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Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and/or on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Point 7 de l'Ordre du jour provisoire: Etat de conservation de biens inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial et/ou sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en péril

MISSION REPORT / RAPPORT DE MISSION

Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) (N 1167)
Patrimoine des forêts tropicales ombrophiles de Sumatra (Indonésie) (N 1167)

Joint IUCN-UNESCO Reactive Monitoring mission, 5-11 March 2007/ 5-11 mars 2007

This mission report should be read in conjunction with Document:
Ce rapport de mission doit être lu conjointement avec le document suivant:

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**TROPICAL RAINFOREST HERITAGE OF SUMATRA
(TRHS)
REPORT OF THE REACTIVE MONITORING MISSION
5 TO 11 MARCH 2007**

3 May, 2007



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The aim of this mission was to follow up the 2006 WH Committee decision, which focused on the development of an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for addressing threats to the property. Specifically, the 2006 Committee, *“request[ed] the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission to the property to assess the progress made in the implementation of the measures indicated.....and report to the Committee at its 31st session in 2007”*

The Mission was undertaken between 3 to 11 March, 2007 and comprised Kishore Rao, Deputy Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and David Sheppard, Head IUCN Programme on Protected Areas. The Mission noted some improvements since the 2006 mission particularly in relation to the Gunung Leuser National Park and in relation to addressing the threats of illegal logging and road construction throughout the property. The proposed doubling of the budget for both Gunung Leuser and Kerinci Seblat in 2007 and improving the staffing structure of all three component national parks, were noted as very positive initiatives by the Mission Team. The State Party is to be commended on these initiatives.

In general the Mission Team noted: (a) considerable improvement in the management of the Gunung Leuser National Park over the last 12 months, which particularly reflects strong and effective leadership from the Park Manager; and (b) a number of improvements in the management of the Kerinci Seblat National Park over the last 12 months, particularly in relation to road closures and the addressing of illegal logging. The Mission was unable to visit Bukit Barisan National Park, however reports indicate that the situation is comparable to the situation 12 months ago.

Despite these positive improvements, the property continues to face severe threats to the values for which it was inscribed and these must be addressed by the State Party as a matter of urgency.

Recommendations:

1. The Emergency Action Plan should be revised through a broad consultation process involving the 3 national parks and all key partners and stakeholders, particularly civil society. Particular emphasis should be placed on addressing encroachments within the 3 national parks comprising the World Heritage property;
2. Priority emphasis should be placed on addressing the threats of illegal logging throughout the park. In particular, the following are required: (a) full and effective application of the ban on illegal logging in all 3 national parks; (b) closure of all sawmills and roads associated with logging within the 3 national parks; (c) rehabilitation of closed roads associated with illegal logging; and (d) early finalization and effective implementation of the law on illegal logging.
3. the 3 national parks within the property should clear as much of the encroached areas as possible and to prepare revised boundaries to exclude encroached land that is impossible to recover. Important habitat which was identified by IUCN at

- the time of evaluation of the property should be added to the boundaries of the property;
4. no new roads should be constructed within the property;
 5. an effective coordination mechanism should be established between different organizations involved in the WH Property.
 6. more attention be given to the promotion of the world heritage status of the property and, at a minimum, all main entry points to the national parks should have clear signposting which recognizes/acknowledges world heritage status.
 7. there should be one integrated management framework for the management of the whole property. This should ensure coordination between the three national parks and also ensure that they are managed as one integrated world heritage property.
 8. the initiative to establish trained and effective law enforcement units (SPORC) should be expanded and staff should be made readily available to assist law enforcement activities within the property.
 9. In view of this progress, and the time frame involved in implementing the recommendations listed above, it is recommended that another mission be held after two years of the 2007 WH Committee Meeting, to assess progress in implementing the EAP and the recommendations above. This mission should consider, inter alia, overall progress with the EAP: If this mission ascertains that threats still exist to the property and if the recommendations of the EAP and the 2007 Mission Report have not been effectively implemented, there should be a clear recommendation for WH in Danger Listing at that time.

