

Buenos Aires, February 24, 2017

To: Francisco Miguens Campos

I am writing to you, as President of the Board of Directors of Argentina National Parks Administration, in relation to the CONAPLU Note 5/2016, regarding the nomination of Los Alerces National Park as World Heritage Site. CONAPLU has sent to this Administration, a copy of the letter IUCN sent to the argentinian ambassador to UNESCO, pertaining the evaluation of the nomination made by the Union. This is in turn related to the Supervision Mission which took place from 30 october to 8 november 2016.

The following are our considerations and answers to the aforementioned IUCN note.

- a. The rationale for presenting the nomination for Los Alerces National Park only, was centered and focused strongly in the importance and singularity of its masses of alerce (*Fitzroya cupressoides*), extent of pristine blocks, and degree of integrity of the protected area, mainly in the portion of National Park *stricto sensu*. Even when the nomination has included values not restricted to the alerce, the approach of the nomination was strongly focused in generating a framework of greater relevance for strengthening the protection of this species' masses with higher genetic variability and better conserved, within the National Protected Area system; even when some of the conservation values involved are also present in other portions of the ecoregion.
- b. The potential inclusion in an extension of the proposal, of new portions within the National Parks along the ecoregional corridor -in congruence with the Andino Norpatagonica Biosphere Reserve-, is, in principle, of interest from the standpoint of a nomination for heritage site. This would add a wider range of values of importance and sites of high priority, at the same time giving a new and more encompassing identity to the eventual site, which would be representative of the Temperate North Andean Patagonian Forest of the eastern slope of the Andes.

It should also be said that this new proposal -which we see as an improvement-, at the same time modifies the focus defined a priori. Also, such a proposal -even beyond the revision and widening of the comparative analysis requested-, would require a preparation and participation/consultation process of very high territorial and social complexity, which would justify a particular treatment for meeting the governance and consultation requirements. For example, it would involve FOUR (4) National Parks instead of ONE (1). Also, it would involve interaction and consultation with THREE (3) Provinces instead of ONE (1); and also with a number of cities, towns, rural settlements and indigenous communities, with a variety of visions regarding this kind of initiatives.

Taking all this in consideration, we consider that the conditions are not met for the process which would be required in the territory potentially involved, for an extension of the nomination for Los Alerces National Park, at the present time. This notwithstanding, the new proposal would be worth evaluating carefully for its potential inclusion in the country's Tentative List.

Lastly, regarding item 5 in IUCN note, all what is requested is included in the nomination dossier -in particular, in its Participation appendix-, which details the complete information about the process, the objections presented, the subsequent analyses and the responses given by the Administration. With best regards,