoning of the territory of natural parks of regional significance, secured by establishing a special protection regime for each functional zone.

At the same time, the development of tourism and recreational activities carries some risks of the development of ecosystem degradation processes.

During the study of the development of gully erosion processes in the volcanic landscapes of the Klyuchevskoy Natural Park in 2021, it was found that mechanical soil disturbances entail changes in the water-physical characteristics of soils (due to their compaction), thermal insulation properties of vegetation cover. For erosion forms confined to dirt roads in the specified natural park, recommendations have been developed for anti-erosion measures in the form of their drainage (equipped ditches), as well as for the implementation of surface soil consolidation (sowing of frost-resistant perennial grasses with a powerful root system typical of the mountain-meadow zone of Kamchatka).

The change in vegetation and soil is noted in the area of the Avachinsky Pass (Nalychevo Park), the caldera of the Gorely volcano (South Kamchatka Park), the dead forest, the "Table" and "Hoof" parking lots, the Ushkovsky Dol plateau, the Edelweiss glades (Klyuchevskoy Park).

As a pilot project in 2024, it is planned to carry out work on calculating the maximum permissible recreational capacity of the Nalychevo Natural Park in the implementation of tourism.

In 2023, in 42 assigned hunting grounds located within the boundaries of the parks, surveys of the number of hunting resources were carried out by the hunting users. The state of the number of hunting resources is assessed as stable, the dynamics of the number of wild animals is determined by natural environmental factors and established withdrawal standards.

### **Conservation of biological diversity the World Heritage Site "Volcanoes of Kamchatka"**

1. In terms of information on the biological diversity of the Kronotsky State Natural Biosphere Reserve and the South Kamchatka State Natural Reserve of Federal significance.

The main types of landscapes are active volcanoes, volcanic plateaus, calderas of active and extinct volcanoes, mountain tundra, alpine meadows, boreal coniferous, mixed, deciduous, floodplain forests, coastal tundra, swamp complexes, erosive landforms.

The fauna of terrestrial and marine mammals of the protected federal territories includes 52 species. The fauna of amphibians and reptiles is extremely scarce and counts only 1 species - the autochthonous Siberian eel-tooth (*Salamandrella keyserlingii*).

A strict nature protection regime is in effect on the territory of the Kronotsky State Natural Biosphere Reserve and the South Kamchatka State Nature Reserve of Federal Significance, prohibiting hunting activities and industrial and amateur fishing. The presence of organized groups of ecological tourists in the areas of the Kronotsky State Natural Biosphere Reserve is provided only along designated routes and only accompanied by an inspector of the institution's security service. In the South Kamchatka State Nature Reserve of federal significance, it is possible for tourists to be unaccompanied, but the organization of tourism and the need to be safe from wild animals encourages tourists to use the service of being accompanied by a security service inspector, as well as to move exclusively in organized groups.

The regulations on the Kronotsky State Natural Biosphere Reserve and the South Kamchatka State Natural Reserve of Federal significance, including their functional zoning, have been approved.

The annual provision of state funding for the activities of the Federal State Budgetary Institution Kronotsky State Nature Reserve (manages the Kronotsky State Natural Biosphere Reserve and the South Kamchatka State Nature Reserve of Federal Significance, hereinafter referred to as the Institution), as well as the planned annual increase in funding and extra-budgetary revenues, make it possible to increase the effectiveness of tasks to monitor compliance with environmental legislation. Provision of necessary infrastructure and equipment.

The staff of the Institution is 183 people, including 72 security personnel. Senior state inspectors – 10 people, district state inspectors in the field of environmental protection in specially protected natural territories of regional significance – 8 people, state inspectors in the field of environmental protection in specially protected natural territories of regional significance – 45 people.

The territory is constantly guarded and patrolled by security personnel, including with the involvement of law enforcement and supervisory authorities. In 2023, 26 administrative cases were identified, of which 25 cases were considered.