1 BACKGROUND TO THE MISSION

The Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (TRHS), a serial property including three National Parks (Kerinci Seblat NP (KSNP), Gunung Leuser NP (GLNP) and Bukit Barisan Selatan NP (BBSNP), was inscribed on the World Heritage (WH) List under criteria (iv), (ix) and (x). at the 28th session of the WH Committee (Suzhou, 2004).

Based on the type and immediacy of the threats identified during its technical evaluation, IUCN recommended the Committee to inscribe the property simultaneously on the WH List and the List of WH in Danger (see IUCN evaluation report in Annex XXX). The Committee, although noting the urgency of threats to the property, decided not to inscribe the property on the List of WH in Danger but requested the State Party prepare an Emergency Action Plan.

Several integrity issues were raised in the IUCN evaluation report at the time of inscription, including in particular: (a) illegal logging within and adjacent to the property; (b) Encroachment, particularly through agriculture; (c) law enforcement: deficiencies; (d) road development, including the proposal for the Ladia Galaska Road; (e) omission of key habitat areas from the boundaries of the property.

In 2005 the State of Conservation report on the TRHS focussed on aftermath of the tsunami and earthquake tragedies that struck Sumatra (Aceh and Nias) on the 26 December 2004 and the possible need for emergency assistance to the property. However, no emergency action plan was submitted by the State Party.

In 2006 the State of Conservation report (attached as Annex XXXX) on TRHS focused on the findings of the 2006 UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission, which identified extensive threats from encroachment and road building. The mission proposed a number of corrective measures for the State Party to achieve within 3-4 years. The decision of the 2006 WH Committee is attached as Annex XXXX. In particular, the Committee decision requested the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission to the property to assess the progress made in the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan.

This mission report responds directly to this 2006 Committee decision. The Terms of Reference of this Mission are attached as Annex XXX

2 NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

All three national parks within the property are public lands designated by the Government of Indonesia. The managing authority of all three national parks is the Directorate General of Forest Protection and Forest Conservation (PHKA) within the Ministry of Forestry.

3 IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES / THREATS TO THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY

The threats identified at the time of inscription of the property continue to threaten the property. The findings of the Mission are outlined below:

Emergency Action Plan (EAP)

1. The Mission reviewed the EAP and noted that it does not specifically and fully respond to the decision of 30 COM. It does contain the elements of a framework plan, but does not give specific details of costed activities, sources of funding, and timeframes. Further work is required to translate this EAP into a strategic and useful document which can be used to monitor implementation and assess progress.
2. Recommendation: EAP to be revised through a broad consultation process involving the 3 national parks and all key partners and stakeholders, particularly the civil society. This should address the priority issues identified below, particularly the strategy for dealing with encroachment.

Illegal Logging

1. Pressures relating to illegal logging have been a major issue in all three parks. However, the recent Presidential Decree on Illegal Logging has made a clear impact. This Decree further involves 18 ministries and requests the Heads of District Administrations to establish integrated inter-agency Task Forces to address illegal logging issues. An important consideration is that the District Task Forces to address illegal logging must be adequately resourced if they are to function effectively.
2. The positive impact of action to address illegal logging can be seen in the the Kerinci Seblat National Park, where decrees have been issued at the district level in some cases, mirroring the Presidential Decree. For example, these have been issued through the Kerinci District Bupati (Chief) and have been influential in influencing the control of illegal logging in the Kerinci District. In both Gunung Leuser and Kerinci Seblat the mission team was advised that illegal logging has been halted and illegal sawmills and logging roads closed down.
3. Given the value of the timber within the WH property, and the increasing absence of timber resources outside national parks the pressure for illegal logging will remain. Constant and effective vigilance is essential. The mission was also informed that a law to deal with illegal logging throughout Indonesia had been drafted and is under finalization.
4. Effective control of illegal logging will require clear boundary demarcation and strong and effective patrolling to identify and stop illegal logging. The initiative of using GIS maps in conjunction with Google Earth to identify locations of illegal operations is positive and should be expanded to other parks. There is

considerable information held by NGOs, in relation to illegal encroachment and it is important that this information is made available and used by the park management staff to assist in addressing illegal logging and encroachment. For example, there is considerable information on encroachment in the Bukit Barisan National Park held by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), which could greatly assist park management.

