

UNION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DE LA NATURE ET DE SES RESSOURCES
INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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In your reply, please refer to:
En répondant, veuillez rappeler:

IUCN REVIEW

World Heritage Nomination

1. NAME: Sagarmatha National Park (Mt. Everest) (120).
2. LOCATION: North-east Nepal, 28°N 84° 30' W
3. NOMINATED BY: Biswa Nath Upreti
Chief, National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
Office
4. DOCUMENTATION:
 - i) Comprehensive nomination form, based on technical assistance mission, received May 15, 1979.
 - ii) Conservation in Khumbu, the proposed Mt. Everest National Park, (1973).
 - iii) Draft management plan by Gerry E. Rushton, February 1979, (IUCN documentation).
5. BACKGROUND and SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

The 124,400 hectare Sagarmatha National Park was established on July 19, 1976, under the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act and is managed by the National Park and Wildlife Conservation Office, Forest Dept, Ministry of Forests, Kathmandu. The northern boundary of the Park is the international boundary with the Republic of China, other boundaries are also physical divisions encompassing a discrete physical entity in the Khumbu region. The range of elevation is 6,000 m. with the peak of Sagarmatha at 8,848 m. There are seven other peaks over 7,000 m.

Extensive research and descriptive work has been done on the natural resources of the region. There are six altitudinal vegetation classes from oak forests at the lowest elevations to lichens and mosses at the highest elevations. The Himalayan zone provides the barrier between the Palearctic realm and the Indomalayan realm.

There are approximately 2,500 Sherpa people living within the park. The people are primarily Tibetan Buddhists. Their activities are primarily agricultural or trade based. Their properties have been excluded from the park by legal definition. There is and will continue to be an influence on the people by the park and vice versa.

On May 29, 1953, Tenzing Norkay and Edmund Hillary were the first to stand on the highest peak in the world - "We climbed because nobody climbed it before -- it was a mountain to climb". (Hillary).

JUSTIFICATION:

The area has been evaluated against the operational guidelines of the World Heritage Convention as amended by the Second Session of the Parties.

Without question Sagarmatha National Park fills the requirements of C(10) iii) "a superlative natural phenomena of exceptional natural beauty".

"As the highest point of earth's surface, Mt. Everest (Sagarmatha) and its surroundings are of major significance not only to Nepal, but to the whole world".

John Blower (FAO) 1971

It also satisfies the criteria where natural and cultural elements are found in exceptional combinations.

"The area is of major religious and cultural significance in Nepal since it abounds in holy places like the Thyangboche and also is the homeland of the Sherpas whose way of life is unique, compared to other high altitude dwellers".

John Blower (1971)

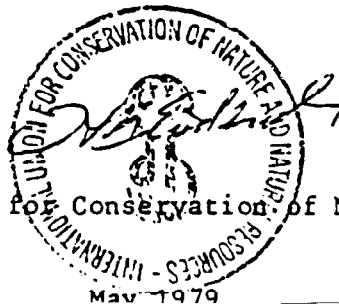
INTEGRITY:

The area is under the professional management of the National Park and Wildlife Conservation staff. A draft management plan has been prepared with the technical assistance of the Government of New Zealand. The implementation of the master plan is underway.

Difficult problems remain to be resolved, excessive forest cutting, and tourist integration with social, economic and environmental circumstances of considerable complexity.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Sagarmatha National Park be placed on the World Heritage Convention.



International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources