EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

ANCIENT BEECH FOREST OF GERMANY
(Extension of Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians, Slovakia and Ukraine)

GERMANY

WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION – IUCN TECHNICAL EVALUATION

ANCIENT BEECH FORESTS OF GERMANY (GERMANY) – ID No. 1133 bis (Extension of Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians, Slovakia and Ukraine)

IUCN RECOMMENDATION TO WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE: Defer the nomination of the property

Key paragraphs of Operational Guidelines:
77 property does not meet World Heritage criteria.

1. DOCUMENTATION

a) Date nomination received by IUCN: 15 March 2010.

b) Additional information officially requested from and provided by the State Party: No additional information was requested, however, the Permanent delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany to UNESCO provided voluntary information by letter of 25 February 2011 on initiatives taken through 2010 with respect to the serial nomination.

c) Additional literature consulted: Thorsell J. and Sigaty T. (1997). **A Global Overview of Forest Protected Areas on the World Heritage List.** IUCN, Gland, Switzerland. European Commission Directorate-General for the Environment (2003). **Natura 2000 and forests, "Challenges and opportunities," Interpretation Guide.** Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg. Forest Research Network (1995-1999). **European Cooperation in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research, Action E4**. Larsson T-B. (2001). **Biodiversity Evaluation Tools for European Forests.** Ecological Bulletins: 50. Blackwell Science, Oxford, U.K. Engels B., Ohnesorge B., Burmester A., Editors (2009). **Nominations and Management of Serial Natural World Heritage Properties: Present Situation, Challenges and Opportunities;** Workshop Proceedings, Nov 2008; Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Bonn, Germany. UNESCO/WHC (2007). **World Heritage Forests: Leveraging Conservation at the Landscape Level.** Proceedings, 2nd World Heritage Forests Meeting, 2005, UNESCO, Paris. Knapp H. Ed. (2008). **Beech Forests – a German contribution to the global forest biodiversity.** (BfN, Bonn, Germany. Knapp H. et al. (2008). **Nauturebe Buchenwalder: Situationsanalyse und Handlungserfordernisse.** BfN-Skripten 240, BfN, Bonn, Germany. Knapp H. and Spangenberg A. Eds (2007). **Europaische Buchenwaldinitiative.** BfN-Skripten 222, BfN, Bonn, Germany. Kohlhammer (2007). **Schwerpunkt: Buchenwälder.**Natur und Landschaft 82 (9/10). Veen, P. et al. (2010). **Virgin forests in Romania and Bulgaria: results of two national inventory projects and their implications for protection.** Biodiversity & Conservation 19 (6): 1805-1819. Winter S. et al. (2005). **The Importance of Near-natural Stand Structures for the Biocoenosis of Lowland Beech Forests.** Forest Snow and Landscape Research: 79. Winter S. and Möller G.C. (2008). **Microhabitats in Lowland Beech Forests as Monitoring Tool for Nature Conservation.** Forest Ecology and Management: 255.

d) Consultations: One external reviewer consulted. The mission met with governmental officials in Bonn from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN). The mission also met with officials, representatives and staff of various authorities concerned with the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany including the Länders of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Hesse, Brandenburg, and Thuringia; local elected officials; local business leaders; and conservation NGOs.

e) Field Visit: David Mihalic, September 2010.

f) Date of IUCN approval of this report: 29 April 2011.

2. SUMMARY OF NATURAL VALUES

The Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (ABF) is a transnational serial extension to the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (PBF) and comprised of five component parts in the northern half of the Federal Republic of Germany from the low mountains to the Baltic Sea. The component parts of the proposed extension are Jasmund and Serrahn, in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania; Grumsin in Brandenburg, Hainich in Thuringia, and Kellerwald in Hesse (see table 1 on the next page). The existing PBF of the Carpathians World Heritage property is located along the common boundary of Slovakia and Ukraine and is comprised of ten serial components.

The 11 species of the genus *Fagus*, while distributed worldwide, are found only in the temperate nemoral zone of eastern North America, Europe, and Asia. The European or copper beech (*Fagus sylvatica L*.) is not found outside of Europe and west Asia. The European beech represents the main climax tree species in the temperate zone of Central Europe and historically is a significant forest constituent in an area extending from the north of Spain and the south of England and

Sweden, to the east of Poland, the Carpathian Arc and south of the Balkan and Apennine peninsulas i.e. the biogeographical provinces of the Atlantic, Central European Highlands, Pannonian and Balkan Highlands according to Udvardy's classification (1975). The PBF of the Carpathians, a serial World Heritage property, belongs to the Middle European Forest, as do the nominated sites in Germany proposed to extend this property. The nominated extension includes five components, three in the lowlands (Jasmund, on the Baltic Sea), Serrahn, and Grumsin in the lowlands (from 0 to 140m a.s.l.), and two, Hainich and Kellerwald situated in the colline to montane zone (200 to 626 m a.s.l.). The ten component parts of the existing World Heritage property in the Carpathians lie at the montane to subalpine zones, between 600 to 1,940 m a.s.l. This proposal would therefore add representative sites of beech forest communities to the inscribed components in the Carpathians, with examples from the montane to sea level, thus better representing the complete biogeographic history of European forest recolonization after the last glacial period.