5. The initiative in establishing a Forest Rangers Quick Response System (SPORC) is also a positive move that should be expanded and applied to address illegal logging and encroachment problems in a more strategic and regular manner.
6. Given the effectiveness of the Presidential Decree in addressing illegal logging it is strongly recommended that a similar Decree be issued urgently to address the important issue of encroachment.
7. Recommendation: Priority to be maintained on addressing the threats of illegal logging throughout the park. In particular, the following are required: (a) full and effective application of the ban on illegal logging in all 3 parks comprising the World Heritage property; (b) closure of all sawmills and roads associated with logging within the national parks; (c) rehabilitation of closed roads associated with illegal logging; and early finalization and effective implementation of the law on illegal logging.

Encroachments

1. Encroachments are by far the most serious ascertained threat affecting the property and are widespread through the edges of the property, particularly within the Kerinci Seblat National Park and Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park.
2. There are two broad types of encroachments: first, those dealing with industrial interests such as in relation to the expansion of commercial oil palm plantation (and coffee particularly in Bukit Barisan); second, those associated with agricultural activities of local communities. Both are difficult to deal with, particularly those relating to local communities. In a number of cases, leadership in relation to encroachments is reportedly provided by “intellectual actors”. A number of high profile legal cases against some of these “intellectual actors” in the Gunung Leuser National Park (local politicians) have proved very effective in raising the profile of the issue of encroachment and the need to do something about it.
3. In all cases, park staff must demonstrate their clear willingness to positively intervene to address park encroachments if they are to be taken seriously and to have a positive impact. However, as this problem has socio-political dimensions the staff will require the full backing of their central agency (Department of Forestry – PHKA), the local administration and the relevant central and local law enforcement agencies, including SPORC.
4. The Mission noted the effective action taken by the Park Manager of the Gunung Leuser National Park to remove part of an oil palm plantation within the park. This has involved the cutting down of oil palms previously planted within the

boundary of the national park. It is important that examples such as this, which highlight the willingness of the park authorities to take action, are widely promoted to discourage further encroachments within park boundaries.

5. The options for dealing with encroachments will require a firmer stand and approach than has previously been taken. The options include: (a) voluntary relocation of people illegally living inside the boundaries of the site and rehabilitation of recovered areas; (b) rationalization of park boundaries to exclude encroachments which are impossible to deal with.
6. Either way what is required is clear boundary demarcation and communication of these boundaries to local communities. And in turn they should be respected by local communities. Boundaries should also be modified to include important habitat. The process for boundary revision and modification is the responsibility of the central office of the Forestry Department (Baplan Unit) together with its local counterpart (Balai Pemantapan Kawasan Hutah- the unit covering southern Sumatra, located in Palembang). There has been a request for boundary modification in the Kerinci Sembalt National Park¹
7. The apparent success of the Presidential Decree on illegal logging (see above section) indicates that it would be worthwhile in urgently pursuing a similar decree on encroachment, or any other equally effective and timely mechanism.
8. In relation to Kerinci Seblat, there are extensive agricultural encroachments. According to the park manager, until 2005 around 157,756 hectare has reportedly been encroached by around 40,924 families”.
9. Discussions with the Bupati of the Kerinci District noted there were options for voluntary relocation of communities currently living within the park. However, such an option in the absence of higher level political support would be difficult to achieve
10. Recommendation: all three component parks of the property to clear as much of the encroached areas as possible and to have revised boundaries to exclude encroached land that is impossible to recover, and also to add important habitat which was identified by IUCN at the time of evaluation of the property. Time Frame within two years i.e. by the 2009 WH Committee Meeting, which should also be incorporated in the EAP.

