

**Informational and analytical note
on the situation with cultural and archeological heritage in the temporarily
occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of
Sevastopol**

As of 2014, there were 4,095 state-protected sites of national and local significance in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Taking into account internally complex objects, this number goes up to 8,693 and includes the following types: 1,279 (2,582) historical sites, 2,037 (5,190) archeological sites; 260 (260) monumental sculptures; 519 (661) architectural and urban planning sites. 118 sites (excluding internally complex ones) hold the status of sites of national significance.

Together with Sevastopol, there are 5,342 sites of local and national significance, or 12,612 when taking into account internally complex ones, with their numbers by type as follows: 2,072 (3,861) historical sites, 2,189 (7,227) archeological sites, 280 (520) monumental sculptures, 794 (1,004) architectural and urban planning sites¹.

In addition, Ukraine's Ministry of Culture and Information Policy counts over 30 museums and art galleries in Crimea, with about 1 million 200 thousand exhibits, as well as about 773 libraries.

The Tauric Chersonese National Reserve is on the UNESCO World Heritage List, while such sites as the Khan's Palace in Bakhchysarai, the Genoese Fortress in Sudak, the Crimean Astrophysical Observatory, the cave cities of Mangup-Kale, Eski-Kermen and Chufut-Kale are currently on the UNESCO Tentative List). All these sites are part of Ukraine's cultural heritage and it is Ukraine's right to handle their use, preservation and protection².

However, the situation changed drastically after the peninsula's occupation by Russia. Since the outset of the temporary occupation of the ARC and Sevastopol, Russia has appropriated Ukraine's cultural heritage there and now disposes of it as it sees fit. In some cases this has resulted in significant harm to protected cultural sites, which threatens their future.

Policy of the occupying administration

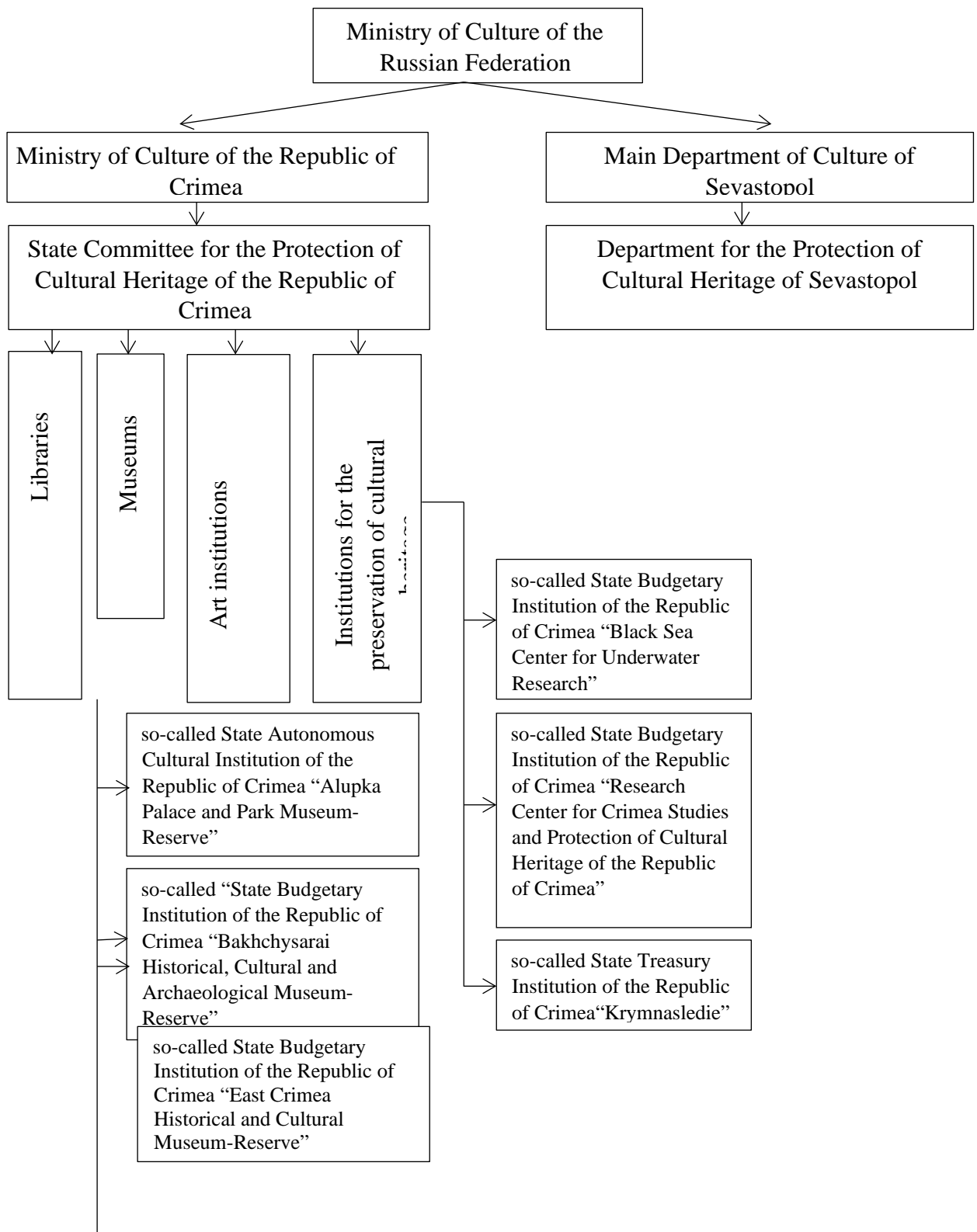
The policy concerning the protection of cultural and archeological heritage in the temporarily occupied territory of the ARC and Sevastopol is dictated by the so-called Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Crimea and the State Committee for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Crimea in Crimea, as well as the so-called Main Department of Culture of Sevastopol and the Department for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Sevastopol in Sevastopol.

