

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF  
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION  
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**Forty-seventh session  
UNESCO, Paris  
6 – 16 July 2025**

**Item 7B of the Provisional Agenda:  
State of conservation of properties inscribed  
on the of World Heritage List**

**Summary**

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/47COM/documents>

All previous state of conservation reports will be available through the World Heritage State of conservation Information System at the following Web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

**Decision required:** The World Heritage Committee may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

**Note:** For each section, the reports are presented in the English alphabetical order of States Parties.

protection status and the OUV of the property and submit the results to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;

9. Also notes with appreciation that the Komodo dragon population remains stable, and reiterates its request for the State Party to continue regular population monitoring and implement management measures that ensure the long-term protection of the species, especially in the context of tourism expansion;
10. Further notes with appreciation the State Party's commitment to strengthening marine management and ensuring resource allocation, and urges the State Party to continue strengthening such measures, including to address liveaboard and cruise ship regulation, and revenue generation for management;
11. Also welcomes the implementation of an official stakeholder engagement forum including local communities, and strengthening of inclusive and participatory decision-making for the conservation of the property;
12. Further notes the Retrospective Inventory process clarification that the boundaries of the property should encompass the offshore island groups and not the buffer zone or the reserves on Flores Island in line with the IUCN Evaluation at the time of inscription, and further requests the State Party to provide a map of the property, as inscribed, following the current cartographic standards, including only the offshore island groups and surrounding marine areas;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

## **7. Shiretoko (Japan)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1193/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1193/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

February 2008: joint World Heritage Centre/ IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; September 2019: IUCN Advisory mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management activities (Management of the Western Steller sea lion population);
- Aquaculture (Management of commercial fisheries, including coordination and cooperation with neighboring States Parties);

- Other climate change impacts (Anticipated effects of climate change);
- Hyper-abundant species (Excessive population density of Sika Deer affecting forest regeneration and vegetation more broadly);
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Water infrastructure (River engineering, in particular dams, impeding or restricting fish migration, including major runs of salmonids)
- Management system/management plan (Tourism and visitor management).

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1193/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 21 June 2024, the World Heritage Centre transmitted to the State Party third party concerns regarding the construction of mobile phone communication bases and solar power facilities in the property. The State Party provided a response on 30 August 2024.

On 29 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1193/documents/> and reports the following:

- The *Adaptive Management Strategy for Climate Change in the Shiretoko Natural World Heritage Site* (appended to report) was developed in 2024. It is reported to take into consideration the expected impact of climate change on the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and identify adaptation measures;
- The Basic Management Policy (BMP) to manage Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) was revised in 2024 to reduce damage to fisheries and conserve the sea lion population. The BMP covers all Stellar sea lions migrating to Japan (including in Nemuro Strait, excluded in the initial BMP published in 2014), and catch limits for the two breeding populations in the Sea of Okhotsk and the Kuril Islands were set below the “potential biological removal level”, based on population dynamics models for each population to ensure catches are based on the precautionary principle and implemented through adaptive management, addressing past overharvesting;
- The potential cause of some seabird populations (Japanese cormorants (*Phalacrocorax capillatus*), black-tailed gulls (*Larus crassirostris*), and slaty-backed gulls (*Larus schistisagus*)) decreasing by half will be identified through ongoing monitoring;
- The Phase II Long-Term Monitoring Plan (LTMP) for the property (appended to report) was revised in 2024 to outline the monitoring indicators necessary to assess and evaluate the current status of the heritage values for adaptive management in line with the Management Plan for the property;
- Regarding the 2019 IUCN Advisory mission recommendations related to river ecosystems, various monitoring measures are being continued to improve the Rusha River; wooden debris from the upper reaches is trapped in the river’s natural topography and the effectiveness of a method for capturing debris will be monitored and studied; and various monitoring measures will be continued regarding fish runs including the use of the riverbed path as a route for salmonids to migrate upstream.