2. In the natural parks of regional significance of the Kamchatka Territory "Bystrinsky", "Nalychevo", "South Kamchatka", "Klyuchevskoy"), the fauna of terrestrial mammals has 35 species (without synanthropic species). The fauna of amphibians and reptiles includes 2 species: the autochthonous Siberian eel-tooth (*Salamandrella keyserlingii*) and the unintentionally introduced lake frog (*Rana ridibunda*).

On the territory of all parks, hunting is carried out on fixed hunting grounds within the time limits set for hunting. Hunting of bighorn sheep and black-capped marmot is prohibited on the territory of the Nalychevo and South Kamchatka parks.

Regulations on all parks have been approved, including their functional zoning.

The increase in state funding for the activities of the Regional State Budgetary Institution "Kamchatka Volcanoes Nature Park" (hereinafter referred to as RSBI KVNP) made it possible to improve the efficiency of fulfilment of tasks related to supervision over compliance with environmental legislation. At the same time, the problems of resource availability were only partially solved. An increase in the number of operating routes, the approval of their passports, and an increase in applications for tourist tours on the territory of the territories subordinated to the RSBI KVNP lead to situations of shortage of inspectors to carry out control and supervisory activities.

The full-time staff of the RSBI KVNP is 47 people, including 17 state inspectors in the field of environmental protection in specially protected natural territories of regional significance, 5 district state inspectors in the field of environmental protection in specially protected natural territories of regional significance, and 3 senior state inspectors. The total number of inspectors is 25 people.

The RSBI KVNP continued the practice of investigating and bringing to administrative responsibility violators of the regime according to information posted on social networks that received the most significant response.

### **Management of the World Natural Heritage Site "Volcanoes of Kamchatka"**

1. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation performs the functions of managing specially protected natural territories of federal significance in the Kamchatka Territory through the Federal State Budgetary Institution Kronotsky State Reserve.

The main tasks of object management include:

1) preservation of integrity, natural state, restoration of disturbed natural sites and complexes as part of the UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site;

2) preservation of typical, rare, unique and reference natural historical and cultural complexes and objects, biodiversity, including preservation of natural ecological systems, their environment-forming functions and biological productivity in a natural state, including preservation of unique Pacific coastal ecosystems, mountain ecosystems, ecosystems of thermal and mineral springs, boreal deciduous (stone-birch), coniferous, mixed and floodplain forests, steppe forests, subalpine meadows, high-mountain tundras, volcanic plateaus, spawning rivers and lakes formed under the direct influence of modern volcanism, glaciation, post-volcanic processes, active cyclonic activity, other geological and climatic processes and phenomena;

3) protection of rare animal and plant species listed in the Red Book of Kamchatka Krai and the Red Book of the Russian Federation, including such flag species as: reindeer, Okhotsk subspecies (*Rangifer tarandus phylarchus*), Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*), common seal Kuril subspecies (*Antur*) (*Phoca vitulina stejnegeri*), Steller sea lion (*Enhydra lutris*), humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), black whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*), killer whale (*Orcinus orca*), Steller's sea eagle (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*);

4) creation of conditions for the expansion of the economic base of municipal districts within the biosphere reserve cooperation zone, through the development of cooperation with the local population and tourist organisations, through the

development of regulated ecological tourism in accordance with the established recreational capacity of certain natural complexes and territories;

5) minimization of negative anthropogenic impact on natural natural complexes and ecological systems in the implementation of ecological tourism;

6) implementation of state environmental monitoring (state environmental monitoring), continuous series of observations and keeping a Chronicle of nature;

7) environmental education and development of ecological culture of the population.

In order to form the ecological culture, the Institution is working in three main areas: environmental awareness activities, support for volunteerism, preparation of speeches and publications in the media.

During the year, the staff of the Institution conducted more than 80 environmental awareness events, which were attended by 12,023 people. The events took place in various formats, including lectures and seminars, promotions, games and contests.

Over the past year, federal and regional media have published more than 2,000 publications about the activities of the Federal State Budgetary Institution Kronotsky State Reserve. The main news items related to the environmental agenda and specifics of nature conservation in Kamchatka, including comments from experts and researchers.