Table 1: Nominated serial sites (and buffer zones): location and size

Serial Property	**Protected Area**	**Länder**	**Size in Hectares** Nomination (Buffer Zone)*
Jasmund	Jasmund National Park	Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	492.5 (2,510.5)
Serrahn	Müritz National Park	Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	268.1 (2,568)
Grumsin	Schorfheide-Chorin Biosphere Reserve	Brandenburg	590.1 (274.3)
Hainich	Hainich National Park	Thuringia	1,573.4 (4,085.4)
Kellerwald	Kellerwald-Edersee National Park	Hesse	1,467.1 (4,271.4)
Total Size of Nominated Serial Property Extension			4,391.2 (13,709.6)*
Total Size of the World Heritage property, *Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians*			29,278.9 (48,692.7)*

* Note: Buffer Zones are not formally part of the nominated extension, but, as with the *Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians,* buffer zones are part of the *proposed Integrated Management System* put forward by Germany, Slovakia, and Ukraine.

Primary European temperate forests are rare, due to the long history of continuous human exploitation of forests (both directly for wood products and fuel, and indirectly through conversion to agriculture and settlement) as population increased. Beech forests once covered 40% of Europe beginning 6,500 years ago from refugia in the Balkans after the last glacial period. The existing serial World Heritage property in the Carpathians are some of the oldest with the greatest amount of biodiversity because they were the first to return, while the five nominated serial property components are much younger in development. The five nominated serial properties proposed to extend the Carpathian properties are not "primeval," but have small (5-50 hectares) primeval segments within them that have remained free from exploitation. The nominated sites are, however, the best conserved, most natural and closest to beech-dominant primary forest sites remaining in Germany and have not been exploited for many decades and in some parts, over a century.

Natural European beech forests are often mono-dominant stands of this single species, yet they display an enormous spectrum of different plant associations (and associated biodiversity) underneath their canopies. The five components of the nominated property reflect this spectrum and associated diversity, but are markedly different in base soil content, from the acidic in Serrahn and Kellerwald to the high lime soils of Jasmund and Hainich. The beech forest communities of the nomination are not the same as the Carpathian sites, but with the differences in soils and plant communities contribute to greater understanding of European beech and its forest development across Europe, as is evidenced by the nominated sites' species and characteristic growth in different site conditions.

The nominated sites are surrounded by larger forested buffer zones (with the possible exception of Grumsin) managed to maintain and enhance the proposed outstanding universal values. All nominated serial properties and their buffer zones lie within larger national parks or biosphere reserves, which, in turn, lie within larger nature parks or protected areas.

3. COMPARISONS WITH OTHER AREAS

Not including the *Nothofagus* forests of the southern hemisphere, there are eleven species of beech in the northern hemisphere; one each in Europe, Western Asia, Taiwan, two in Japan and North America, and four in southern China. For all beech species only small refugia of undisturbed locations persist today and for more than half of the species it is even unclear whether there are any undisturbed areas remaining - Systematic analysis of strictly protected forest areas in 19 European countries including 8 central and eastern European countries, and Russia, found 0.3 million ha virgin forest in 2,500 reserves with an average size of 100 ha. The 1997 IUCN theme study, "A Global Overview of Forest Protected Areas" identified only the PBF of the

Carpathians portion of the region (since inscribed) as an area that may merit consideration for nomination to the World Heritage List. The "Natura 2000 and Forests: Challenges and Opportunities," and other studies suggest the role of the German "near-natural" beech forest remnants may be of World Heritage value. The technical evaluation for the Carpathians noted the ten component parts in Slovakia and Ukraine did not represent all types of original beech forest that once covered Europe although there are a few examples scattered across Europe. The PBF of the Carpathians evaluation also noted that Germany has some significant old-growth beech forests that may extend the coverage of Europe's original beech forests in the World Heritage List.

In 2007 PBF of the Carpathians was inscribed on the World Heritage List because its undisturbed, complex temperate forests exhibit the most complete and comprehensive ecological patterns and processes of pure stands of European beech across a variety of environmental conditions, and the European beech is one of the most important elements of forests in the Temperate Broadleaf Forest biome. The component parts of PBF were considered to protect the best of the last fragmented remnants of this globally significant forest types.

