

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

World Heritage Committee
Fourteenth Session
Banff, Canada, 7-12 December 1990

**ITEM 15 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA: Nominations of Natural Properties to the
World Heritage List**

1. At its fourteenth session, the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee examined the nominations of six natural properties and three natural/cultural properties in light of the evaluations of IUCN. The three natural properties and one natural/cultural property recommended for inscription are presented in Section A below with the Bureau's recommendations. The two natural nominations for which IUCN evaluations were not available at the time of the Bureau meeting are presented in Section B below. The other three nominations were referred back to the States Parties concerned for further information/documentation, and, as there has not yet been any further progress, are not presented to the Committee.

2. In addition, the American authorities have formally requested the Committee's approval of modifications of the limits to one natural site which was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1981. This case is presented under Section C.

A. Nominations recommended for inscription

Mount Huangshan	People's Republic of China	N (iii) (iv), C (ii)
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The Bureau recommended that this site be inscribed and wished to commend the three levels of government responsible for the management of the site for their co-operative efforts in addressing the problems caused by intense recreational use. The Bureau encouraged the Chinese authorities to implement the management plan which had been drawn up and which aims at reducing excessive human impacts on the natural scenery. As concerns the cultural heritage, the Bureau requested the Chinese authorities to provide, if possible in time for the fourteenth session of the Committee, a list of the cultural monuments within this site.

The Bureau's recommendations were transmitted to the State Party by letter of 9 August 1990.

Tsingy Bemaraha Madagascar N (iii) (iv)
Strict Nature Reserve

The Bureau recommended that this site be inscribed. It noted IUCN's report on the current lack of infrastructure to properly manage and protect the integrity of this site and was glad to learn of the recent launching of a three-year Unesco/UNDP Project aimed at preparing a management plan and building up the capacity of the Malagasy authorities to safeguard this site. The funds -- \$1.2 million -- were being provided by another State Party, the Federal Republic of Germany, which thereby was fulfilling its responsibility under the Convention to protect the heritage of another State Party. The project aimed also at making Tsingy de Bemahara part of a larger biosphere reserve which would address the needs of local populations, and which came within the framework of an overall Unesco/UNDP project on biosphere reserves in Madagascar, supported by the Federal Republic of Germany with assistance from Canada and France. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to prepare a progress report with the Malagasy authorities on this project, with particular attention to the measures taken to ensure the integrity of the site, to be submitted to the Committee for its next session.

The Bureau's recommendations were transmitted to the State Party by letter of 14 August 1990. Since this date, a consultant has undertaken a five-week mission in August/September, within the framework of a Unesco/UNDP Project, to prepare the outline of a management plan for the site, with recommendations on the required infrastructure to protect its integrity. A progress report will be presented to the Committee at its fourteenth session.

South-west New Zealand N (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)
New Zealand
(Te Wahipounamu)

The Bureau recommended that this property be inscribed on the List. It noted that the nomination included two existing World Heritage sites i.e. Westland/Mount Cook National Parks and the Fiordland National Park, both inscribed in 1986. The New Zealand authorities had nominated an additional 1.2 million ha. of land between the two sites, thereby doubling the size of the area inscribed. The Bureau also noted the strong protective measures taken by the New Zealand authorities, particularly the cancellation of all logging and mining rights in the entire nominated area. The Bureau recommended that the area to be inscribed exclude the seven small outliers in the vicinity of the town of Te Anau. It also suggested that the New Zealand authorities undertake a public awareness campaign for local people in the area on the meaning of the World Heritage and propose a more descriptive name for this site.

