

Latin America / Caribbean

Manú National Park

(proposed minor boundary modification)

Peru

WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION – IUCN TECHNICAL EVALUATION

MANÚ NATIONAL PARK (PERU) – ID No. 402

IUCN carried out a desk review of the proposed modification to the boundary Manú National Park, Peru, taking into consideration comments from three external reviewers.

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Manú National Park was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987 under natural criterion (ix) and (x). In the state of conservation report considered by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st Session (Christchurch, 2008), the Committee noted that the park was enlarged on July 14, 2002 by adding 257,000 ha of what had been previously known as the Manu Reserved Zone (Supreme decree # 045-2002-AG) resulting in a current area for Manú National Park, as defined in national legislation, of 1,696,803 ha. It was further noted that the nomination file held at the World Heritage Centre indicates a total surface area for property of 1,532,806 ha, and that the map provided with the original nomination appears hand drawn with boundaries that do not conform to the boundaries illustrated in the nomination.

The 1985 management plan for the Manú National Park was updated in 2002, covering both the World Heritage property and a co-designated Biosphere Reserve (for which the property forms the “core zone” as defined in the UNESCO Man and Biosphere programme). In decision 31COM 7B the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to provide an updated map of the property including clear boundaries; and also requested the State Party to submit a request for a minor boundary modification to reflect the extension of the property, in accordance with Paragraphs 163 and 164 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

In the state of conservation report provided to the 32nd Session of the World Heritage Committee (Québec City, 2008) it was noted that the State Party submitted an updated map of the property to the World Heritage Centre. The State Party made reference to the Manú National Park and the Biosphere Reserve, but in the map, the latter’s boundaries were not clearly indicated, and as a result, there remained room for doubt as to the exact property boundaries. The map provided by the State Party also did not indicate the location of the extensions, and the discussion of the property’s values and management did not clearly differentiate between the part inscribed in 1987, and the proposed extension. Thus, in Decision 32 COM 7B.39, the World Heritage Committee repeated its invitation to the State Party to submit a request for boundary modification, including a precise

map illustrating lands proposed for inclusion in the property.

The State Party presented further information regarding the proposed boundary modification, which was transmitted to IUCN for review in September 2008. IUCN has considered this carefully. Following review of the nomination the IUCN World Heritage Panel requested in December 2008, that the World Heritage Centre seek clarification on a number of points from the State Party. This request was not relayed directly to the State Party, however the World Heritage Centre noted information in relation to the proposal to assist IUCN’s consideration of this file in March 2009. The information provided below integrates this information provided via the World Heritage Centre as well as input from external reviewers.

2. SHORT SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

According to information provided by the State Party, the proposal would extend the existing inscribed area of the World Heritage property by c. 215,500 ha to a new total area of 1,716,295.22 ha. This would establish the boundary of the World Heritage property on the same boundary as the Manú National Park and would include the areas designated as “core zone” and “buffer zone” under the UNESCO Man and Biosphere programme. This modification would rationalize the boundaries of the World Heritage property so that they would coincide with the boundaries of Manu National Park, and not just a portion of it.

3. IMPLICATIONS FOR OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE AND INTEGRITY

The proposed minor boundary modification would enhance the integrity of the property and add new values to the property that relate to the criteria under which the property is inscribed. The extension is highly significant because it recognises the lower Manú River basin thereby extending the protection of the entire watershed of the Manú River. The most important lakes in the whole basin are located here. They host several giant otter families, and also harbour an important black caiman population, as well as the largest beaches in the park, of importance for breeding populations of turtles and shorebirds.

The area is reported to be home to a small number of indigenous peoples (Mashco-Piro families living in voluntary isolation). As yet there are no land use conflicts in the area from this population and wildlife is largely not impacted by hunting.

The area proposed to be added to the property is regarded as being in a similar state of conservation to the rest of the existing World Heritage property, with some additional considerations:

- The area is near the village of Boca Manú and the communities and settlements in the Upper Madre de Dios.
- The area is currently the focus for all tourism activity directed at the lowland sector of the park. Tourism is likely to remain focused in this area because it is the most accessible portion of the lowland sector of the park due to its proximity to the airport at Boca Manú.

The extension is thus a particularly important part of Manú National Park from both conservation and public use standpoints.

Rationalization of the property boundary so that it is the same as the nationally recognised boundary would facilitate management of the property as a whole. The land proposed to be added to the property is under the same management regime as the existing inscribed property, as has been the case for the past 7 years. There are no implications on the legal protection from accepting the additional area to be included in the World Heritage property, as the same level of protection as the existing inscribed property is already in place within it. Most of the lands included in the area proposed for addition to the property had been under a different protection regime prior to 2002 and some were under public ownership, registered under INRENA (the National Natural Resources Institute, responsible for protected areas). Those lands under the previous Reserve Zone status not considered suitable for inclusion in the National Park were not included in Manú National Park when it was extended in 2002, ensuring that only lands with conservation status and integrity at the level appropriate were added to the existing national park.

The management arrangements in general are similar to those for the rest of the property. The extension lands benefit from two management authority control posts, one at the most accessible entry point (Limala) and another further upstream (Patkitza). It is intended that only authorized visitors who have paid a fee are allowed to proceed past Limala into the property. Anyone who is not an approved scientific researcher or a tourist accompanied by an approved guide is not supposed to enter the park. IUCN notes that it is reported that the park has been unable to enforce its contracts with tourism enterprises and a dispute

over the payment of concession fees continues unresolved in the courts after a number of years of litigation.

A 2004 aerial survey of land use changes within the national park (including the 2002 extension lands) revealed that the main areas of conservation concerns were not within the proposed addition to the property included in the suggested boundary modification, but within the boundaries of the property that is already inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Park policy is that indigenous peoples living within the park boundaries have the right to continue living within the park provided they continue to pursue traditional lifestyles. This policy specifically prohibited the use of firearms and mechanized implements, particularly, motorboats and chainsaws. It is reported that more recently these restrictions have been relaxed, not because of a change in policy but because of lack of capacity to effectively enforce the restrictions. Several motorized boats, chainsaws and shotguns are in use in the park and the expansion of lands cleared for agriculture and the depletion of game around villages is reported to be increasing. For this reason, the existing inscribed property is subject to increased pressures and the lower Manú Basin is the only remaining intact part of the park's lowland sector.

In summary, IUCN considers that the proposed modification will enhance the integrity of the property and facilitate its more effective management.

4. RECOMMENDATION

IUCN recommends that the World Heritage Committee adopt the following decision:

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-09/33.COM/8B, and WHC-09/33.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Approves the proposed modification to the boundary of **Manú National Park, Peru**, in order to rationalize the property boundaries so that they include the entire Manú National Park, and considers that this minor modification will enhance the integrity and protection of the property, and facilitate its more effective management,
3. Encourages the State Party to enhance its efforts to implement the management regime for Manú National Park within the extended property and to manage the lands adjacent to the property to guarantee the conservation of its values and integrity from threats arising from outside its boundaries,

4. Takes note of the reported pressures on the existing World Heritage property that have been reported through the evaluation of this minor modification,
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and the threats to its Outstanding Universal Value and integrity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th Session in 2010.

Map 1: Modified boundaries of nominated property

