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20 December 2016

## **IUCN Evaluation of Los Alerces National Park – Nominated for inclusion on the World Heritage List**

### **Progress report on IUCN evaluation and request for supplementary information**

Dear Ambassador,

Further to the above nomination to the World Heritage List, I am writing with information on progress with the IUCN evaluation. As noted in previous correspondence, IUCN seeks to develop and maintain a dialogue with States Parties during the evaluation process of all nominations. As per the Operational Guidelines (paragraph 149 and Annex 6 - *Evaluation procedures of the Advisory Bodies for nomination*), this letter also provides the short interim report outlining the status and any issues relevant to evaluations, which is requested to be sent by IUCN before 31 January 2017.

The IUCN World Heritage technical evaluation mission to Los Alerces National Park was undertaken by Mr Tilman Jaeger and Ms Paola Bueno from 30 October to 8 November 2016. The evaluators greatly appreciated the excellent support and co-operation provided by your colleagues in the preparation and implementation of the mission, and the kind welcome of the State Party throughout the mission. Please convey our sincere thanks to all of the officials, scientists and contributors that assisted the mission.

The IUCN World Heritage Panel is in the course of examining World Heritage nominations for natural and mixed properties, and cultural landscapes. This process will conclude in March/April 2017, following which the IUCN evaluation report will be issued to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. At its first meeting held in the week of 5 December 2016, the IUCN Panel examined in detail each nomination dossier, reports and desktop reviews of field evaluators and external reviewers, as well as other references regarding the nominated properties.

The Panel greatly appreciated the efforts that have been made in relation to this nomination, and will be discussing the nomination again at the second meeting of the IUCN World Heritage Panel, to be held in March 2017. At this stage, the Panel noted a number of points where additional information is required, and we would be grateful for the State Party's response on the following points:

1. Please explain the rationale for only nominating Los Alerces National Park, when it appears there is evidence that the nature conservation values proposed in the nomination are present across a wider region including in other National Parks in Argentina. The IUCN Panel would like to better understand the State Party's position on why the nominated property is considered to represent the best examples of these stated values and if there is an interest and willingness to consider additional areas for inclusion in an extension of the nomination (and if so which areas may be regarded as having potential to be considered).
2. The Panel would appreciate receiving a revised comparative analysis that could include more comprehensive information generated by the "Andean-North Patagonian Ecoregional Corridor", GEF supported project and the priority setting analyses which were part of the Andino Norpatagonica Biosphere Reserve Initiative dossier and any other recent studies and efforts that may be available. Consistent with point 1. above, the comparative analysis should provide direct comparisons with other National Parks and other protected areas within the region, in Argentina and in neighbouring States.

3. Please provide additional information on all existing or potential infrastructure development plans which may impact the nominated property, including but not limited the construction of new dams and hydropower infrastructure.
4. Please provide any further information available on existing studies and/or initiatives aiming to conserve the values of the Valdivian temperate Forests, and, in particular, to enhance connectivity of existing National parks and other protected areas within the wider region.
5. It appears from the nomination document and from the report of the field evaluators that the State Party of Argentina undertook a consultation process with local communities. The nomination dossier and field mission transparently notes that there has been opposition from some local residents living in the National Reserve to the World Heritage nomination of Los Alerces. We would appreciate receiving full information on the nature of this opposition, including which communities or groups are expressing opposition, and reasons for this?

We would appreciate your response to the above points as soon as possible, in order to facilitate the evaluation process, but **no later than the 28 February 2017**, as per paragraph 148 of the Operational Guidelines. Please note that any information submitted after this date will not be considered by IUCN in its evaluation for the World Heritage Committee. It should be noted, however, that while IUCN will carefully consider any supplementary information submitted, it cannot properly evaluate a completely revised nomination or large amounts of new information submitted at the last minute. So we request to keep your response concise and respond only to the above requests.

**Supplementary information should be submitted officially in three copies to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in order for it to be registered as part of the nomination.** An electronic copy of any supplementary information to both the UNESCO World Heritage Centre ([a.balsamo@unesco.org](mailto:a.balsamo@unesco.org)) and IUCN Headquarters ([christelle.perruchoud@iucn.org](mailto:christelle.perruchoud@iucn.org)) would also be helpful.


Taking into account your response, IUCN will formulate its final recommendation to the World Heritage Committee which will meet from 2 to 12 July 2017 in Krakow, Poland.

In the interest of ensuring full transparency and dialogue regarding the IUCN evaluation process, we are happy to respond to any questions you may wish to raise regarding IUCN's work on the World Heritage Convention, including the above points. I am traveling to Paris on a regular basis and could be available to meet if this would be helpful, or would be pleased to organise a meeting via skype or conference call as an alternative. I would also emphasise that both you or your representatives are also most welcome to visit IUCN's headquarters in Switzerland to meet in person if you wish, on this nomination, or on any other matter of interest.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms Christelle Perruchoud, World Heritage Evaluations and Operations Officer (Tel: +41 22 999 0358; Fax: +41 22 999 0002; email: [christelle.perruchoud@iucn.org](mailto:christelle.perruchoud@iucn.org)) if you have any questions regarding this request, or if you would wish to arrange a meeting or phone call to discuss this request.

Please allow me to reiterate our thanks for your support of the World Heritage Convention and for the conduct of IUCN's recent mission. We look forward to your kind cooperation in furnishing responses to the abovementioned points.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Badman  
Director - World Heritage Programme

cc. Comisión Nacional Argentina de Cooperación con la UNESCO, Sr Francisco Mingues, Secretaria General  
UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Mr Mauro Rosi and Mr Alessandro Balsamo  
IUCN Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, Dr. Grethel Aguilar, Regional Director