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21 December 2016

IUCN Evaluation of Landscapes of Dauria – Request for Supplementary Information

Dear Ambassador,

Following the World Heritage Committee decision 39 COM 8B.4, and following the joint submission by the State Parties of the Russian Federation and Mongolia of the referral document for the Landscapes of Dauria, 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 2017. 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 noted with appreciation the efforts that have been made in relation to this nomination, and welcomed the field visit that took place from 14-19 October 2015 at the invitation of the State Parties and that one of the original field mission experts, Dr. Strahm, was able to attend. The Panel will be discussing the nomination again at the second meeting of the IUCN World Heritage Panel, to be held in March 2017, and at this stage, the Panel noted some points where additional information is required, and we would be grateful for the State Parties response on the following points:

1. *Management coordination and transnational cooperation*: the Panel has taken note of the additional information provided in the nomination file regarding the management of the property by each State Party, on its own territory; the Panel wishes to know further how the State Parties will concretely address the gaps in cooperation that were raised at the last meeting of the Joint Commission of the Chinese-Mongolia-Russian Daurian International Protected Areas (DIPA) (see annex 6 to the referral documentation) and how the platform of DIPA will be strengthened and used to enhance coordination and cooperation between the State Parties, in the field of management, in order to maintain the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the property and preserve its integrity.
2. *Regulation and measures on various uses and activities such as hunting, poaching, fire and mining*: the Panel would appreciate additional detailed information on the annual work plan that will be implemented in 2017 - and in the coming five years if possible - covered by the “*Program of cooperation within the DIPA for the years 2016-2020*”, regarding the issues mentioned above and in order “*to raise the global nature protecting status on the DIPA*” (annex 7 to of the referral documentation). With regard to poaching, the referral documentation does not provide data on the situation on the Mongolian side. Please provide additional information on the means and measures that are taken to address this important issue, across the entire property. The Panel would also like further detailed information on the arrangements approved by the State Parties for implementing the “*forest fire protection agreement*” which is mentioned in the referral documentation file that has been signed in 2016 between the two State Parties; a copy of this agreement would also be appreciated.
3. *Necessary resources and capacity*: the DIPA Program of Cooperation (activity 8) addresses the need to search and draw additional funds for the development of this program and the subsequent annual plans of activities; the Panel would appreciate receiving provisional budgets and/or financial figures that provide information on the means and resources that will be mobilized.

4. *Coordination and strengthening of the transboundary management of wildlife populations, such as Mongolian gazelles and migratory birds which depend on ecological continuity between these protected areas:* the Panel would like further details on the systems and mechanisms that are used for coordinating the management and monitoring of key species and how the transboundary network of ecological monitoring included in the DIPA Program (paragraph 2) is managed and organized. The Panel would also like to know if there is any regular publication of the data collected at the regional level and how those data are used?
5. *Communal / Customary protection:* the Panel notes that many parts of the proposed nominated property in the Mongol Daguur SPA, Mongolia, are subject to communal/customary protection. Please provide additional information as to how this protection and management regime will ensure the protection of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the property. Specifically how it will accord with the requirements of paragraphs 110 and 111 of the Operational Guidelines.

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) and IUCN Headquarters (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) if you have any questions regarding this request, or if you would wish to arrange a meeting or phone call to discuss this request. We look forward to your kind cooperation in furnishing responses to the abovementioned points.

For your information, we have written an identical letter to the above to the Ambassador of the Russian Federation and colleagues.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Badman
Director - World Heritage Programme

- cc. Russian National Commission for UNESCO, Mr Grigory Ordzhonikidze, Secretary-General
Mongolia National Commission for UNESCO, Ms Uyanga Sukhbaatar, Secretary-General
Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to UNESCO, H. E. Mr Alexander Kuznetsov, Ambassador
UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Mr Jing Feng and Mr Alessandro Balsamo
IUCN Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office, Mr Boris Erg, Director



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