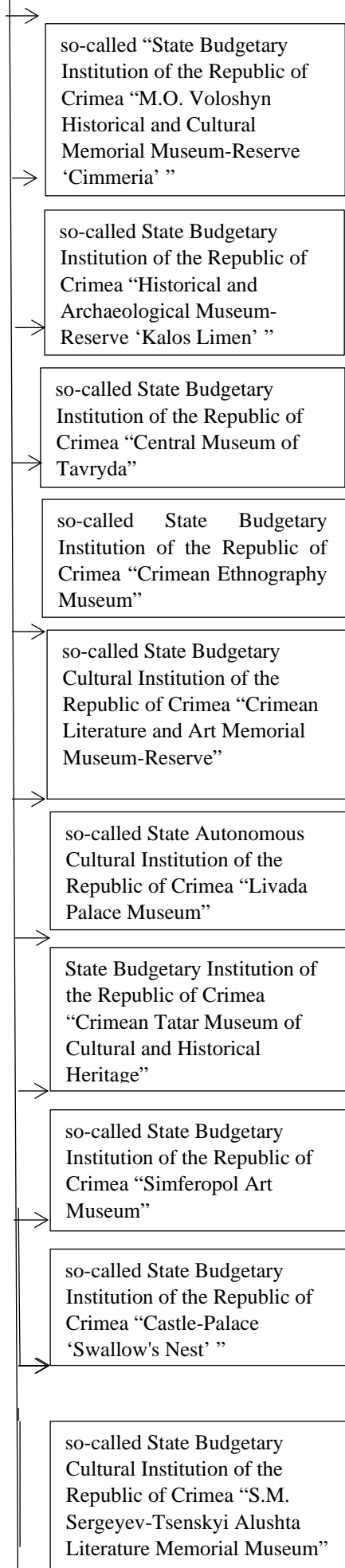
¹ <http://www.ppu.gov.ua/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Stan-kulturnoji-spadshhyny-Krymu.pdf>

² <https://voicecrimea.com.ua/main/articles/problemni-pitannya-formuvannya-derzhavno%D1%97-politiki-ukra%D1%97ni-v-sferi-zaxistu-kulturno%D1%97-spadshhini.html>

The State Committee for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Crimea includes the following units: State Budgetary Institution “Black Sea Center for Underwater Research”, State Budgetary Institution “Research Center for Crimea Studies and Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Crimea”, as well as State Treasury Institution “Krymnasledie”.

**Structure
of Russia’s occupying bodies responsible for policy on the protection of
cultural and archaeological heritage in the temporarily occupied territory of the
Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol**





so-called State Budgetary
Institution of the Republic of
Crimea “Historical and
Archaeological Museum-
Reserve ‘Scythian Neapolis’ ”

→ so-called State Budgetary
Institution of the Republic of
Crimea “Sudak Fortress
Museum-Reserve”

The occupation and attempted annexation of the ARC and Sevastopol marked the beginning of Russia’s campaign to enforce its own laws and regulations in the field of protecting cultural and archaeological heritage.

Regulatory framework of the occupying state in the field of identification, use, recording and preservation of cultural heritage sites:

- Federal Law no. 73-FZ of June 25, 2002 “On Cultural Heritage Sites (Historical and Cultural Landmarks) of the Peoples of the Russian Federation”;
- Decree of the President of the Russian Federation no. 1487 of November 30, 1992 “On Particularly Valuable Cultural Heritage Sites of the Peoples of the Russian Federation”;
- Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation no. 569 of June 15, 2009 “On Adopting Regulations on the State Historical and Cultural Evaluation”;
- Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation no. 972 of September 12, 2015 “On Adopting Regulations on Protection Zones of Cultural Heritage Sites (Historical and Cultural Landmarks) of the Peoples of the Russian Federation and on Invalidating Certain Provisions of Regulations of the Government of the Russian Federation”;
- Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation no. 127 of February 20, 2014 “On Adopting Rules for the Issuance, Suspension and Termination of Permits (Open Letters) for Performing Activities Involving the Identification and Study of Archaeological Heritage Sites”;
- Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation no. 954 of October 3, 2011 “On Adopting Regulations on the Unified State Register of Cultural Heritage Sites (Historical and Cultural Landmarks) of the Peoples of the Russian Federation”;
- Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation no. 1905 of July 2, 2015 “On Adopting the Procedure for Identifying Sites with Characteristics of a Cultural Heritage Site and Performing State Registration of Sites with Characteristics of a Cultural Heritage Site”;
- Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation no. 1906 of June 2, 2015 “On Adopting the Passport Format of a Cultural Heritage Site”;
- Federal Law no. 95-FZ of April 5, 2016 “On Amending the Federal Law ‘On Cultural Heritage Sites (Historical and Cultural Landmarks) of the Peoples of the Russian Federation’ and Article 15 of the Federal Law ‘On the State Cadastre of Real Estate’ ”, which provides for the establishment of protected zones adjacent to sites and ensembles included in the Unified State Register of Cultural Heritage Sites.
- Federal Law no. 9-FZ of February 2, 2015 “On the Particulars of Legal Regulation of Relations in the Field of Culture and Tourism” (hereinafter referred to

as Law no. 9-FZ). The regulation of relations in the field of cultural heritage protection in the territory of the occupied ARC and Sevastopol as well as issuance of documents are carried out in accordance with Article 2 of the Law no. 9-FZ;

- Fundamentals of State Cultural Policy, adopted by the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation no. 808 of December 24, 2014;

- Strategy for State Cultural Policy 2030, adopted by Order of the Government of the Russian Federation no. 326-r of February 29, 2016;

- Federal Targeted Program “Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol 2024”, adopted by the Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation no. 790 of August 11, 2014;

- State Program of the Russian Federation “Development of Culture”, adopted by the Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation no. 317 of April 15, 2014;

- Federal Law of the Russian Federation no. 54-FZ of May 26, 1996 “On the Museum Fund of the Russian Federation and Museums in the Russian Federation”.