Roads

1. The development of roads within the property has been an issue for a number of years. This has been a particular issue within the Kerinci Seblat National Park where a total of 34 roads had been proposed, including a number through the core zone of the property. The 2007 Mission noted that these proposals had been stopped and applauds this decision.
2. AKAR, which is a consortium of 20 local NGOs who were given a grant under the Rapid Response Facility (RRF) project of UNF-FFI-UNESCO, has played a

¹ Pers. Communication Soewartano Park Manager Kerinci Seblat National Park

crucial role in supporting park management in Kerinci Seblat and blocking the construction of these roads.

3. It also noted the instruction issued by PHKA in September 2006 prohibiting the construction of roads inside conservation areas. But again, this has to be followed up by closely monitoring the situation on the ground and taking both preventive and corrective action. There are, however, a number of pressures for development of roads and it is important that any such future proposals are firmly resisted.
11. Recommendation: no new roads should be constructed within the property.

Coordination between different agencies

1. There are a number of organizations involved in the management of the WH property in addition to the Forestry Department. These include Foundations such as the Leuser Foundation, involved in the management of the Greater Leuser Ecosystem and NGOs such as the Wildlife Conservation Society involved in the wildlife survey in Bukit Barisan as well as other national parks. In some cases there is close cooperation and support between the management agency and in other cases the cooperation is less effective.
2. It is important that the activities of these organizations supports the effective management of the three national parks. For example funds raised or information generated by Foundations such as the Leuser Foundation should support the management of the Gunung Leuser National Park. The guiding principle should be to ensure the involvement from these different organizations is in support of the management agency (Forestry Department) in the management of the property
3. The finalization and implementation of the Emergency Action Plan should be a key vehicle for harnessing cooperative efforts to support site management.
4. Recommendation: An effective coordination mechanism should be established between different organizations involved in the WH Property.

Promotion and Interpretation

1. The Mission Team noted very limited promotion of the world heritage status of the property, particularly in relation to signposting and the preparation of promotional materials.
2. Recommendation: more attention be given to the promotion of the world heritage status of the property and that, at a minimum, all main entry points to the national parks have clear signposting which recognizes/acknowledges world heritage status.

Governance and Capacity

1. Effective governance and management of each park is essential. Good governance includes: leadership; the definition of clear roles and responsibilities; and motivated and effective staff
2. The Mission Team noted that the management units in TRHS have been upgraded from Echelon III to II, which means the Park Managers are now upgraded as Directors, so that they can better interface with counterparts at the local and national levels. Each management unit will have 4-5 Divisions with 8 sections, and the number of staff has also been increased significantly. In addition, the budget has been doubled. These measures have been taken with the involvement of the Ministry of Administrative Reforms. This upgrading of the organizational structure is fully supported. It is important that the appointment of these positions be implemented as a matter of priority and that the selection process for these positions is open, transparent and based on merit. It is essential that the best persons available are appointed to the positions of park directors. Merit should be the overriding consideration in relation to selection.
3. More staff is required in each park and budget increases should be allocated for this purpose. The mission was informed that Debt-for-Nature Swap (DNS) with the Government of Germany worth 63 million euros had been finalized which will bring significant resources for the TRHS up to 2009, and if funds are still available, this assistance will continue until 2012. The Government should strive to sustain this level of budgetary increase.
4. All staff should be effectively trained, motivated and should have clear roles and responsibilities. It is also important that staffing related issues within the parks are addressed, including: (a) the need to recruit younger staff to address the aging workforce which exists within the three national parks; (b) the need to develop appropriate incentive structures which reward good performance, particularly in relation to dealing with key issues such as encroachment; (c) the need to ensure the recruitment of most appropriate staff, including through offering appropriate remuneration packages; and (d) the need to ensure staff have the right skill profile to effectively address the challenges of the 21st century within the three national parks, implying that staff should have skills in areas such as information technology and community management, in addition to traditional skills.
5. The Mission noted the initiative to establish trained and effective law enforcement units (SPORC) which can quickly respond to issues such as illegal logging at the field level. This is a positive initiative which should be expanded.
1. Another governance issue is the need for all 3 parks to function as one cohesive world heritage property. There needs to be closer cooperation between Park Directors and an effective coordination mechanism established. There should also be an exchange of staff between the three properties and where possible joint program development, such as to share experience and enhance capacity in addressing encroachment.

