

Executive Summary

The State Party is submitting this report on the state of conservation of Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection (Panama) (N 1138 rev) and provides progresses achieved in regards to the management of the Site as requested by the World Heritage Committee Decision 37 COM 7B.31 adopted in Phnom Penh, Cambodia during June 16-27 of 2013.

Panama's National Environmental Authority (ANAM) as focal point of the Natural Heritage, will work closely with the Coiba National Park Board Council to complete the Management Plan for the Special Zone of Marine Protection by the end of June 2014, and has conveyed this commitment to the World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the Property in January 2014.

The coastal development in front of Property, are still considered of low impact, which under the consideration of the State Party, does not represent a risk for the comprehensiveness and the affectation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Property. There is currently no State Policy for the coastal development in front of the property. The Property belongs to Zone 10 of the Tourism Master Plan Master, where projects must be of low impact, with infrastructures type hostel and small hotels. In addition, development of infrastructure is ruled by Environmental Impact Assessment and the norms of conservation.

Regarding the concern of the World Heritage Centre that the naval base become a source of introduction of alien species, the State Party notified the World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission while in the Property during January 2014 that it will design and implement specific biosecurity measures to avoid that the naval base becomes a source of introduction of alien species by air and water and will also work on a capacity building plan for the naval station staff.

The Retrospective Statement of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Property was submitted by the State Party for the review of the World Heritage Centre, who by means of its consultant technical organism the UICN, issued recommendations mainly regarding form and writing, for the consideration of the State Party. Finally, the State Party accepted the recommendations and submitted the latest version on December 2013 to make it official before the World Heritage Centre.

Regarding the presence of livestock in the Property, the State Party, through the National Wildlife Fund of ANAM, has granted the sum of US\$ 975,000.00 to begin the process of elimination of the livestock in situ. The process of selecting the contracting firm to carry out the process has begun. The progress made to date was notified to the World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission while in the Property during January 2014. It is expected that livestock removal will be completed by the end of 2014.

The State Party has committed to the World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission that considered the state of conservation of Property during January 2014 to extend the life of the Management Plan for an additional five years. It is expected that this extension will be published in Official Gazette of Panama in February 2014. In addition, it has requested assistance to conduct a Strategic Evaluation of the implementation of the Management Plan using the World Heritage Centre tools.