Meetings were held in educational institutions (kindergartens, schools, centers of additional education, technical schools and colleges), as well as in open areas (city and regional holidays and festivals). The geography of these events is quite extensive: the cities of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky and Yelizovo, the villages of Tilichiki, Milkovo and the village of Ozernovsky.

The monthly audience of the website of the Federal State Budgetary Institution "Kronotsky State Reserve" is 38 thousand visitors. The official channels on the Institution's social media are the VKontakte group <https://vk.com/kronoki> , Odnoklassniki group <https://ok.ru/kronotskyz> and the telegram channel <https://t.me/kronoki>

with a combined audience coverage of more than 40 thousand users.

2. The functions of state management of protected areas of regional importance in the Kamchatka Territory are carried out by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Kamchatka Territory through the RSBI "Volcanoes of Kamchatka Natural Park".

The main tasks of object management include:

1) preservation of integrity, natural state, restoration of disturbed natural sites and complexes as part of the UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site;



2) preservation of typical, rare, unique and reference natural historical and cultural complexes and objects, biodiversity, including preservation of natural ecological systems, their environment-forming functions and biological productivity in a natural state, including preservation of unique Pacific coastal ecosystems, mountain ecosystems, ecosystems of thermal and mineral springs, boreal deciduous (stone-birch), coniferous, mixed and floodplain forests, steppe forests, subalpine meadows, high-mountain tundras, volcanic plateaus, spawning rivers and lakes formed under the direct influence of modern volcanism, glaciation, post-volcanic processes, active cyclonic activity, other geological and climatic processes and phenomena;

3) protection of rare animal and plant species listed in the Red Book of Kamchatka Krai and the Red Book of the Russian Federation, including narrow-areal native isolated populations of resident seal (*Oncorhynchus nerka kennerlyi*) and Taranets' char (*Salvelinus taranetzi*), preservation of their habitat;

4) creation of conditions for expanding the economic base of municipal districts by developing the infrastructure of regulated tourism and recreation (including mass tourism), development of balneology in accordance with the established recreational capacity of individual natural complexes and objects of the natural park;

5) minimisation of negative anthropogenic impact on the natural ecological systems of Lake Kapovoye (Podsopochnoye), including tourism;

6) implementation of state environmental monitoring (state environmental monitoring);

7) environmental education of the public.

In order to develop the territories the works on conditioning and arrangement of tourist routes are carried out, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of Kamchatka Krai by the order from 05.09.2023 № 10-N approved the Procedure of registration and issuance of permits to visit specially protected natural territories of regional importance of Kamchatka Krai, management and protection of which is carried out by regional state budgetary institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of Kamchatka Krai.

In order to form the ecological culture, RSBI KVNP is working in three main areas: environmental awareness activities, support for volunteerism, preparation of speeches and publications in the media.

During the year, the staff of the RSBI KVNP conducted more than 50 environmental awareness events, which were attended by more than 20.0 thousand people. The events took place in various formats, including lectures and seminars, promotions, games and contests. The work was carried out within the framework of projects with the population, regional holidays and festivals, as well as online on the social media sites of the RSBI KVNP. The geography of the events: the

cities of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky and Yelizovo, the villages of Ezzo and Anavgai of the Bystrinsky district, visits to various institutions of the Yelizovsky, Milkovsky and Ust-Kamchatsky districts were conducted.

There are more than 130 publications on the official website, social networks of the RSBI KVNP, as well as regional and federal media. In general, the Internet audience is interested in publications about the natural attractions of the region (especially volcanoes), as well as issues of tourism development and expert advice. The audience of the RSBI KVNP website is more than 32.0 thousand visitors.

The official channels of the RSBI KVNP in social media are the VKontakte group <https://vk.com/vulcanikamchatki> and the telegram channel <https://t.me/vulcanikamchatki> . The coverage of the official VKontakte group is more than 25.0 thousand users.

**3. Major changes within the World Heritage site under consideration have not been noted and are not predicted.**