Regulatory framework of the local occupying administration of the so-called Republic of Crimea and the “City of Federal Significance” Sevastopol in the field of identification, use, recording and preservation of cultural heritage sites:

- Law of the so-called Republic of Crimea no. 68-ZRK of September 11, 2014 “On Cultural Heritage Sites in the Republic of Crimea”;

- Law of the city of Sevastopol no. 206-ZS of November 25, 2015 “On Cultural Heritage Sites of the City of Sevastopol”;

- Law of the so-called Republic of Crimea no. 453-ZRK/2018 of January 9, 2018 “On Museums and Museum Affairs in the Republic of Crimea”;

- Resolution of the so-called Council of Ministers of the Republic of Crimea no. 627 of December 20, 2016 “On Registration of Cultural Heritage Sites as Sites of Regional Significance and Identification of Cultural Heritage Sites”;

- Resolution of the so-called State Council of the Republic of Crimea no. 1841-6/14 of March 26, 2014 “On Measures Aimed at Preserving Cultural Heritage”;

- Law of the city of Sevastopol no. 357-ZS of July 21, 2017 “On Adopting the Strategy for Socio-Economic Development of the City of Sevastopol 2030”;

- Resolution of the Government of Sevastopol no. 1050-PP of November 7, 2016 “On Adopting the State program of the City of Sevastopol ‘Development of Culture and Tourism of the City of Sevastopol’ ”;

- Law of the Republic of Crimea no. 352-ZRK/2017 of January 9, 2017 “On the Strategy for Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Crimea 2030”;

- Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Crimea no. 28 of January 31, 2017 “On Adopting the State Program of the Republic of Crimea

‘Development of Culture, Recording and Preservation of Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Crimea 2017-2020’ ”;

- Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Crimea no. 32 of February 9, 2015 “On Adopting the State Program of the Republic of Crimea ‘Development of Culture and Preservation of Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Crimea 2015-2017’ ”.

Ukrainian cultural heritage sites in the occupied Crimea started being included in Russia’s cultural heritage protection system with Resolution of the so-called State Council of the Republic of Crimea no. 2152-6/14 of May 21, 2014 “On Measures Aimed at Preserving Cultural Heritage Sites in the Republic of Crimea during the Transition Period”, which declared that sites listed in the laws of the Ukrainian SSR and Ukraine as well as the State Register of Immovable Landmarks of Ukraine, including their protected zones, located in the Republic of Crimea, are now under the protection of Russian law³.

On the basis of Russian legislation, Russia’s Ministry of Culture has issued 410 permits (open letters) (312 in the so-called Republic of Crimea and 98 in Sevastopol) over the course of the temporary occupation of the ARC and Sevastopol, allowing activities aimed at the identification and study of archaeological heritage sites on the Crimean peninsula.

As can be seen from the table below, in 2015-2019 there has been a significant increase in the number of permits for the identification and study of archaeological heritage sites issued by Russia’s Ministry of Culture, the main reason for this being that the occupying state is starting a number of “large infrastructure construction projects” on the Crimean peninsula, such as the so-called “Kerch Bridge”, the Kerch-Simferopol-Sevastopol road, the so-called Tavryda, the laying of the major gas pipeline Krasnodar Territory-Crimea, as well as the so-called “Power Bridge Russian Federation - Crimean peninsula”.

Information on the issuance by the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation of permits (open letters) for the right to carry out activities aimed at identifying and studying archaeological heritage sites in the so-called Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol in 2014 - 2020

2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		Total	
so-called Republic of Crimea	Sevastopol	so-called Republic of Crimea	Sevastopol	so-called Republic of Crimea	Sevastopol	so-called Republic of Crimea	Sevastopol	so-called Republic of Crimea	Sevastopol	so-called Republic of Crimea	Sevastopol	so-called Republic of Crimea	Sevastopol	so-called Republic of Crimea	Sevastopol
36	12	40	18	53	15	54	14	49	19	42	10	28	10	312	98

³ <http://www.ppu.gov.ua/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Stan-kulturnoyi-spadshhyny-Krymu.pdf>

Total:	48	68	68	68	68	52	38	410
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These unauthorized archeological excavations are causing damage to Ukraine's cultural and ethnic-historical heritage in the temporarily occupied ARC and Sevastopol and are harmful to Ukraine's national interests.

In total, during 2014-2020 representatives of 27 institutions, establishments, enterprises and organizations registered in Russia or formed in the temporarily occupied territory of the ARC after the beginning of the occupation carried out archeological research, digs, as well as restoration and construction work, in particular:

Archaeological excavations and research:

- Federal State Budgetary Scientific Institution "Institute of Archeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences";
- Federal Budgetary Cultural Institution "State Museum of Fine Arts named after A.S. Pushkin";
- Federal State Autonomous Higher Education Institution "National Research University 'Higher School of Economics'";
- Federal State Budgetary Higher Education Institution "Moscow Pedagogical State University";
- So-called Federal State Budgetary Scientific Institution "Institute of Crimean Archeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences";
- So-called Federal State Budgetary Higher Education Institution "Sevastopol Branch of the Moscow State University named after M.V. Lomonosov";
- Federal State Budgetary Higher Education Institution "Moscow State University named after M.V. Lomonosov";
- Federal State Budgetary Higher Education Institution "Tula State Pedagogical University named after L.N Tolstoy";
- Federal State Budgetary Scientific Institution "Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences";
- Federal State Budgetary Cultural Institution "State Hermitage";
- Federal State Budgetary Research Institution "Institute of the History of Material Culture of the Russian Academy of Sciences";
- Federal State Budgetary Scientific Institution "Institute of Archeology and Ethnography of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences";
- Federal State Budgetary Research Institution "Russian Research Institute of Cultural and Natural Heritage named after D.S. Likhachov";
- Federal State Budgetary Higher Education Institution "Baltic State Technical University 'Voenmekh' named after D.F. Ustinov";
- Federal State Budgetary Autonomous Higher Education Institution "National Research State University of Nizhny Novgorod named after N.I. Lobachevsky";
- Charitable Foundation "Heritage of Millennia";
- Foundation for Supporting Social Projects and Programs "Petropavlovsk";
- Non-Public JSC "Heritage of Kuban";

- Belgorod Archaeological Research LLC;
- Terra LLC.

Renovation and construction activities:

- Meander LLC;
- North-West Design Bureau LLC;
- Geoizol LLC;
- Kiramet LLC;
- ATTA Group Corporation LLC;
- Design LLC;
- JSC Bavarsky Dom.

Taking the so-called Tavryda Highway, which links the so-called Crimean Bridge and Sevastopol, as an example, as well as the access roads to the Bridge, experts estimate that about 90 archeological sites were destroyed during this construction project.