On 8 April 2025, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre and IUCN that plans for the construction of mobile phone communication bases had been cancelled.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Recalling that effects of climate change are generating greater concern and there has been a lack of data to monitor climate change impacts, it is welcomed that an adaptive management strategy for the property has been finalised to take into consideration expected climate change impacts on the OUV and identify adaptation measures. It is also positive that the revision of the 2022-2032 LTMP has been completed and is intended to guide monitoring over the next decade in line with the Management Plan for the property, and that the LTMP includes reference to various biodiversity values under criterion (x), including attributes of the OUV such as salmonid species, seabirds and marine mammals, as requested. It is recommended the State Party ensure effective implementation of the strategy and the LTMP as part of a long-term approach to monitor the state of conservation and inform management decisions that ensure the protection of the OUV.

It is positive that population dynamics models have been developed for the two breeding populations of Steller sea lions and that these informed the revision of the BMP, which is reported to include all sea lions migrating to Japan (including those previously excluded from management) and aims to reduce damage to fisheries whilst conserving the sea lion populations. Although it is unclear whether the IUCN Species Survival Commission was consulted, it is positive that these models have informed the setting of catch limits at a level that is considered to be below the “potential biological removal level” to address overharvesting which had resulted in the species’ population decline. It is recommended the State Party ensure that sustainable fisheries management measures continue to be informed by scientific population data to ensure the long-term conservation of the species as an attribute of the OUV.

The State Party’s intention to identify the cause of the previously reported reduction in certain seabird populations by half since the time of inscription, is noted. It is recommended the findings are included in the next state of conservation report and that the causes are addressed, as necessary.

The various efforts related to the monitoring and improvement of the river ecosystem in response to the 2019 Advisory mission that are reported to be continuing, including monitoring of topography, salmonids running upstream, spawning and juveniles, as well as to consider wooden debris and ensuring an unobstructed migration path for salmonids, are noted and should be continued.

The cancellation of the construction of a mobile phone infrastructure on the Shiretoko peninsula that would have included a power supply facility (6,946 m<sup>2</sup> including solar panels and a storage battery), monorail and buried pipes, is noted. The State Party is reminded that for any future developments within the property or in its vicinity, the potential impacts of a proposed infrastructure on the OUV are first assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, before any decision is made to proceed.

#### **Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.7**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **41 COM 7B.30**, **43 COM 7B.10**, **44 COM 7B.186** and **45 COM 7B.84**, adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the finalisation of an Adaptive Management Strategy for Climate Change to address climate change-driven impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and requests the State Party to ensure that sufficient allocation of resources is provided for its implementation, including long-term monitoring of climate change impacts, and the ongoing protection of the OUV of the property;*
4. *Also welcomes that the Basic Management Policy for managing Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) has been revised based on new population dynamics models of the two breeding populations in the Sea of Okhotsk and the Kuril Islands, and that catch levels have been set at limits that are considered to conserve the sea lion population, and also requests the State Party to continue implementing a sustainable fisheries management approach that is precautionary, adaptive and continues to be informed by scientific population data in order to ensure the long-term conservation of the species as an attribute of the OUV, in consultation with the IUCN Species Survival Commission as required;*
5. *Takes note that the cause for the reported decrease by half of some seabird populations since the inscription of the property will be identified through ongoing monitoring efforts, and further requests the State Party to report on its findings and address such causes, as necessary, to maintain species that are important attributes of the OUV;*

6. *Notes with appreciation that the revision of the Long-Term Monitoring Plan (LTMP) for the property has been completed, and that the revised 2022-2032 LTMP includes reference to various biodiversity values under criterion (x), including attributes of the OUV such as salmonid species, seabirds and marine mammals, and requests furthermore the State Party to implement the LTMP as part of a long-term approach to monitor the state of conservation and inform management decisions that ensure the protection of the OUV;*
7. *Also takes note of the State Party's ongoing response to the 2019 IUCN Advisory mission recommendations including through the monitoring and improvement of the river ecosystem, and encourages the State Party to continue to implement these actions;*
8. *Further notes the cancellation of the reported construction of a mobile phone infrastructure on Shiretoko peninsula, and reminds the State Party to ensure any future development proposals within the property or in its vicinity are subject to an Environment and Social Impact Assessment in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to assess any potential impacts on the OUV, before any decision is made to proceed;*
9. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN.*

## **8. Western Tien-Shan (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan)**

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

## **9. Cold Winter Deserts of Turan (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan)**

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

## **10. Phoenix Islands Protected Area (Kiribati)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2010

Criteria (vii)(ix)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1325/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1325/assistance/>