Aside from PBF several other World Heritage sites might be compared with the nominated property. Shirakami-sanchi (Japan) is in the montane zone and encompasses the last remaining area of primeval Siebold's beech (*Fagus crenata*). At 10,139 ha it is the largest beech forest remaining in the East Asian Region. However, *Fagus crenata* constitutes a different species isolated from *Fagus sylvatica*. Great Smoky Mountains National Park (USA) has diverse deciduous forests with over 130 tree species. American beech is found in the upper elevation however, is not a dominant species in these forests. Plitvice Lakes National Parks (Croatia) contains some 14,000 ha of predominant beech low-altitude forests and beech-fir forest at higher elevations (700m). Of these, about 9,600 ha are beech-dominant forests, but are not part of the property's outstanding universal values. Pirin National Park (Bulgaria) contains four beech forest associations between its mostly coniferous forests but is noted for its spruce forests. The forests with beech are not beech-dominant in the montane zone. Durmitor National Park (Serbia and Montenegro) includes a 270 ha virgin mixed deciduous forest, however, again beech is not dominant. Pyrénées - Mount Perdu (France and Spain) montane areas are characterized by beech, fir and Scotch pine but are not old beech-dominant forests. 70% of the Caves of the Aggtelek and Slovak Karst (Hungary and Slovakia) is deciduous forest, including beech, however, it is listed for karst values. Nonetheless, the forests are not beech-dominant. Western Caucasus (Russian Federation) include Oriental beech forest (*Fagus orientalis)* in the western portions of the property at the montane. The Oriental beech has only recently been suggested to be similar to the European beech. In addition, a previously deferred nomination of the Caspian Hyrcanian Mixed Forests (Azerbaijan) includes an area of broadleaf, mixed forests of which about one third is beech (*F. orientalis*), however, mixed with maple, lime, oak and hornbeam, and this forest also extends to Iran. Belovezhskaya Pushcha / Białowieża Forest (Belarus and Poland) was inscribed because of its large area of remnant natural, old-growth, lowland mixed broadleaf and conifer European forest with a protected population of threatened animals and plants.

The components parts of ABF belong to two biogeographical provinces in Udvardy's Temperate Broadleaf Forest biome in the Palaearctic realm: the Atlantic province and, primarily, the Middle European Forest. Existing natural World Heritage sites in the Atlantic province include the Wadden Sea and Pyrénées - Mont Perdu, in the Middle European Forest the PBF and Srebarna. Among these sites, significant areas of undisturbed European beech forests occur only in PBF and ABF.

The components parts of ABF also belong to two terrestrial ecoregions, Western European Broadleaf Forests and Baltic Mixed Forests, which are part of the Temperate Broadleaf and Mixed Forests biome in the Palaearctic realm (Olson et al. 2001). None of these ecoregions is yet represented in a biodiversity World Heritage site whilst the PBF belongs to the Carpathian Montane Forests ecoregion, which is part of one of the 142 Global 200 terrestrial priority ecoregions of the world: European-Mediterranean Montane Mixed Forests (Olson et al. 2002). The components parts of ABF do not belong to a Global 200 ecoregion.

The components parts of ABF do not belong to any globally identified conservation priorities and have not been identified as a "biodiversity gap" on the World Heritage List in any of the theme studies prepared by IUCN and/or UNEP-WCMC. There is a large body of research suggesting Germany, being in the centre of the natural distribution of this forest type and having some of the largest areas of this forest type left, has a globally important role in the conservation of European beech forest ecosystems. However, only very small areas of the German beech forests are considered to be "ancient" and/or "primeval", and the most important of these are included in the ABF nomination.

The ABF nomination convincingly argues that the existing PBF site represents only one (Carpathian) of six European beech forest "biogeographic regions" and only one of three altitudinal zones in which European beech forests occur. The ABF would broaden this representation, nevertheless the proposed extension will not result in a full representation of all six European beech forest regions in the World Heritage site, because all five component parts of the proposed extension belong to the Central European biogeographic region.

Very recently, Veen et al. (2010) identified for the first time significant areas of "old-growth" or "virgin" beech

forests in Bulgaria and Romania, leading them to conclude that "a representative selection of virgin forest sites" should be declared World Heritage sites. In line with the arguments provided by the ABF nomination, it is possible that some of these sites in the Illyric-Balkan and Carpathian biogeographic regions, together with sites in other yet unrepresented European beech forest regions, may also merit consideration as future extensions to PBF / ABF.

The five nominated components are species-rich, especially with species indicative of old-growth, even undisturbed, deciduous and/or beech forests. But, where the PBF of the Carpathians and its primeval forests have all the floristic and smaller life-forms of primeval beech forests, they also include the large mammals (bison, bear, wolf, etc.) indicative of primeval forests in Europe, a key component of their OUV.