In order to prepare for the construction, Russia as the occupying power organized the so-called Crimean New Construction Archaeological Expedition of the Institute of Archeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, which in late 2018 finished its field research at the transport infrastructure objects under construction, namely at the Tavryda Highway (Kerch-Simferopol-Sevastopol) as well as along the road and railway access routes to the Crimean Bridge. Work at the sites within the construction zone started in 2016 with archaeological research. The first stage involved confirming the exact location and boundaries of known settlements and barrows as well as surveying the area to locate any archeological sites that had not yet been discovered. Archaeological excavations began in April 2017.

Taking part in these activities were representatives of various archeological institutes, under the scientific and methodological guidance of the Russian Academy of Sciences: Institute of Archeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Material Culture of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Archeology and Ethnography of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Archeology of the Tatarstan Academy of Sciences, as well as the so-called Institute of Crimean Archeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Among the expedition of the so-called Institute of Crimean Archeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences were employees of the museum-reserves of Chersonese, Bakhchysarai, Scythian Neapolis and the so-called East Crimea Museum-Reserve established on the basis of the Kerch Historical and Cultural Reserve. Representatives of several commercial archeological organizations from Crimea and Krasnodar Territory also took part in the excavations. Aside from archaeologists, the expedition had scientists from related disciplines: anthropologists,

paleozoologists, soil experts, renovators of various specialties, surveyors, geophysicists, etc.

According to S. Vnukov from the Institute of Archeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and to O. Sharov, Doctor of Historical Sciences from the Institute of the History of Material Culture of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the following archeological sites were “studied” during the “expedition”:

1. Settlement Hospital 1;
2. Settlement Hospital 2;
3. Kurgan barrow Hospitalny;
4. Kurgan barrow group Tsementna Slobidka I;
5. Kurgan barrows Lisovy I and II;
6. Kurgan barrow group Nyzhni Soniachny I;
7. Tyrytaksy Wall;
8. Farmstead and necropolis Manitra;
9. Bezkrovnogo Wall;
10. 11 km Hill Fort;
11. Settlement and barrow Kosh-Kuyu;
12. Settlement Hornostayivka Skhidne;
13. Kurgan barrow group Oleksandrivski Rocks 1;
14. Kurgan barrow group Oleksandrivski Rocks 2;
15. Settlement and kurgan barrows in the village of Ivanivka (no. 984);
16. Kurgan barrows in the village of Sultanivka (no. 1062);
17. Uzunlarsky Wall;
18. Kurgan barrow group Fontan 1;
19. Kurgan barrow group Fontan 2;
20. Settlement and barrow Fontan 6;
21. Kurgan barrow Leninske North-Eastern 1;
22. Settlement Leninske 7 (Argyn);
23. Settlement Leninske 8;
24. Settlement Kenegez Eastern;
25. Settlement Lugove North-Western 2, barrow Lugove 1;
26. Settlement and barrow Batalne 1, barrow Batalne;
27. Kurgan barrow group Ak-Monayski 1 (no. 2195);
28. Settlement Prymorsky North-Western;
29. Akmonaysky Wall;
30. Kurgan barrow Vuzlove Northern (no. 1967);
31. Barrow Orta-Eget;
32. Settlement Perlyna 1;
33. Settlement Chokrak-Nayman;

34. Barrow and settlement Su-Bash 1;
35. Settlement Tuush 3;
36. Kurgan barrow group Lgivske 1, 2 (no. 2131);
37. Kurgan barrow Dobrolubovka 1;
38. Kurgan barrow Nekrasove I, II;
39. Small stone bridge;
40. Kurgan barrows Ajilar I, II;
41. Kurgan barrow Bila Skelya 1;
42. Dwelling site Yabluchne I;
43. Kurgan barrow Sary-Su 1;
44. Kurgan barrow Kholodna Hora 1;
45. Kurgan barrow Krymska Roza 1;
46. Kurgan barrow Dmytrovo 2;
47. Kurgan barrow Vovchy Grot 1;
48. Barrow Zhyvopysne 1;
49. Group of three kurgan barrows (no. 2023);
50. Kurgan barrow group Tekhnopark;
51. Barrow and settlement Kyrk-Azyzler;
52. Kurgan barrow and necropolis Eski-Yurt;
53. Kurgan barrow with a water reservoir;
54. Dwelling site Novenke;
55. Kurgan barrow with a cist;
56. Barrow Zaliznychny 2;
57. Settlement Frontove 2;
58. Barrow Frontove 3;
59. Settlement Frontove 4;
60. Settlement Stina 1;
61. Settlement Kermen-Burun (near Stina 2);
62. Kurgan barrows on the Mekenziyevy Heights;
63. Crimean War barracks.



Meanwhile, NGO Crimean Institute for Strategic Studies has mapped the archaeological heritage sites located within the construction zone, identifying at least 90 such sites⁴, as well as conducted a study entitled State of Cultural Heritage Sites in the Occupied Crimea 2014-2019⁵.

Specific measures and their implementation within the framework of the so-called “state policy in the field of culture and preservation of cultural heritage” are set out in the “state program of the Republic of Crimea” entitled Development of Culture, Recording and Preservation of Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Crimea 2017-2020”, which was “adopted” by Resolution of the so-called Council of Ministers of the Republic of Crimea no. 28 of January 31, 2017 (amended in accordance with Resolution 461 of September 20, 2018)⁶.

According to the program’s “passport”, its total funding over the period from 2017 to 2020 will amount to 13,604,625.97705 thousand rubles, allocated from the federal and “republic” budgets, in particular (in thousands of rubles):

⁴ <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/embed?mid=1vBo1tHfZCKDe1Bgx6qdL9DVKf-Xn-LP&ll=45.34438689761608%2C34.01261133903027&z=8>

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<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwj2zKrG6oHsAhXi-yoKHWrLDmwQFjAGegQIBxAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ppu.gov.ua%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2020%2F03%2FStan-kulturnoyi-spadshhyny-Krymu.pdf&usg=AOvVaw3spvMdlWdDfkVvrkG34s8H>

⁶ <https://rk.gov.ru/ru/document/show/2303>

Year	Total	Federal budget	“Republic budget”
2017	2,360,580.07572	662,568.31600	1,698,011.75972
2018	3,322,017.56757	1,371,826.20000	1,950,191.36757
2019	4,687,498.88891	2,616,400.60000	2,071,098.28891
2020	3,234,529.44485	1,344,318.20000	1,890,211.24485

Said Program envisages Subprogram 2, which directly concerns the preservation of cultural heritage sites. The body responsible for implementing it is the so-called State Committee for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Crimea.

