

# WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION

## IUCN TECHNICAL REVIEW

1. IDENTIFICATION NUMBER AND NAME 179 TASSILI N'AJJER NATIONAL PARK
2. LOCATION: Between latitudes 23° to 26° 50'N and longitudes 5° 20' to 12°E, in southeast Algeria.
3. NOMINATED BY: Ministry of Information and Culture, Algeria
4. DOCUMENTATION:
  - (i) Nomination form
  - (ii) Supplementary documentation (IUCN)

a) Lhote, Henri. 1976. Vers d'autres Tassilis. Arthaud, Paris. 258 pp.

### 5. BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

While primarily under consideration as a cultural site, Tassili d'Ajjer is also worthy of consideration on natural criteria. The geological formations are of outstanding scenic interest, with Precambrian crystalline formation and eroded sandstones forming "forests of rock." The flora and fauna shows relationships to prehistoric periods when the Tassili region was considerably more moist; that humans knew such conditions is revealed by the many rock engravings and paintings which show species dependent on water (such as hippopotamus), as well as species which have been extinct from the region for at least several thousand years (buffalo, elephant, rhino, giraffe); more recent paintings show cattle herders, which may have helped bring about the drier conditions in this part of the Sahara. The ancient artworks are of outstanding interest in demonstrating a long-extinct relationship between man and his environment.

### 6. INTEGRITY

The site appears to be well protected, though there is as yet no management plan. The activities of the nomadic Tuareg pastoralists have not had any significant impact on the geological features, though they may have some minimal impact on the vegetation and animal life. Tourism appears to be very carefully controlled, with each group being accompanied by a guide.

### 7. COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS

Tassili appears to be a unique area in terms of the combination of geological features and cultural elements which reveal the wetter periods of southern Algeria.

### 8. EVALUATION

Tassili d'Ajjer meets natural criteria ii and iii, being an outstanding example of man's interaction with his environment and containing superlative natural phenomena of exceptional natural beauty.

7. RECOMMENDATION

Tassili d'Ajjer should be added to the World Heritage List. It would appear that the most urgent need of the site is to bring it to the attention of the world through appropriate public information activities of the World Heritage Committee.



International Union for Conservation of  
Nature and Natural Resources

15 April 1982