In conclusion, ABF belongs to two ecoregions that are not yet represented on the World Heritage List, but not to any globally identified conservation priorities. As an extension to PBF, ABF would ensure a better representation of major European beech forest types (and their ecological patterns and processes) on the World Heritage List; however, a number of these major European beech forest types would still be unrepresented within the PBF / ABF World Heritage site.

4. INTEGRITY, PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

4.1. Protection

The five nominated serial extension components are subject to national law and are also governed by the Länder that make up the Federal Republic of Germany. Both governmental entities share responsibility for nature conservation protection. The component parts are protected by the Federal Nature Conservation Act (2002, amended 2008) that specifically incorporates by reference the World Heritage Convention. The Grumsin component is also a Biosphere Reserve. The Länder have laws and ordinances that incorporate both standards set by Federal law (such as for national parks) and the European Union (such as Birds and Habitats directives, etc.).

Land in the four national park component parts are owned and managed by the Länder with varying percentages of land under private ownership. None of the five nominated components are subject to any forest exploitation or other development pressure and neither are the surrounding buffer zones, which are proposed for sympathetic management to protect the values of the nominated components.

IUCN considers the protection status of the nominated property meets the requirements set out in the Operational Guidelines

4.2 Boundaries

Boundaries of all proposed component parts are specified in the nomination and clearly demarcated on maps. Each of the nominated component parts lies within a larger national park, and, in turn, within larger nature parks, except for Grumsin which lies within the designated core zone of the larger Schorfheide-Chorin Biosphere Reserve. Each of the component parts also is surrounded by larger buffer zones, which are also areas of beech forest that will be managed to protect the proposed property but do not display the level of naturalness to warrant designation as component parts of the nomination. Buffer zones have the same level of legal protection as the component parts of the nominated extension. Boundaries of the nominated components have been designated with a view to ensuring retention of values and integrity, however, the small size and relative isolation of these remnant forests raises some concerns about their ecological resilience and viability.

IUCN considers that the boundaries of the nominated property meet the requirements set out in the Operational Guidelines.

4.3 Management

All the nominated component parts have existing individual management plans developed in accordance with law and policy that meet national park (or biosphere reserve) goals for both management and monitoring. Plans incorporate monitoring of environmental parameters, visitor use impacts, and other resource issues such as managed control of wildlife impacts. Park management, biosphere maintenance and development plans are directly binding for existing programs and protection goals. In addition, there are management and spatial plans by the Länder for regional spatial development, State Development Plans, Landscape Framework Plans, and so on, that incorporate park and biosphere reserve protection values and goals. All plans were developed with public involvement.

The nomination has been submitted by the Federal Republic of Germany with the full support and understanding of obligations placed upon the four relevant Länder. Annual budgets totalling over €12 million exist now for all component parts and are considered more than adequate to effectively manage these component parts. Additional funds may be available from European Union programs, foundations, municipalities, nature conservation organizations and direct donations.

Cooperative management agreements with local groups and tourism agencies contribute to the achievement of management goals. Municipal authorities are also cooperating closely for example through the canopy walkway "Tree-top Trail" educational experience in Hainich, and nature conservation organizations such as the Kellerwald Park Centre and Königsstuhl Centre at

Jasmund. Management cooperation also exists to support university research.

All five components have well-established, qualified and experienced professional and technical staff in place. The four park units have established ranger forces for both park protection and education of park visitors.

Visitor management is of a high standard with a number of visitor centres, facilities and guide services providing quality interpretation and education services.

Ecological research, monitoring and science programs are on-going guided by unit management plans and in cooperation with universities, EUROPARC Germany, UNESCO biosphere reserves, and nearby nature parks. Various programmes and initiatives are in place to ensure local community engagement. The protected area management entities also have advisory boards or communal national park boards composed of interest group representatives, elected officials (mayors), district administrators, ministerial representatives, and park staff to help reconcile the interests of local stakeholders and citizens.

IUCN considers the management of the nominated property meets the requirements set out in the Operational Guidelines

4.4 Threats

At present the five nominated serial components are not subject to any proposed development or factors that may have a direct impact on their integrity. All are under long-term protection regimes and management as national parks or biosphere reserve core zones. According to scientific studies, climate change is not expected to appreciably affect the evolutionary progress of beech forests. In fact, the properties may help explain climate change since they are a result of environmental reaction to past climate change. Increases in temperature should not be a factor but stress by dryness may be a factor, although beech has physiological mechanisms to adapt for dryness. Hunting was identified as an issue in the nomination, but in reality is a form of management intervention, notably in limiting the impact of deer. There is no public hunting in any of the components. Monitoring of resource impacts (particularly wild boar and deer) may dictate when controlled taking of game by resource managers as appropriate to protect natural values.