Subprogram 2 sets the following objectives:

- increase the number of cultural heritage sites in good or satisfactory condition;
- create a “unified state register” of cultural heritage sites (historical and cultural landmarks) of the peoples of the Russian Federation, as well as of cultural heritage sites of the so-called Republic of Crimea;
- address the issue of cultural heritage sites that are in critical condition;
- create a database of up-to-date information on the condition and use of cultural heritage sites, for the purpose of determining measures required to ensure their preservation;
- preserve the features of cultural heritage sites that were the reason for including them in the register;
- preserve the historical and natural environment of cultural heritage sites and the conditions of their visual perception.

The funding for Subprogram 2 is 3,944,870.97800 thousand rubles, with yearly breakdown as follows (in thousands of rubles):

Year	Total	Federal budget	“Republic budget”
2017	539,163.85600	480,962.21600	58,201.64000
2018	1,029,415.81900	910,566.40000	118,849.41900
2019	1,430,034.47000	1,277,065.80000	152,968.67000
2020	946,256.83300	810,825.90000	135,430.93300

The number of cultural heritage sites where research, urgent renovation and repairs were to be performed in the specified year: 20 in 2017, 2 in 2018, 3 in 2019, 6 in 2020.

Annex 5-2 of Subprogram 2 provides for a number of measures and works aimed at repairs and renovation, specifically at the Khan's Palace site (Bakhchysarai, 133 Richkova Street), in particular:

- works aimed at the preservation of the Khan's Palace: 199,750.00000 thousand rubles in 2019, 398,140.00000 thousand rubles in 2020.

Sites most in need of protection:

- **Landmark of national significance Khan's Palace (Appendix 1);**
- **National Reserve Tauric Chersonese (Appendix 2).**

Specific measures and their implementation within the framework of the so-called “state policy in the field of culture and preservation of cultural heritage” are set out in the “state program of Sevastopol” entitled “Development of Culture and Tourism of Sevastopol”, adopted by the so-called Resolution of the Government of Sevastopol no. 1050-PP of November 7, 2016⁷.

The Program targets the period from 2017 to 2024 and envisages funding as follows (in thousands of rubles):

Year	Federal budget	Sevastopol's budget	At the expense of Russia's other administrative units (Moscow budget)	Total
2017	667,741.8	926,448.1	0	1,594,189.9
2018	1,289,916.8	1,286,149.6	451,000.0	3,027,066.4
2019	392,342.4	1,363,078.2	100,000.0	1,855,420.6
2020	1,020,012.6	1,277,988.2	615,000.0	2,913,000.8
2021	1,080,122.9	1,256,799.2	665,000.0	3,001,922.1
2022	1,990,909.1	1,524,345.5	0	3,515,254.6
2023	0	1,246,731.6	0	1,246,731.6

⁷ <http://docs.cntd.ru/document/444787615>

2024	6,721.4	1,187,085.4	0	1,193,806.8
Total	6,447,767.0	10,068,625.8	1,831,000.0	18,347,392.8

Said Program also provides for Subprogram 1, which is directly related to the preservation of cultural heritage sites. The body responsible for its implementation is the so-called Main Department of Culture of the City of Sevastopol.

Subprogram 1 sets the following objectives:

- create conditions for ensuring equal access to cultural goods, development and realization of cultural and spiritual potential of each person, preserving cultural heritage sites located in Sevastopol;
- make Sevastopol into a cultural and leisure center.

The total amount of funding for Subprogram 1 is 13,213,044.0 thousand rubles.

There have been instances when Ukrainian cultural objects were transported from the occupied Crimea to Russia to be displayed at exhibitions.

Thus, in 2016, 38 paintings from the collection of the National Art Gallery named after I.K. Aivazovsky were brought to Russia to be displayed at the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow.

In 2017, about 450 museum exhibits were taken to Moscow for the exhibition “Panticapaeum and Phanagoria. Two Capitals of the Bosporan Kingdom”.

On September 23, 2020, Russia’s President instructed the Federation Council to allocate additional funds for the support of culture, including the renovation of the Vorontsov and Khan's palaces in the occupied Crimea, with the Russian government having spent 360 and 300 million rubles respectively on these two sites.

So-called “international activities” of Crimean and Sevastopol universities controlled by the Russian occupants

From open sources the Mission became aware of international activities and contacts with foreigners among the academic circles of the so-called Crimean Federal University named after V.I. Vernadsky (CFU) and Sevastopol State University (SSU), which gives grounds for the occupying authorities on the peninsula and their Kremlin overseers to claim in media space about their alleged success in overcoming sanctions imposed on Crimea and having it recognized as part of Russia.

Thus, the study of SSU sociologists entitled “Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic” was nominated for the international award in the field of communications Eventiada IPRA Golden World Awards (IPRA is an international NGO based out of the UK), which, again, is being used by the occupying authorities on the peninsula as a tool of scientific diplomacy to promote the idea of a Russian Crimea in the

international arena. The SSU has been emphasizing the fact that this award is part of IPRA's program implemented under the auspices of the UN and UNESCO⁸.

Ukraine's response

Ukrainian public authorities have been systematically responding to cases of Russia's encroachment on Ukraine's cultural heritage sites in the temporarily occupied territory, in particular by informing the public and working with international organizations specializing in cultural heritage protection through Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Culture.

Thus, Ukraine's Ministry of Culture issued a public statement on its website in connection with the exhibition "Panticapaeum and Phanagoria. Two Capitals of the Bosporean Kingdom" held on June 29, 2017 at the State Museum of Fine Arts named after A.S. Pushkin⁹.

Russia's illegal appropriation and export of cultural property as well as unauthorized archeological excavations in the ARC and Sevastopol were condemned during the 5th session of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, which was held from 17 to 19 May 2017 at UNESCO headquarters¹⁰.

