Special Issue:
Russia's World Natural Heritage Sites

• Lake Baikal to be Spared Pipeline Threat
• A Transportation Corridor through the Ukok Plateau?
• Russia and Mongolia Collaborate to Preserve the Uvs Nuur Basin
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The mission of the Center for Russian Nature Conservation (CRNC) is to promote the conservation of nature in Russia and throughout the former Soviet Union, and to assist conservation groups in that region through information exchange, coordination of professional and education exchanges, and provision of technical assistance to protected areas. CRNC is a project of the Tides Center.


RCN has many partners and friends in Russia, including the Partnership for Zapovedniks, whose mission is to offer organizational, technical, and financial help to zapovedniki and national parks in Russia.

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### World Natural Heritage Sites in the Russian Federation

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of World Heritage Site</th>
<th>Year Inscribed on the World Heritage List</th>
<th>Criteria for Inscription</th>
<th>Specially Protected Nature Areas Included in the Site (Area, in Hectares)</th>
<th>Total Area of World Heritage Site (in Hectares)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Virgin Komi Forests</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Natural Criteria (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)</td>
<td>Pechoro-Ilyichsky Biosphere Zapovednik…………………(721,322) Pechoro-Ilyichsky Biosphere Zapovednik Buffer Zone …………(666,000) Yugyd Va National Park………………………………………(1,891,701) Baikalsky Biosphere Zapovednik………………………………………(165,724) Barguzinsky Biosphere Zapovednik………………………………………(374,322) Baikalo-Lensky Zapovednik………………………………………(660,000) Pribaiisky National Park………………………………………(418,000) Zabaikalsky National Park………………………………………(246,000) Tunkinsky National Park………………………………………(*) Kabansky Federal Zakaznik………………………………………(12,100) Frolikhinsky Federal Zakaznik………………………………………(109,200) *an uncalculated portion of the park’s 1,183,662 hectares</td>
<td>3.28 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Baikal</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Natural Criteria (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)</td>
<td>Kronotsky Biosphere Zapovednik………………………………………(1,007,134) Yuzhno-Kamchatsky Federal Zakaznik and Yuzhno-Kamchatsky Nature Park………………………………………(800,000) Bystriinsky Nature Park………………………………………(1,250,000) Nalychevo Nature Park………………………………………(265,000) Kluchevskoi Nature Park………………………………………(376,000)</td>
<td>8.8 million</td>
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<td>Western Caucasus</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Natural Criteria (ii), (iv)</td>
<td>Tikhookeansky Biosphere Zapovednik………………………………………(1,160,000) Bolshoy Takh Nature Park………………………………………(2,300,000) Vilyuchinsky Nature Park………………………………………(1,500,000)</td>
<td>300,000</td>
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<td>Central Sikhote-Alin</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Natural Criterion (iv)</td>
<td>Sakhoro-Alinsky Biosphere Zapovednik………………………………………(390,184) Goralovsky Federal Zakaznik………………………………………(4,749)</td>
<td>395,000</td>
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<td>Uvs Nuur Basin</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Natural Criteria (ii), (iv)</td>
<td>Ubsunurskaya Kotlovina Biosphere Zapovednik(Russia)…………………(258,620) Uvs Nuur State Nature Reserve (Mongolia)………………………………………(810,233)</td>
<td>1.069 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural System of Wrangel Island Reserve</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Natural Criteria (ii), (iv)</td>
<td>Wrangel Island Zapovednik………………………………………(2,226,000)</td>
<td>2.226 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Selection Criteria

Until late 2004, when Russia’s last natural site, Wrangel Island, was inscribed on the World Heritage List, properties were selected on the basis of six cultural and four natural criteria, with the protection, management, authenticity, and integrity of properties also being important considerations. According to UNESCO criteria, a property may be inscribed if it:

(i) Contains superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;

(ii) Represents major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;

(iii) Represents significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal, and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;

(iv) Contains the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

Note: In 2005, the selection criteria for cultural and natural sites were combined into one list of criteria numbered (i)-(x), when the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention were revised. Under the current system, natural criteria (i)-(iv) detailed above are known as criteria (vii)-(x), respectively. It is under these new criteria that Russia's future World Natural Heritage sites will be inscribed.