Coordination is effected through a steering group comprised of representatives of the four Länder, the federal ministries, the national park and biosphere reserve managers. The nomination has been closely coordinated with Slovak and Ukrainian counterparts, and an Integrated Management System is proposed for the sites, if inscribed. This arrangement will implement a plan of coordinated management among all component parts, to sustain, protect, and preserve the OUV and integrity of the sites.

In summary, despite some concerns about the viability of small remnant forested areas, IUCN considers the nominated property meets the conditions of integrity as outlined in the Operational Guidelines.

5. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

5.1 Justification for Serial Approach

a) What is the justification for the serial approach?
The nomination of the ABF of Germany is proposed as an extension to the previously inscribed PBF of the Carpathians (Slovakia and Ukraine). As noted above IUCN's technical evaluation for the PBF of the Carpathians highlighted the fact that some of Germany's old-growth beech forests had potential to extend the coverage of Europe's original beech forests. The Carpathians World Heritage property contains some of the largest remnants but even the largest of these, Uholka in the Ukraine, is only 11,800 hectares. Two of the Carpathians' component parts, Rožok with 67 ha and Havešová at 171 ha, are smaller than the five nominated sites.

The nominated components of the property represent different altitude zones, site conditions, and dominant beech forest types that are not represented by the ten PBF components and hence provide the basis for a serial approach.

b) Are the separate component parts of the nominated property functionally linked in relation to the requirements of the Operational Guidelines?
The PBF of the Carpathians component parts are representative of the montane-subalpine altitudinal zones and are the best remaining primeval beech forests in Europe. The five nominated components of the ABF are representative of the colline-submontane (Kellerwald, Hainich) and planar (Serrahn, Grumsin, Jasmund) altitudinal zones and propose to add important beech forest community examples not represented by the PBF. While the nominated components are not primeval, the five components do include small old-growth, previously unexploited areas within the larger nominated parts.

There is nonetheless a difference in the nomination between the notion of primeval (PBF of the Carpathians) versus ancient (ABF of Germany) which undermines the conceptual linkages between these properties. The nomination proposes to extend the OUV of the Carpathians property, not with primeval forests, but with forests that were never fully exploited, or have not been exploited or managed in recent decades, and still contain small, remnant primeval patches of forest within them. The conceptual difference is amplified by the lack of proposed Statement of OUV for the proposed single, serial property. Further is a lack of clarity about the coherent concept for a finite or completed serial property that would incorporate all component parts across relevant States Parties. IUCN also notes that principles

adopted for identifying the scope of a series at the time of nomination recommend "…that when accepting the inscription of a serial property, there must be clarity about what the potential scope of the series might be…. particularly important when planning a phased series. The first phase of the nomination should indicate the intended overall series that might eventually be nominated, including the different component parts…".

c) Is there an effective overall management framework for all the component parts of the nominated property?
The existing Joint Management Plan between Slovakia and Ukraine has been proposed for expansion to include the Federal Republic of Germany in an "Integrated Management System" that outlines the mechanism for trilateral cooperation between the three countries. The existing Joint Management Plan is comprehensive and could serve as a model because so many levels of government, management agencies, communities and interest groups are included. The agreement has not yet been fully realized due to changing political conditions and the fact that it has been in effect only for a few years, but there is continued cooperation on the ground at the committee levels.

The State Party of Germany has worked commendably to facilitate transnational dialogue and cooperation on developing a suitable overall management framework for the serial property.

6. APPLICATION OF CRITERIA

The Ancient Beech Forests of Germany has been nominated under criteria (ix) to extend the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians, which is inscribed under the same criterion.

Criterion (ix): Ecological processes
The ABF of Germany represent examples of on-going post-glacial biological and ecological evolution of terrestrial ecosystems and are indispensable to understanding how one species, the European beech, came to absolute dominance across a variety of environmental parameters. The nominated components are some of the best remaining, least disturbed, and best conserved near-natural forest examples of the variety of site conditions not currently represented in the PBF of the Carpathians. Taken in isolation and given the small size and fragmented nature of these remnant ancient beech forests, they do not possess sufficient ecological integrity to meet criterion (ix). However, considered as an extension, and therefore part of a transnational serial property with PBF of the Carpathians, they demonstrate key aspects of processes essential for the long term conservation of natural beech forests and illustrate the environmental parameters in which the beech came to dominance following the last glacial period, a process which is still on-going. That said, the proposed extension has clear differences in values (Ancient, Germany) to the existing inscribed property (Primeval, Carpathians) plus there exist a range of other primeval and ancient forests that appear to have equivalent claims to be considered as serial extensions to the existing properties. The nomination does not present the extension as a coherent part of the series, nor does it clarify the potential scope of an eventual serial property.