In April 2018, the UNESCO Executive Board adopted a decision which authorized the placement of a monitoring mission in the temporarily occupied Crimea¹¹, although no actual monitoring has been conducted.

On April 30, 2020, the Ukrainian Parliament adopted the Law "On the Joining by Ukraine of the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict¹², ratifying the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention, which creates additional mechanisms that Ukraine can employ to protect its cultural heritage in the temporarily occupied Crimea.

On June 30, 2020, Ukraine completed the process of ratifying the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention.

The temporary occupation of parts of Ukrainian territory by Russia makes the aforementioned Protocol particularly important in the context of specific measures that could strengthen the protection of Ukraine's cultural heritage in the ARC.

⁸ <https://www.sevsu.ru/novosti/item/11102-issledovanie-sotsiologov-sevgu-voshlo-v-short-list-mezhdunarodnoj-premii-eventiada-ipra-gwa>

⁹ http://mincult.kmu.gov.ua/control/uk/publish/article?art_id=245254591&cat_id=244913751

¹⁰ <https://unesco.mfa.gov.ua/news/57376-ukrajina-zasudzhuje-nezakonne-privlasnennya-ta-vivezen-ya-rosijeju-kulyturnih-cinnostej-ta-provedennya-nesankcionovanih-arkheologichnih-rozkopok-na-teritoriji-avtonomnoji-respubliki-kri>

¹¹ <https://nv.ua/ukr/ukraine/events/vrjatuvati-istoriju-junesko-dala-zelene-svitlo-misiji-v-krimu-2463751.html>

¹² <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/585-20#n2>

Particularly pertinent here is Article 9 of the Protocol, which concerns the protection of cultural heritage in occupied territory. As per said Article, a Party occupying the whole or part of the territory of another Party shall prohibit and prevent in relation to the occupied territory:

- any illicit export, other removal or transfer of ownership of cultural property;
- any archaeological excavation, save where this is strictly required to safeguard, record or preserve cultural property;
- any alteration to, or change of use of, cultural property which is intended to conceal or destroy cultural, historical or scientific evidence.

This Article also states that any archaeological excavation of, alteration to, or change of use of, cultural property in occupied territory shall, unless circumstances do not permit, be carried out in close co-operation with the competent national authorities of the occupied territory.

The ratification of the Second Protocol provides additional opportunities not only for protecting cultural heritage in the occupied Crimea, but also for putting pressure on Russia in the context of raising the issue of criminal responsibility for illicit actions committed by the occupying authorities.

Thus, in accordance with Article 15 of the Protocol - Serious Violations of This Protocol (Chapter 4 - Criminal Responsibility and Jurisdiction) - the following acts committed intentionally and in violation of the 1954 Convention and the Second Protocol are considered an offense within the meaning of the Protocol:

- destruction or appropriation of cultural property protected under the Convention and this Protocol;
- theft, pillage or misappropriation of, or acts of vandalism directed against cultural property protected under the Convention.

In these cases each Party must adopt such measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offenses under its domestic law the offenses set forth in this Article and to make such offenses punishable by appropriate penalties¹³.

The Investigations Department of the Main Directorate of the National Police of Ukraine in the ARC and Sevastopol is conducting a pre-trial investigation into unauthorized archeological activities, deliberate destruction or damaging of historical or cultural heritage sites by unlawful authorities in the temporarily occupied Crimea as part of criminal proceeding no. 12016010000000003 of January 13, 2016, in connection with criminal acts under part 3, Article 298, part 1, Article 298, and

¹³ Web resource/link: https://unesco.mfa.gov.ua/news/ukrayina-priyednalasya-do-drugogo-protokolu-do-gaazkoyi-konvenciyi-pro-zahist-kulturnih-cinnostej-u-vipadku-zbrojnogo-konfliktu-1954-roku?fbclid=IwAR1ECADjqqFENk-W3oKB1l_I37KIIhnbWaQ4UsaFGn7MxD1XSI6TEEDhh1s

Article 341 of Ukraine's Criminal Code. The procedural guidance of the pre-trial investigation in said criminal proceeding is carried out by the Prosecutor's Office of the ARC. The Prosecutor's Office of the ARC initiated a criminal proceeding under Article 356 of the Criminal Code **in connection with the export of cultural property**.

The key issues in terms of illicit use of cultural heritage sites in the temporarily occupied territory are as follows:

- unauthorized archeological exploration, which results in the destruction of Ukraine's historical landmarks;
- illicit export of archeological discoveries and cultural property to Russia;
- transfer of archeological discoveries from the temporarily occupied territory to Russia's foundations, resulting in their appropriation by the occupying power;
- non-compliance with the rules governing the preservation of historical heritage sites and misuse of the latter;
- non-compliance with the rules governing the renovation of historical heritage sites, resulting in the loss of their historical value, etc.

The following ways of putting pressure on Russia could be employed in order to reduce its negative influence:

- thorough documenting and investigation of any violations;
- thorough investigation of relevant offenses and preparing materials for bringing the perpetrators to justice;
- putting suspects on international wanted persons lists;
- putting cultural property illegally exported from Crimea on international stolen property lists;
- regular informing of the international community about violations, with the provision of documents confirming said violations when possible, and calling for sanctions;
- imposing sanctions by Ukraine against those involved in the illicit use of cultural and archaeological property.

Transfer of cultural property across the administrative border

In accordance with part 1, Article 7 of the Law "On the Creation of the Free Economic Zone Crimea and the Particulars of Carrying Out Economic Activities in the Temporarily Occupied Territory of Ukraine", Chapter XII of Ukraine's Customs Code as well as Article 9 of said Law concerning the transportation of valuables are applied to persons crossing the administrative border with FEZ Crimea¹⁴.

In accordance with part 5, Article 374 of Ukraine's Customs Code (Section XII) - Conditions of Importing (Shipping) Goods by Citizens to the Customs Territory of Ukraine - and Ukraine's foreign business goods codes, property with the codes 9701

¹⁴ https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/995_001-99#Text

10 00 00 (paintings, drawings and pastels), 9701 90 00 00 (other), 9702 00 00 00 (original engravings, prints and lithographs), 9703 00 00 00 (original sculptures and statuettes of any material), 9704 00 00 00 (postal or duty stamps, indicia, including first day of issue ones, postal stationery [stamped paper] and similar items, previously used or not, other than items under 4907), 9705 00 00 00 (collections and collectibles related to zoology, botany, mineralogy, anatomy, or those of historical, archaeological, paleontological, ethnographic or numismatic value), 9706 00 00 00 (antiques over 100 years old) made 50+ years ago, regardless of their price and mode of transportation across the customs border of Ukraine, must be declared in writing.