2. Current governance mechanisms do not effectively allow for community involvement in protected area management. The result is that relations between the park management authorities and local communities are often antagonistic and confrontational. There are a range of potential mechanisms for increasing the level of involvement, ranging from establishing advisory/consultative mechanisms which involve local communities to mechanisms involving changing laws to involve local communities in national parks. The range of options should be explored.
3. Recommendation 1: there should be one integrated management framework for the management of the whole property. This should ensure coordination between the three national parks and also ensure that they are managed as one integrated world heritage property.
4. Recommendation 2: the initiative to establish trained and effective law enforcement units (SPORC) should be expanded and staff should be made readily available to assist law enforcement activities within the property.

4 ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY

1. There are currently many threats facing the site, reinforcing the earlier recommendations and observations of the 2004 IUCN Evaluation Report and the 2006 Monitoring Mission Report. The purpose of the WHC/IUCN mission, as set out in Decision 30COM 7B.12, was to assess the progress made in the implementation of measures relating to the preparation and submission of the EAP. It is clear that the State Party has undertaken a number of very positive efforts to address the State of Conservation of this property. There is no doubt that significant progress has been made, as noted in the preceding paragraphs on the issue of dealing with illegal logging, road construction, law enforcement, enhancing budget support, improving management and staffing structure, adding critical habitat to the park (addition of the Merangin River habitat to Kerinci Seblat NP), eviction of encroachments (partly), increasing involvement of the civil society, etc. These efforts need to be strengthened, sustained and expanded, as well as supported by the international community.
2. The most serious ascertained threat to the property is undoubtedly encroachments. This requires concerted action on the part of park managers and other key actors. Effectively addressing this action will require time and resources and this should be a priority activity within the EAP. It is the view of the mission team, as noted above, that intractable and long term encroachments should be excluded by modifying the boundaries of the property. It is noted that, the encroachments are confined to the edges of the property and also that, even if the encroached areas are excluded, the property would continue to have OUV. This will require a careful assessment of boundaries, which should also consider adding important habitat which was identified by IUCN at the time of evaluation of the property.
3. The issue of potential Danger Listing of this property should be viewed in the context of the progress made by the State Party in addressing the various recommendations of the World Heritage Committee.

4. Recommendation: In view of this progress, and the time frame involved in implementing the recommendations listed above, it is recommended that another mission be held after two years of the 2007 WH Committee Meeting, to assess progress in implementing the EAP and the recommendations above. This mission should consider, inter alia, overall progress with the EAP: If this mission ascertains that threats still exist to the property and if the recommendations of the EAP and the 2007 Mission Report have not been effectively implemented there should be a clear recommendation for WH in Danger Listing at that time.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Mission notes that the State Party has made significant progress in addressing the issues identified in previous Mission reports. However serious threats remain, particularly in relation to encroachments within the property. These need to be addressed as a matter of urgency. The key recommendations as set out above in section 3 and in the Executive Summary identify the key actions requiring attention. The Mission recommends that another mission be held two years after the 2007 WH Committee Meeting, to assess progress in implementing the EAP and the recommendations above. If this mission ascertains that threats still exist to the property and if the recommendations of the EAP and the 2007 Mission Report have not been effectively implemented, there should be a clear recommendation for WH in Danger Listing at that time.