The Bureau's recommendations were transmitted to the State Party by letter of 8 August 1990. In their reply dated 14 September 1990 the New Zealand authorities have made the following observations:

- a) While the New Zealand authorities accept the exclusion of the six outliers around Te Anau, they believe that the Gorge Hill Scientific Reserve could be seen as part of the site because of its habitat/landscape values (the only significant area of mid-latitude tussock), its high protective status and its relatively large size (2,188 ha)". Although the

New Zealand authorities stress the important values attached to this particular reserve they are however, prepared to accept its exclusion in the interests of expediting the inscription of the rest of the proposed area.

b) The Bureau's suggestion that a more descriptive name be found for this site had been extensively discussed within the Department of Conservation in New Zealand. Proposing a more descriptive name in English that embodies all the characteristics, e.g. ice fields, glaciers, fiords, alps, temperate rainforest, wilderness etc., was found to be difficult. Hence, the Department of Conservation wishes to retain and promote the evocative and culturally significant name of "Te Wahipounamu" as well as the name "South-West New Zealand". The New Zealand authorities consider both these as generic names appropriately incorporating more specific names of individual regions within the site, for example Fiordland, Mt. Cook, Aspiring and Westland Parks. Hence they prefer the nomination to be designated as "Te Wahipounamu - South-West New Zealand".

c) The New Zealand authorities have noted the recommendation of the Bureau regarding a promotional campaign for local people on the meaning of World Heritage and are considering launching such a campaign to follow up on the decision of the Committee.

La Amistad

Panama

N (ii) (iv)

The Bureau recalled that when the Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves of Costa Rica were inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1983, the Committee expressed the wish that the contiguous La Amistad National Park of Panama be also nominated and hence was satisfied to note that the Panamanian authorities had taken necessary action to implement the decision of the Committee.

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe La Amistad National Park of Panama on the World Heritage List and request the Panamanian authorities to redefine the boundaries of the nomination to exclude the Volcan Baru National Park. The Bureau suggested that the Committee request the Panamanian authorities to allocate significantly more resources to the management authority (RENARE) and to adopt the "Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development for Bocas del Toro" as a general framework to guide international support for the Park. The Bureau also recommended that the Committee encourage the Costa Rican and Panamanian authorities to take necessary action so that the two Parks may be included as a single site on the World Heritage List. In this regard, the Bureau noted that in 1979 the Presidents of Costa Rica and Panama had already signed an agreement to recognize this site as an international friendship park.

The recommendations of the Bureau were transmitted to the State Party by letter of 9 August 1990. The Panamanian authorities, by their letter of reply dated 17 September 1990, have agreed to exclude the Volcan Baru National Park from the nominated area. They also indicated their support to the proposal to recognize La Amistad as one World Heritage site with Costa Rica. In addition, the Panamanian authorities have informed the Secretariat that at present a joint team including specialists from CATIE (Costa Rica), IUCN, Panama's Ministry of Planning and RENARE are engaged in the elaboration of a management plan for the site. A request for technical assistance from the World Heritage Fund for consolidating protection of the site and to launch research and community development activities has also been submitted.

B. Nominations for which further information on the evaluation has been received

Tongariro National Park - New Zealand

The Bureau recalled that the inscription of this property had been deferred until a revised management plan was available. The New Zealand authorities had informed the Secretariat and IUCN that such a plan had been prepared and requested the re-examination of this nomination in 1990. The documents were transmitted only a short time before the Bureau session and hence IUCN had not been in a position to provide an evaluation. The Bureau therefore requested IUCN to prepare its evaluation for submission to the Bureau during the fourteenth session of the Committee in December 1990.

The comments of the Bureau were transmitted to the State Party by letter dated 8 August 1990. The IUCN evaluation for this site is available for presentation to the Bureau and the Committee at this session.

Sjajuna - Sweden

The Bureau's notes on this nomination were transmitted to the State Party by letter of 8 August 1990. The Swedish Authority, by their fax dated 23 October 1990, have expressed their wish to postpone the nomination of this site for inscription on the World Heritage List with a view to nominating a larger area in the future.

C. Modification of limits of a property inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Olympic National Park - USA

When this site was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1981, the Committee requested the State Party to complete amendments to the legislation and add a coastal strip and a number of off-shore islands to the Park. The Bureau, at its fourteenth session, noted with satisfaction that the American authorities had implemented the Committee's recommendations and requested that the additions to the Park be formally proposed as part of the property already inscribed on the World Heritage List. In response to the letter from the Secretariat, dated 9 August 1990, transmitting the recommendation of the Bureau, the American authorities have provided a map indicating the additions to this site, its new boundaries and the designated wilderness areas and have requested the Committee to formally modify the limits of the property inscribed in 1981.