In accordance with paragraph 2, part 10, Article 374 of Ukraine's Customs Code (Section XII) - Conditions of Importing (Shipping) Goods by Citizens to the Customs Territory of Ukraine - and Ukraine's foreign business goods codes, when being imported (shipped) to the customs territory of Ukraine by citizens, cultural property with the following codes is exempt from customs duties: 9701 10 00 00 (paintings, drawings and pastels), 9701 90 00 00 (other), 9702 00 00 00 (original engravings, prints and lithographs), 9703 00 00 00 (original sculptures and statuettes of any material), 9704 00 00 00 (postal or duty stamps, indicia, including first day of issue ones, postal stationery [stamped paper] and similar items, previously used or not, other than items under 4907), 9705 00 00 00 (collections and collectibles related to zoology, botany, mineralogy, anatomy, or those of historical, archaeological, paleontological, ethnographic or numismatic value), 9706 00 00 00 (antiques over 100 years old) made 50+ years ago.

The Mission has not received any appeals regarding this issue. No public reports have been detected regarding the export of cultural property from the occupied Crimea across the administrative border. However, it seems appropriate to consult customs authorities as well as NGOs concerned with the protection of the rights of Crimean citizens under conditions of temporary occupation.

Proposals and recommendations

- Develop/elaborate and adopt regulatory procedures and methods for assessing the value of cultural property illegally exported from the temporarily occupied territory of the ARC and Sevastopol to Russia and other countries, as well as the damage caused to historical sites as a result of unprofessional renovation, unlawfully sanctioned by Russia's occupying authorities;
- Take measures to monitor the situation and record relevant violations, to ensure regular informing of the Director-General of UNESCO, the Director of the International Council on Monuments and Sites, and the President of the International Council of Museums;

- Document relevant incidents. Investigate relevant violations and prepare materials for bringing the perpetrators to justice;
- Put cultural property illegally exported from the temporarily occupied territory on international stolen property lists;
- Take into account the above issues when developing legal strategies for filing relevant lawsuits with domestic and international courts;
- Impose special restrictive measures (sanctions) on individuals and legal entities responsible for illegal renovation of cultural sites, unauthorized archaeological excavations in the temporarily occupied ARC and Sevastopol, as well as illegal export of archeological discoveries and museum exhibits from the temporarily occupied territory to Russia and other countries;
- Establish a Crimean section in the collection of Ukraine's museum fund under conditions of temporary occupation of the ARC and Sevastopol;
- Develop an action plan for the protection of cultural and historical landmarks in the temporarily occupied territory of the ARC and Sevastopol, as well as for combating unauthorized archaeological excavations in the temporarily occupied territory and illegal export of archeological discoveries and museum exhibits to Russia (as part of developing, adopting and implementing the State Strategy for the Deoccupation and Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territory of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol);
- Take into account, when developing the State Strategy for the Deoccupation and Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territory of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol, the need to renovate destroyed historical and cultural landmarks in the temporarily occupied territory (after deoccupation) and to return to Ukraine cultural property illegally exported to Russia.

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Appendix 1

Landmark of national significance Khan's Palace

The national significance landmark Khan's Palace is part of the site Historical Environment of the Capital of the Crimean Khans in the City of Bakhchysarai, which is on the UNESCO Tentative World Heritage List.

The historical space of Bakhchysarai located in the temporarily occupied territory Crimea is a unique urban landscape formed as a result of the development of cultural traditions of the Crimean Tatar people. During the XIV-XVI centuries this was the capital of the Crimean Khanate, a political, spiritual and cultural hub for Crimean Tatars, with the Khan's Palace in its heart - the last existing example of Crimean Tatar palace architecture and a unique Middle Eastern palace complex for Europe, as well as a shrine for the Crimean Tatar people and Ukraine's national landmark.

In July 2016, the "Scientific and Methodological Council of the State Committee for the Protection of Cultural Heritage" of the so-called "government" of Crimea authorized urgent renovation works at several historical sites on the peninsula, including the Khan's Palace in Bakhchysarai.

It was discovered based on public Internet sources that as early as in October 2016 the occupants were already demolishing a historical building located within the Palace's protection zone, and later information surfaced about large-scale construction taking place at the site, conducted without any regard for renovation standards and regulations.

Russia as the occupying power had made no attempt to secure Ukraine's permission for carrying out construction activities at the site (even though it was obligated to cooperate with Ukraine to take all precautions for the preservation of cultural property located in the temporarily occupied territory, as per Article 5 of the May 14, 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict), which could result in the destruction of the site's historical and cultural value and contains signs of a criminal act.

Judging by the reports coming from Crimea, the unique building's authentic preserved elements are being essentially destroyed. The original roof of the Great Mosque is already partially gone. The unique technology of laying "Tatar" roof tiles on clay has been completely lost. The hand-made tiles have been removed and replaced with modern tiles made at a Spanish factory, fixed in place with screws. The original roof, an object of study for ethnographers and historians, has been destroyed. The ceiling's decorations are gone as well, just as the historical tradition of laying a wooden framework in a building. This technology was often used in the past in the construction of such buildings: the wood would be covered with a special clay solution so that the elements of the structure would move as one in the event of seismic tremors, preventing cracks and eventual collapse. In the course of the renovation, a reinforced concrete framework was installed, which puts a greater load on the old walls and could lead to cracks in the mosque's walls. The occupants are calling these works "urgent renovation", but it is renovation in name only, while in terms of technology used this is clearly construction work. They are using modern materials and technology, which is unacceptable for XVI-XVIII century sites. This is causing great concern among international organizations. The renovation's plan had been developed by Kiramet LLC from Simferopol, and the main contractor is ATTA Group from Moscow.

