

2. NAHANNI, CANADA

Criteria (10) - Outstanding universal value

The Nahanni National Park represents an unexploited natural area, 4,700 sq.km in extent. The major geological and geomorphological features: three river canyons (290 km) cutting at right angles to the mountain ranges, the 99 m Virginia Falls, the 17 m tufta mounds of the Rabbit Kettle Hotsprings, ^(~~of~~) the Karst topography, provide a combination of geological processes which are unique in the World.

The undisturbed nature of the regions vegetation provides habitat for breeding and nesting populations of four endangered species; Peregrine falcons, Golden eagles, Bald eagles, and Trumpeter swans. Mammal populations (40 species) include grey wolf, grizzly bear, Dall's sheep and mountain goat.

The ongoing geological processes and the superlative natural phenomena justify the inclusion of the Nahanni under criteria C. 10(ii) and (iii) and to a lesser extent (iv).

Criteria (11) - Integrity

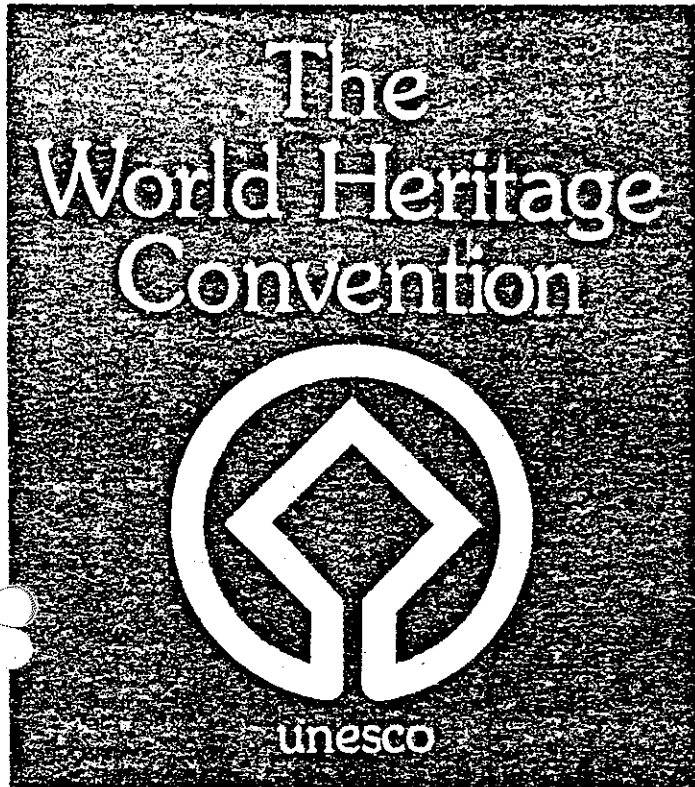
The area is of sufficient size to be self-perpetuating vis-à-vis criteria (ii) and (iv). With regard to criteria (ii) it would be desirable to incorporate the entire upstream watershed in the World Heritage Site even if it is not included in the National Park.

Recommendation

✓ Declare a World Heritage Site

IUCN
May, 1978

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IUCN TECHNICAL REVIEW FOR 1978
EVALUATION TECHNIQUE DE L'UICN POUR 1978



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

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

D/1/2
CN/2/15

H. Eidsvik

Mr. Bernd VonDroste
UNESCO
7, Place Fontenoy
75700 PARIS
France

31 May 1978

Handwritten signature

Dear Mr. Von Droste,

World Heritage Sites - Screening Process

You will be receiving under separate cover IUCN's recommendations on five World Heritage proposals. Briefly we have recommended the following:

- (1) Galapagos - accept
- (2) Nahanni - accept, with a request that the total watershed be included.
- defer* (3) Simien - accept if committee is satisfied that integrity can be maintained.
- defer* (4) Ichkeul - accept if "regional international significance" (i.e. most important wetland site in northern Africa) satisfies committee criteria. See letter from M. Smart
- (5) Zembra and Zembretta - reject. *defer* *defer*

Proc. Rec. (6) yellowstone (A) (7) Djougou (8) BIAŁOCWIEZA

IUCN's screening committee consisted of the following:

- Mr. Harold K. Eidsvik, Chairman
- Mr. Mats Segnestam, Marine Programme Officer
- Dr. Chew Wee-Lek, Asian Desk Officer
- Mr. Felipe Matos, Latin America Desk Officer
- Dr. Marten Bijleveld, Special Projects and Birds of Prey
- Mr. John Kundaeli, African Desk Officer
- Dr. Pierre Hunkeler, European and North American Desk Officer

Consultation was also carried out with the International Waterfowl Bureau, Galapagos Foundation and Pro Simien in Switzerland as well as other IUCN staff.

In all cases except one there was either direct field knowledge of the site or our files contacts were sufficiently comprehensive to arrive at a judgement.

In future screening I would strongly urge that full documentation be forwarded to IUCN including maps, bibliography, photographic documentation. This data can of course be returned later.

There were weaknesses in all submissions, for example:

(1) Galapagos

- Boundaries of the proposed area were not clear, the bibliography was inadequate;
- the support of the Director of national parks was not indicated and in essence he will be the management authority.

(2) Nahanni

- Without specific field knowledge of the area it would not be possible to judge the proposal from the data received.

(3) Zembra and Zembretta

- The source of the scientific information, e.g. 10,000 monk seals, 10 pairs of nesting falcons, the marine resources, requires further scientific documentation as the information appears contradictory to normal conditions.

(4) Simien and Lake Ichkeul

- Where the integrity of an area is doubtful, e.g. proposed water diversions (Ichkeul), control of hunting, pasturage and agriculture (Simien) the WHC should require further documentation from a higher government authority, than the managing agency that the protection efforts will be increased to ensure the integrity of the site.

It would be useful if the WHC could clarify the question of "conditional acceptance". For example the natural values of an area may without doubt be of World Heritage quality and yet related factors such as management, protection, etc. may place the potential area in an extremely doubtful position. IUCN would appreciate receiving clarification on its role on reporting on other than "natural values".

The question of legal protection is perhaps one which could be pursued, along with the same question for Biosphere Reserves under contract with IUCN's Environmental Law and Policy Commission. Your view in this respect would be appreciated.

It goes without saying that the screening time available on this occasion was inadequate. We would like to be able to consult IUCN members in relation to many scientific matters. It is suggested that the schedule be adjusted so that a deadline for accepting nominations screening be established six months prior to the Council meeting. In this respect I must say that we are guilty parties in not producing model files in time for early submission. Having now had the opportunity to utilize the

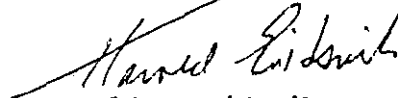
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nomination forms and to screen several applications I really wonder whether there is a need for the model files?

I hope that we may discuss the content of this letter sometime prior to the meetings of the secretariat on June 8th and 9th.

With best regards.

Yours sincerely,



Harold K. Eidsvik
Executive Officer, CNPPA

Enclosure

c.c. Françoise Burhenne-Guilmin, Bonn