

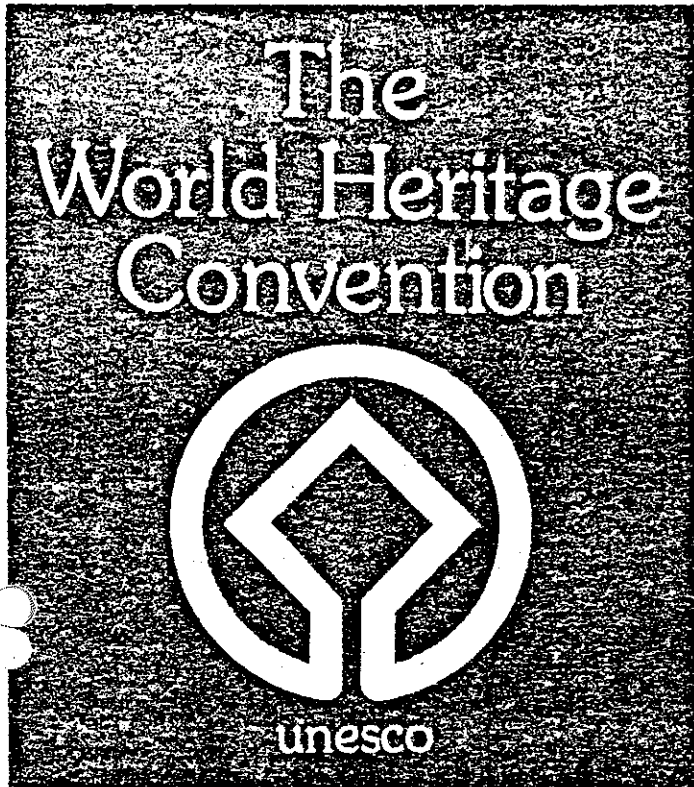
IUCN SUMMARY OF CONSERVATION STATUS

1. NAME OF PROPERTY: Simien National Park
2. LOCATION: Ethiopia
3. DATE PLACED ON WORLD HERITAGE LIST: 1978
4. CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION: iii, iv
5. PRESENT CONDITION OF THE PROPERTY:

This World Heritage site was abandoned by park staff late in 1983 when control was taken by the Tigray People's Liberation Front. Status of the Walia ibex population and maintenance of the park management infrastructure of which much had been provided through IUCN/WWF and the World Heritage Fund is not known. IUCN has had second hand assurance from the TPLF that "no trees are being felled or animals hunted without explicit permission" but the actual situation on the ground has not been determined.

Although the takeover of the park by an unofficial and unrecognised political group is an alarming event, insufficient documentation on actual impacts is available. Until reliable information can be obtained, it is not possible to assess the situation on the ground, and no action programme can be devised.

1978



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

1196 GLAND, SUISSE

C.C. H. Eidsvik personal copy

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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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

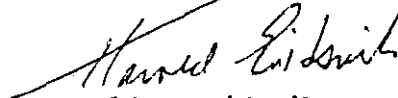
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nomination forms and to screen several applications I really wonder whether there is a need for the model files?

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