

## **WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION – IUCN COMMENTS TO ICOMOS**

### **PETROGLYPHIC COMPLEXES OF THE MONGOLIAN ALTAI (MONGOLIA) – ID No. 1382**

IUCN provided the following comments to ICOMOS based on desk review of this cultural landscape nomination.

IUCN considers that the nomination document sets out a clear rationale for considering this property as a cultural landscape, as a "combined work of man and nature". The three components included in this serial nomination are located in the Altai Mountains of western Mongolia. The nomination emphasizes how they complement each other as a cultural landscape in which rock art, surface monuments, sacred mountains and the larger physical context are expressively integrated. The imagery shows the character of early hunting traditions, herding, horse and camel riding and the final expansion of steppe and the herding dependency in the Eurasian steppe. IUCN notes that there are other sites in the region and worldwide which also demonstrate this interaction.

The nominated components are all state property, one of them is wholly within a nationally designated protected area, and one is partly in such an area. Due to its remoteness, there has been relatively little human impact on the natural landscape. Some of the land has traditionally been used by herding communities. Grazing might be increasing in the coming years due to climatic impacts. There is a proposed management plan for this serial property, and IUCN recommends ICOMOS confirm that there has been effective consultation with the herding communities in the process of its preparation.

IUCN notes that parts of the nominated property located in an area that has been suggested for transboundary cooperation in the Altai mountain range. There is an existing natural World Heritage Site in this region, the Golden Mountains of Altai, located in the Russian Federation. China has proposed another site in the Altai mountains on its tentative list. ICOMOS may wish to have regard to this broader picture in considering its evaluation of the nomination.