IUCN considers that the components within the nominated property have the potential to meet this criterion, only when considered as an extension to the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians, however there may be alternative sites of equivalent or greater value that should be considered in other States Parties.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

IUCN recommends that the World Heritage Committee adopt the following draft decision:

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-11/35.COM/8B and WHC-11/35.COM/INF.8B2,

2. Defers the examination of the nomination of the **Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Germany)** to the World Heritage List under natural criterion (ix) as an extension of the **Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians** to allow the State Party to continue working with the States Parties of Ukraine and Slovakia and other interested States Parties, with the support of IUCN and the World Heritage Centre as required in order to define the scope of a finite and complete serial transnational nomination based on an extension of the existing property;

3. Encourages the State Party, in collaboration with other relevant States Parties, to address the following points in the consideration of the potential for further extension of the existing property:

a) the establishment of an effective Integrated Management System that would identify and protect the functional linkages between the component parts of a completed serial property;

b) the establishment of cooperative and transnational research and monitoring plans that would be able to monitor and report on a completed transnational serial property as a whole;

c) cooperative international programmes of capacity building to share best practices from countries included in the series, and other countries with significant primeval and ancient beech forests;

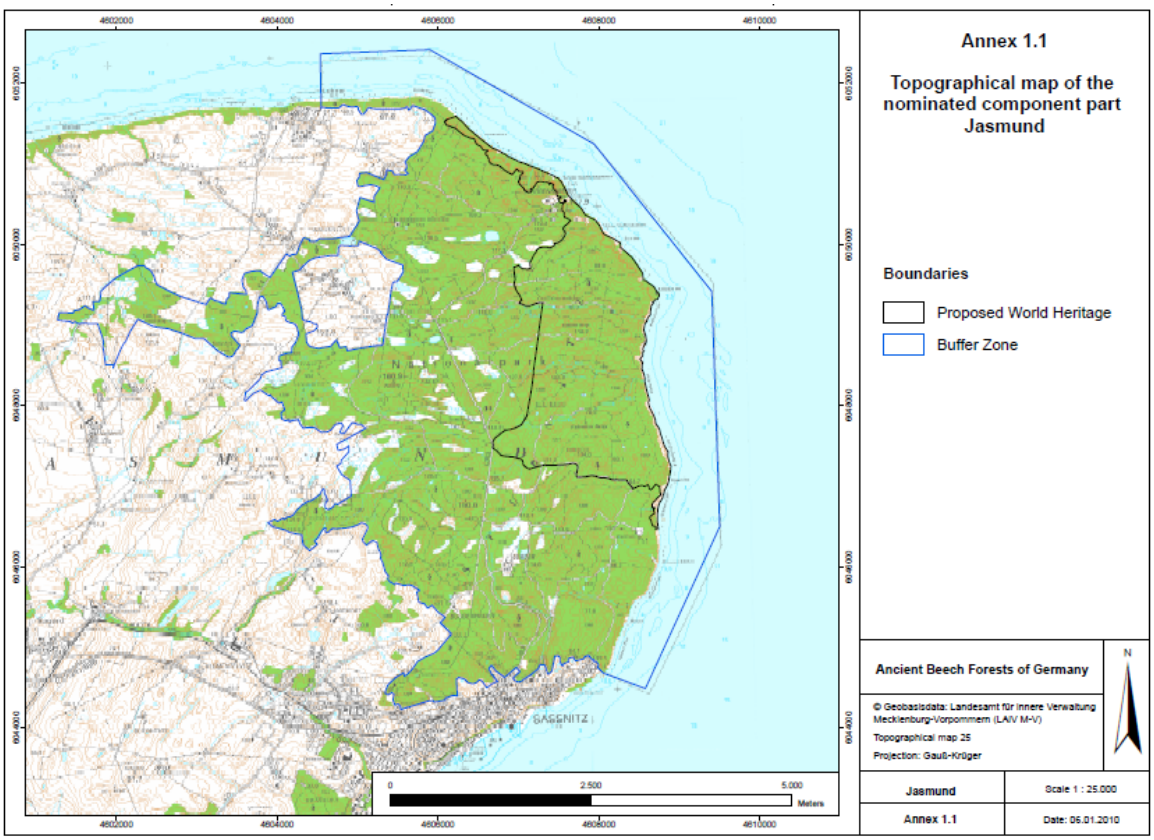
d) the consideration of a new name, agreeable to all of the relevant States Parties, and an

accompanying Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for a completed serial property which would convey and describe the scope and values of the property as whole.