Tauric Chersonese National Reserve

For reference: Tauric Chersonese was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List on June 23, 2013 during the 37th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Cambodia. Khora - an agricultural area around Chersonese - was also included in the list. This decision was unanimous. The only remark concerned a huge new Orthodox church in the very center of the Chersonese settlement, which, according to some archaeologists, is a detriment to the ancient landmark.

Chersonese is the seventh site in Ukraine to be recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as part of world heritage that holds outstanding cultural and natural value.

Exploration of the ruins of the former Chersonese began in 1827, while systematic excavations started in 1876. The latter unearthed remains of Greek, Roman and Byzantine defensive walls, residential quarters, houses with rainwater pools, various baths, household and craftsmanship structures, over 50 Christian churches, thermae, a theater (designed for an audience of 3,000), etc. Multiple burial sites containing a vast collection of items were also discovered beyond the city walls.

The museum's collection has been accumulating since over a hundred years ago. By the time the occupation began, the reserve boasted over 200,000 household, cultural and religious items discovered in the vicinity of Sevastopol. This is one of the richest archaeological collections in Europe.

On March 24, 2014, Ukraine's Minister of Culture stated that there was priceless cultural property in Chersonese to which his Ministry had no access. The Minister asked UNESCO to help protect the historical heritage located in the reserve.

On June 27, 2014, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization responded that it would act only in accordance with the UN resolution that recognizes Crimea as part of Ukrainian territory. Since Tauric Chersonese is on the UNESCO World Heritage list and belongs to Ukraine, no negotiations should be conducted without the Ukrainian side.

On October 3, 2015, the Russian Government adopted an order that transferred the Tauric Chersonese National Reserve to federal ownership as a cultural heritage site of federal significance, including it in the Unified State Register of Cultural Heritage Sites (Historical and Cultural Landmarks) of the Peoples of the Russian Federation, and renaming it as Federal State Budgetary Cultural Institution "State Historical and Archaeological Museum-Reserve 'Tauric Chersonese' ". The order states that Russia's Ministry of Culture will be acting as the institution's founder, and, along with the Federal Agency for State Property Management and the self-proclaimed "government" of Sevastopol, must ensure proper transfer to Russia of ownership rights to the institution's property belonging to Sevastopol.

Russia has since attempted to integrate Tauric Chersonese, in its new status, into the global cultural space. Naturally, UNESCO refused to recognize Russia's jurisdiction over the landmark and officially discontinued any cooperation with the museum-reserve for as long as the temporary occupation of Crimea should last. Realizing the futility of these efforts, the Russian Government decided to conduct archeological, renovation and research activities in Chersonese using its own judgment, including transferring valuable findings to Russian museums and using the historical landmark for propaganda and entertainment purposes.

On December 5, 2015, Russia's Vladimir Putin signed a decree which named Tauric Chersonese Museum-Reserve as one of particularly valuable cultural heritage sites of the peoples of the Russian Federation. Russia's Minister of Culture was instructed to include the museum-reserve in the appropriate register, while the Russian Government was told to provide the legal, financial and material conditions required for the operation of the Federal State Budgetary Cultural Institution "State Historical and Archeological Museum-Reserve 'Tauric Chersonese' " as a particularly valuable cultural landmark of the peoples of the Russian Federation. The decree came into force on January 1, 2016.

On December 22, 2015, the "authorities" of the occupied Crimea transported the cornerstone and the memorial stone of St. Vladimir's Cathedral in Tauric Chersonese to the Russian city of Vladimir, to the monument to Prince Vladimir, for the construction of a cathedral there.

Human rights defenders note a negative trend resulting in the alteration of the purpose of the historical and archeological complex by the Russian authorities. Thus, in compliance with the instructions of Russia's Vladimir Putin to transform Chersonese into a "Mecca of Russian Orthodoxy", as a place that allegedly gave rise to the consolidation of centralized power in the Russian state, and to build a cultural and educational museum of Christianity for his confessor, Bishop Tikhon, the occupants have been illegally conducting a large-scale renovation of the reserve. Thus, small structures have been built to house information terminals, an observation deck has been set up with a panoramic installation and a concrete pedestal for a model of the territory of Chersonese, and a new passageway is being built near the Tower of Zeno. Supplies are kept right there in the ancient settlement, with construction waste scattered throughout the reserve, while the construction equipment has been destroying the routes of the medieval temple, violating the cultural layer and museumization elements of the ancient complex.

Russian foundation My History, which has signed an agreement with the Director of the State Historical and Archaeological Museum-Reserve "Tauric Chersonese" with the blessing of Russia's Ministry of Culture, is claiming to fund the development of the Museum-Reserve, improvement of its technical capacity and

landscaping for holding mass cultural events, but what it is really funding is the erasure of the unique historical authenticity of this world heritage site.

In April 2016, the famous Italian Courtyard was completely demolished together with the fountain - the reserve's management decided to renovate and modernize the place.

In August 2018, the occupying administration authorized the so-called Second International Music Festival "Opera in Chersonese", for which 15 trucks with metal structures and a diesel generator were brought in; four stages were erected, as well as three screens, a 500 ton audience stand, and light and 50 kilowatts sound equipment. All this was mounted right there among the ancient ruins, which put extreme anthropogenic pressure on the UNESCO site.

During the preparation for the revelry, medieval arch stones and an ancient pillar were discarded as rubbish; communication lines were laid straight across the remains of archeological sites; construction works were carried out where research and renovation work had yet to be completed; heavy machinery rode back and forth over the cultural layer and the yet unearthed parts of the settlement.

Available information suggests that the occupying authorities prepared the Opera in Chersonese festival in accordance with the Act on the State Historical and Cultural Evaluation of May 22, 2018.

No less concerning is the situation with the Khora (estates) of Chersonese which stretches for many kilometers and is also under UNESCO protection. In April 2016, Russian soldiers covered a section of an ancient estate on the Mayakovy Peninsula in concrete.

According to Igor Solovyov, "deputy" of the so-called Parliament of Sevastopol, one year ago pottery fragments were discovered there in a soil dump, dated by Tauric Chersonese experts back to IV-III centuries BC. In the winter of 2018, a bulldozer trampled on an ancient estate of the 3rd century - plans had been made to build a depository of the Museum-Reserve in that spot.