6. ANNEXES

Annex I - 2006 State of Conservation report

Annex II - Decision of the 2006 WH Committee

Annex III - List of Participants

Annex IV - Photographs

State of conservation reports of properties inscribed
on the World Heritage List

WHC-06/30.COM/7B, p. 11

11. Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) (N 1167)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

2004

Criteria:

N (ii) (iii) (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 14B.5

29 COM 7B.9

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 66,600 in July 2005 for Emergency Assistance on rehabilitation of management facilities of the Gunung Leuser National Park, which is part of the property.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 1,800,000 for the 3-year UNF/UNFIP Project (2005-2007) - Partnership for the Conservation of Sumatra Natural Heritage.

Previous monitoring missions:

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Agricultural encroachment;
- b) Illegal logging; poaching;
- c) Road construction and institutional and governance issues.

Current conservation issues:

At the time of inscription of the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (TRHS) on the World Heritage List in July 2004, IUCN recommended that the property be simultaneously inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Committee, at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), noted the urgency of the ascertained threats to the property but due to the strong objection of the State Party of Indonesia to the inclusion on the Danger List, the Committee requested the State Party to prepare an emergency action plan focusing in particular on illegal logging, agricultural encroachments, proposed road development, securing international assistance and protection of critical habitat. This action plan was not submitted by the State Party as requested.

On 21 December 2004, the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry submitted an international assistance request on the preparation of an integrated action plan for better protection and management of

Sumatra Natural Heritage. IUCN and the World Heritage Centre commented on this request and the State Party was requested to reformulate the request for re-submission to the World Heritage Centre. Due to the Tsunami disaster of December 2004 that affected northern Sumatra, the State Party submitted another request for Emergency Assistance to support the rehabilitation of management facilities at the Gunung Leuser National Park. The Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee approved an amount of USD 66,600 for this project in July 2005, which is currently being implemented by the Indonesian authorities in collaboration with the UNESCO Office in Jakarta.

The World Heritage Committee, at its 29th session (Durban, 2005), requested the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to carry out a monitoring mission and report to the 30th session on the state of conservation of the property, the impacts of the Tsunami and progress with the proposed emergency action plan.

The IUCN-UNESCO mission was successfully carried out from 25 February to 5 March 2006. It found that all three National Park components of the serial World Heritage property continue to face serious threats. Notwithstanding some welcome improvements and positive changes since inscription on the World Heritage List, all areas are subject to a mounting series of on-going and imminent threats linked to agricultural encroachments, illegal logging, road construction (legal and illegal), and poaching. Not only are all of the protected areas being substantially encroached upon and losing habitat, they are also losing their forested surrounds to agriculture and industrial coffee and oil palm plantations.

Most indicators point towards quickening loss of biodiversity, particularly the larger mammals such as the elephant, tiger and rhinoceros. The capacity of management to effectively respond to and resolve critical situations has failed to keep pace with the mounting threats due to a range of institutional constraints, including funding constraints; inadequate cooperation and support from local, provincial and central government agencies, including in some cases law enforcement agencies; confusion over the rights of local government within national parks; and bureaucratic procedural constraints and inefficiencies. In addition, local communities and local government remain largely uninformed about the importance of and threats to World Heritage property, and are therefore often antagonistic.

Of all the major threats to the values and integrity of the property, growing unchallenged encroachment has the greatest potential for destruction. Mapping by the Wildlife Conservation Society shows that the cumulative loss of forest to encroachments within the Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park is now in the order of 22.5% (86,000ha). The largest known encroachment in Gunung Leuser National Park is at least 16,000ha in an area previously recognized as critical elephant and prime tiger habitat.

The mission noted that notwithstanding a skilled and motivated leadership in the management regime of the property, the burden of effectively protecting and managing the World Heritage property in the face of overwhelming external threats is now beyond the current capacity of management. Failing an urgent and major management intervention by the State Party, the TRHS World Heritage property will remain critically endangered.

The most urgent intervention is required in Kerinci Seblat National Park, the largest and most critically threatened component of the property. This is illustrated by local government planning for construction of no less than 34 roads through the core zone of the park, recent illegal commencement of one such road and on-going illegal logging and encroachments. The rhinoceros, according to the Park authority, is on the verge of local extinction and the elephant population has been divided and 'boxed in' by topography and agriculture. Park management has in effect lost control of illegal encroachments by local farmers and does not presently have the

capacity to respond to or press prosecutions, let alone establish other deterrents and conduct meaningful reforestation.