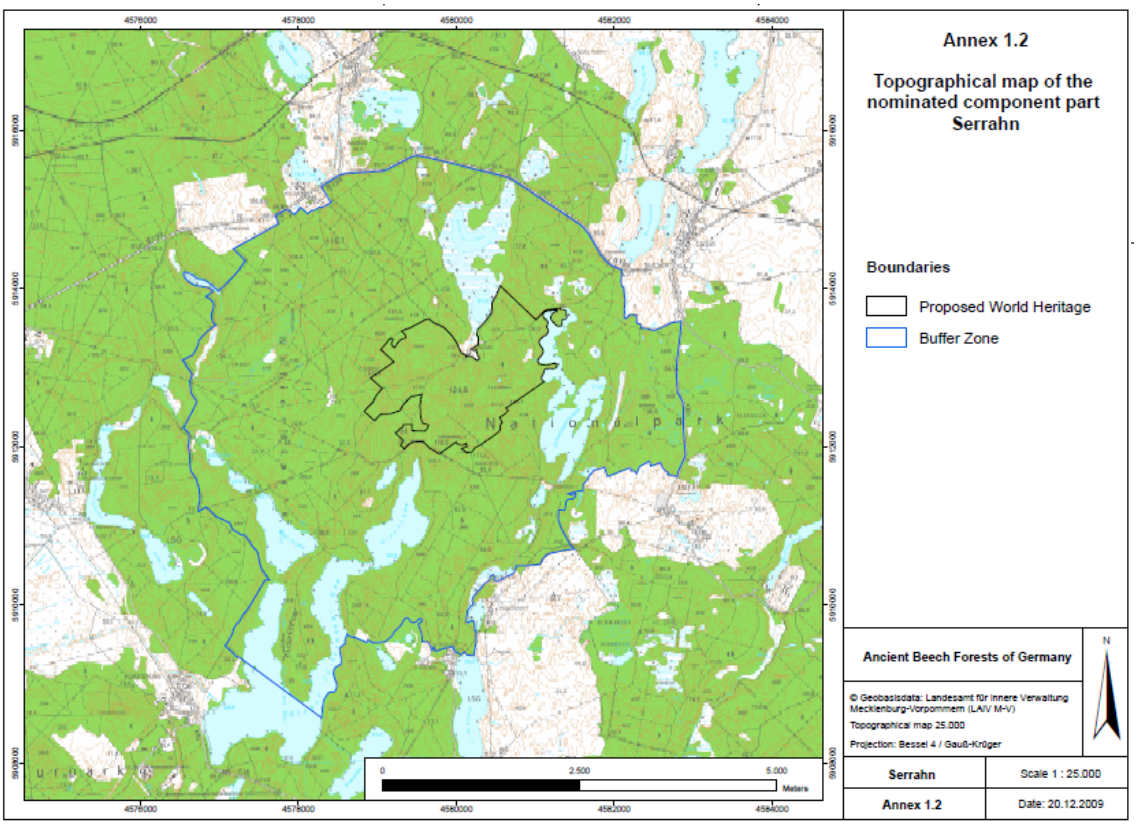
4. Commends the State Parties (Ukraine, Slovakia, Federal Republic of Germany) for their on-going commitment to ensure a comprehensive approach to conserving the primeval and ancient beech forests of Europe and for their exploration of the potential for the World Heritage Convention to further these efforts.

