



## Report on the State of Conservation of Iguaçu National Park

<b>PROGRESS REPORT</b>	
Site	<b>IGUAÇU NATIONAL PARK</b>
State Party	<b>Brazil</b>
Id. No.	<b>355</b>
Criteria	<b>(vii) (x)</b>
Registration Year	<b>1986</b>

In compliance with its obligation under Paragraph 11 of Decision 38COM7B.82, adopted by the World Heritage Committee (WHC) at its 38<sup>th</sup> Session, to submit to the World Heritage Center an updated report on the state of conservation of the Iguaçu National Park, Brazil submits the report hereunder for examination by the WHC at its 40th session in 2016.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### **1. Reopening of Colono Road**

The road is still closed and the Brazilian government is against the project, which is awaiting assessment by the Infrastructure Services Committee of the Senate. The Ministry of Environment has been making efforts to prevent it from being approved.

### **2. Baixo Iguaçu Hydroelectric Power Plant**

The Environmental Installation License for this power plant was issued on 25 August 2015 by the Government of the State of Paraná and contains the obligations that must be fulfilled. From an impact point of view, the greatest risk would be to exacerbate the effects of varying water flow resulting from dams upstream of the site. In this respect, an operating system was guaranteed for the future plant, through a water use license, which tends to reduce the impact. Thus, from a landscape perspective, we expect greater regulation of the water flow in the waterfalls. From an ecological point of view, a smaller variation of the flow is expected. There is also a monitoring program, downstream from the Baixo Iguaçu HPP, to prevent damages.

### **3. Site Management**

#### **3.1. Updating the Management Plan**

The review and update of the Iguaçu National Park management plan began in August 2015. The review will cover the topics suggested in Decision 38 COM 7B.82, and is being undertaken in close cooperation with Argentinean Iguazú National Park. The estimated completion date of the revised and updated management plan is July 2017.

#### **3.2. Transboundary cooperation**

The actions undertaken by Brazil and Argentina for the management of the Iguaçu and Iguazú National Parks have been carried out in a cooperative, coordinated and confluent manner. There is a permanent dialogue channel between the management and staff of the two units, which has fully satisfied the needs of both sides.

#### **3.3 Monitoring program of key species**

Since 2008, the Iguaçu National Park has developed a research project with felines, mainly *Panthera onca*. The project's overall objective is to assist in the management of the conservation unit, as well as to contribute to the preservation of a viable population of jaguars. The Argentinean Iguazú National Park is developing a similar project with very similar goals to those of the Brazilian project.

#### **3.4. Surroundings**

Activities to make neighboring communities aware of the importance of the national park and bring them closer to its management and conservation are being developed. The main provider of visitor support services to the Iguaçu National Park has been seeking commercial partnerships with the farmers from neighboring areas to provide part of the goods they need in their food business inside the park.

## **PROGRESS REPORT – December 2015**

The World Heritage Committee recognized the Iguazu National Park as a Heritage Site based on two criteria, VII and X. All decisions and actions taken by the Brazilian government and listed hereunder are aimed at ensuring the maintenance of the features that justified the inclusion of this site in the World Heritage List and the resulting fulfilment of these criteria. In line with Recommendation No. 11 of Decision 38 COM 7B.82 of UNESCO, and considering the recommendations in the Final Report of the IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission to the Iguazu National Park, which took place from 8 to 12 March 2015, we inform that:

### **1. Reopening of the Colono Road ("Settler's Road")**

The situation has not changed since the Status Report on the Conservation of the National Park submitted to UNESCO in 2014. The Bill No. 7123/2010, which proposes the reopening of the Colono Road as a Park Road, was referred to the Senate on 9 September 2013, becoming known as the House Bill No. 61/2013. Please note that since 1 August 2014 there have not been any procedures in the Senate and that the project is awaiting assessment by the Infrastructure Services Committee of the Senate. The final position of the Brazilian government not to reopen the "Colono Road" remains, and the prospects for such a bill to be approved are greatly reduced.

The Ministry of Environment (MMA) and the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio) – the former being responsible for the environmental policy of

the country, including conservation units, and the latter, for managing federal conservation units – were both against the project and have been making efforts to prevent it from being approved. Nevertheless, if the bill eventually passes in the Congress, something that currently is not likely, the President of the Republic still has the power to veto the law.

## **2. Baixo Iguaçu Hydroelectric Power Plant**

The environmental licensing of the Baixo Iguaçu Hydroelectric Power Plant (HPP) is under the responsibility of the government of Paraná State, through the Paraná Environmental Institute. ICMBio is responsible for authorizations regarding possible indirect impacts on the Iguaçu National Park. The authorization for the licensing of the Baixo Iguaçu HPP was granted by ICMBio through the Authorization no 01/2015. Both this document and the Environmental Installation License No. 17033, issued on 25 August 2015 by the government of the State of Paraná, contain the obligations that must be fulfilled. Such conditions were listed in the Status Report on the Conservation of the National Park submitted to UNESCO in February 2015.