The major interventions necessary to remedy the deterioration in the state of conservation will require a combination of financial, institutional, government policy changes and on-ground initiatives. Failure on any one of these components will result in further deterioration of the value and integrity of each component area and hence the serial property as a whole.

If the outstanding universal values and integrity of the TRHS World Heritage property are to be maintained in the longer term, it is essential that a major intervention in protection and management is mounted as a matter of urgency.

Based on the findings of the IUCN-UNESCO monitoring mission, it is considered reasonable to expect within 3-4 years that there is evidence that:

- a) An Emergency Action Plan is completed, resourced and under implementation;
- b) Sustainable programmes are in place to effectively control encroachment, illegal logging and road development, and to reforest areas previously affected by these activities, and there is a clear reduction in the percentage of the property subject to these threats;
- c) The boundaries are amended to exclude major encroachments and include critical habitat; clearly marked, including signposting of World Heritage status; that park gazettal is completed; and park zoning plans are finalised, formally adopted and communicated to local government and stakeholders;
- d) Effective governance is in place to ensure mechanisms for institutional coordination across the serial property, and that collaboration and participatory management regimes are in place;
- e) Progress is made in establishing sustainable financing for the property and developing capacity for effective management; and
- f) Effective wildlife monitoring and anti-poaching programmes are in place for the whole property and the associated Leuser Ecosystem to arrest the decline in populations of all wildlife species, especially of the Sumatran endemic taxa.

These benchmarks need to be reviewed during preparation of the Emergency Action Plan, and endorsed by the State Party and World Heritage Committee.

Decision 30 COM 7B.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-06/30.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decisions **28 COM 14B.5** and **29 COM 7B.9**, adopted at its 28th (Suzhou, 2004) and 29th (Durban, 2005) sessions respectively,
3. Notes with great concern the findings and recommendations of the joint IUCN-UNESCO monitoring mission (25 February to 5 March 2006), in particular that the property continues to be increasingly threatened by extensive agricultural encroachment, illegal logging, poaching, road construction and institutional and governance issues, and that an Emergency Action Plan requested at the time of inscription has not yet been prepared;
4. Requests the State Party to amend the boundaries of the World Heritage property to exclude major cleared encroachments and to add critical habitats for the conservation of biodiversity, as identified in the mission report;
5. Further requests the State Party to submit an Emergency Action Plan by **1February 2007**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session in 2007, to address the trend in loss of value and integrity of the property. In this regard the State Party should:
 - a) Seek international assistance from the World Heritage Fund and the FFI-UNESCO-UNF World Heritage Rapid Response Facility, as well as technical support from IUCN and the World Heritage Centre, to urgently convene a workshop to scope the parameters of an Emergency Action Plan and identify partners, timeframe, responsibilities and sources of funding for its implementation, as well as benchmarks to assess progress over time;
 - b) Ensure that the Emergency Action Plan is developed in collaboration with national and international partners and consider a number of key interventions proposed by the monitoring mission to arrest the alarming on-going decline of the World Heritage property;
6. Urges the State Party, with support from UNESCO, IUCN and members of World Heritage Committee, to call for significant international donor support to implement the Emergency Action Plan and to develop capacity for effective long-term management and governance of the property;
7. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission to the property to assess the progress made in the implementation of the measures indicated in point 5 above, and report to the Committee at its 31st session in 2007;

Decides that, if the above said results are not achieved by its 31st session in 2007, the property shall be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Debriefing of WHC/IUCN monitoring mission to Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (TRHS)

Sunday, 11 March 2007

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Selected photographs from the Mission

Photo 1: Encroachment - Sugar cane fields



Photo 2: Tourism interpretation board



Photo 3: Riverside development



Photo 4: Riverside tourism development



Photo 5: Undisturbed rainforest



Photo 6: Roads within the property