Map 1: Components location within Germany

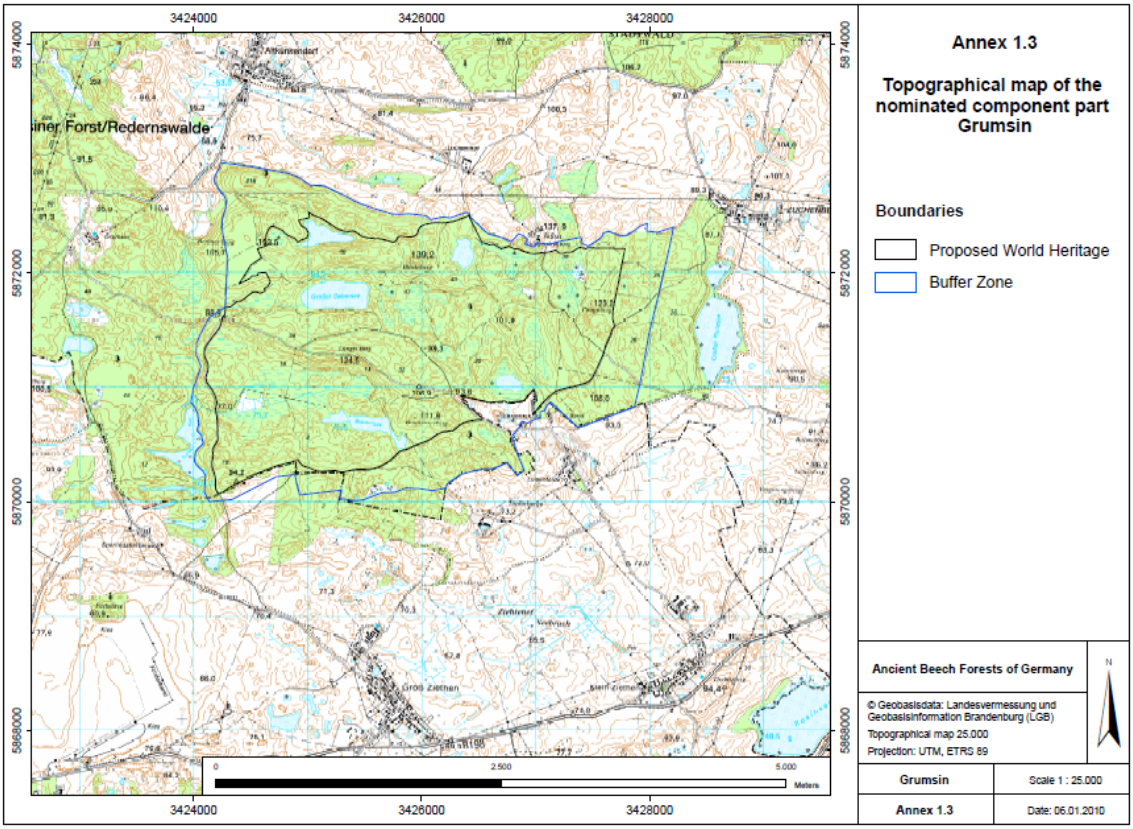
Map 2: Jasmund component



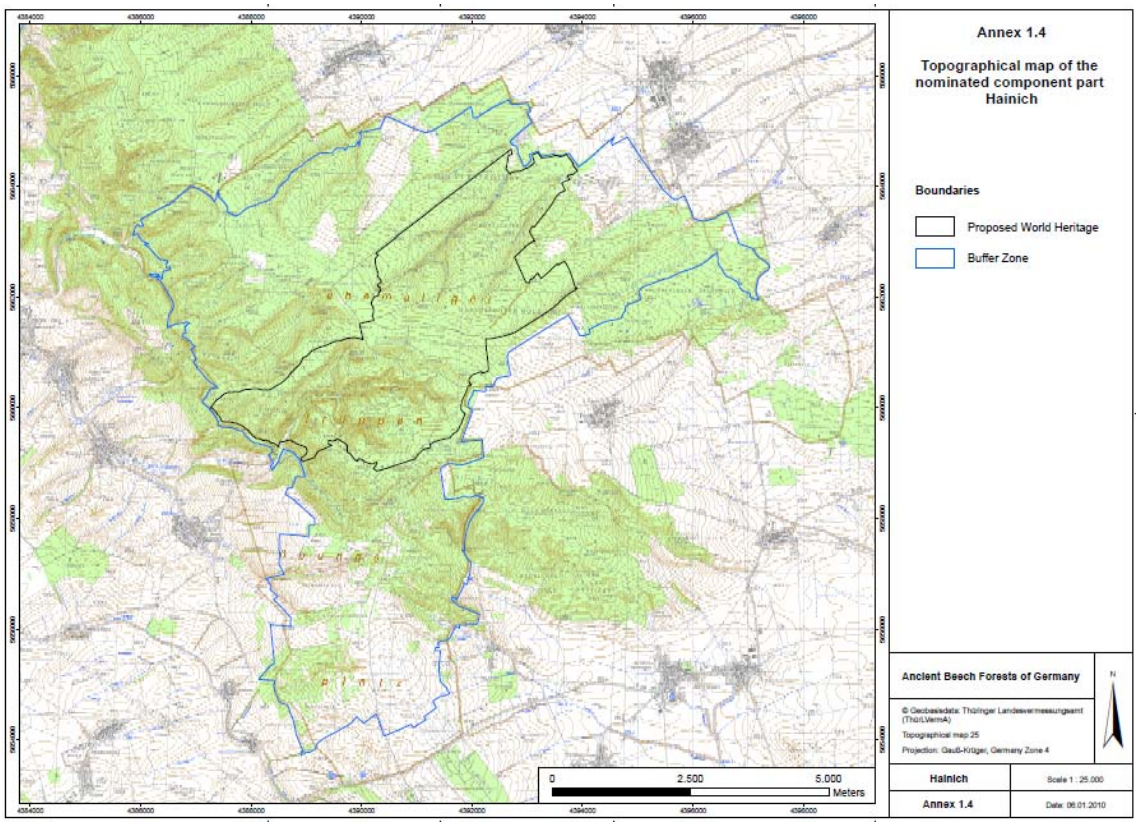
Map 3: Sehrran component



Map 4: Grumsin component



Map 5: Hainich component



Map 6: Kellerwald component