From an impact point of view, the greatest risk would be to exacerbate the effects of varying water flow resulting from existing dams upstream of the site. In this respect, an operating system was guaranteed for the future plant through the water use license granted by the National Water Agency - ANA, which tends to reduce the impact of the operation of other dams upstream. Thus, from a landscape perspective, we expect greater regulation of the water flow in the waterfalls. From an ecological point of view, a smaller variation of the flow is expected. Although this variation is not entirely

natural, it is more appropriate than the one recorded prior to the installation and operation defined for the Baixo Iguaçu HPP.

There is also a monitoring program, downstream from the Baixo Iguaçu HPP, to track possible changes and prevent damages to or impacts on the features of the site.

### **3. Site Management**

#### **3.1. Updating the Management Plan**

As reported in the Status Report on the Conservation of the Iguaçu National Park submitted to UNESCO in February 2015, the review of management plans follows a methodology established in ICMBio's statute.

The review and update of the Iguaçu National Park management plan began in August 2015 with the opening of the process and subsequent formal designation of the planning team. The objectives of the review and guidelines for institutional alignment have been defined. The review will cover the topics suggested in Decision 38 COM 7B.82. The surveys necessary for such a review and update are in the process of being commissioned to consultancies. The estimated completion date of the revised and updated management plan is July 2017.

Just as the Brazilian Iguaçu National Park, so too is the Argentinean Iguazú National Park in the process of reviewing its management plan. Each national park is managed independently and has its own management plan. However, aiming at close cooperation in the management of the two Natural World Heritage Sites, experts from the Brazilian Iguaçu National Park actively take part in the planning process of the

Argentinean Iguazú National Park and vice-versa. There is also a systematic interaction between the teams of both countries.

By the end of October 2015, there was also an exchange of lessons learned in which representatives of the two national parks and WWF engaged. The objective was to provide an exchange of experiences between managers and institutions responsible for the management of other conservation units located in international borders elsewhere in the world in order to improve the cooperation processes for the conservation and management of the Iguazu and Iguazú National Parks.

### **3.2. Transboundary cooperation**

The actions undertaken by Brazil and Argentina for the management of the Iguazu and Iguazú National Parks have been carried out in a cooperative, coordinated and confluent manner. There is a permanent dialogue channel between the management and staff of the two units, which has fully satisfied the needs of both sides.

### **3.3 Monitoring program of key species**

Since 2008, the Iguazu National Park has developed a research project with felines, mainly *Panthera onca*. The project's overall objective is to assist, by collecting information on the status of the population and ecology of jaguars in the Iguazu National Park, in the management of the conservation unit, as well as to contribute to the preservation of a minimum viable population of jaguars. The project also has the following specific objectives:

- To monitor the population of *Panthera onca* in the Iguazu National Park through population censuses;
- To characterize the habitat use and determine which factors influence the size of the living area and movement patterns of the *Panthera onca* and *Puma concolor* in the Iguazu National Park and surroundings;
- To characterize the impact of human activities on the feline populations in the Iguazu National Park and surroundings;
- To assess the impact of jaguars and pumas on the local economy through conflicts with the resident population, determining the rate of predation, characteristics of the kill (species, age, management etc) and seasonality of predation events;
- To evaluate the effectiveness of domestic animal predation control methods for large felines;
- To characterize the health and reproductive profile of *Panthera onca* and *Puma concolor* in the Iguazu National Park and surroundings;
- To describe the frequency of occurrence, distribution, pattern and time trends in the occurrence of infectious agents present in populations of wild carnivores and domestic animals surrounding the park;
- To investigate the genetic diversity, patterns of spatial differentiation among populations and gene flow among *Panthera onca* populations in the Upper Paraná River; and
- To estimate the minimum area required to ensure a viable population for *Panthera onca* in the Upper Paraná River.

The Argentinean Iguazú National Park is developing a similar project with very similar goals to those of the Brazilian project. It is worth noting that the field work, camera trapping, capture and monitoring programs of tagged animals follow a specific schedule so that the activities are developed in a collaborative way, optimizing human resources and equipment.

#### **3.4. Surroundings**

Activities to raise the neighbouring communities' awareness of the importance of the national park as well as to engage them in its management and conservation are being developed, partly in collaboration with WWF.

Similarly, the main provider of visitor support services to the Iguazu National Park has been seeking commercial partnerships with farmers in the neighbouring areas so that the latter provide some of the goods they sell in their food business inside the park.