

WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION – IUCN COMMENTS TO ICOMOS

TAPUTAPUĀTEA (FRANCE)

IUCN considered this cultural landscape property based on a desk review of the nomination and the comments of one external desk reviewer to provide inputs to ICOMOS on the natural components of this property.

While the nomination includes areas with a high degree of historical intervention in the natural landscape (i.e., historical introduction of Polynesian species), the natural and semi-natural systems of the landscape and seascape, and wild species of fauna and flora are integral components and form the substrate where the cultural landscape sits. The Panel and external desk reviewer noted the vegetation formations and historical introduction of plants are key to the cultural landscape. The nominated property hosts *Pandanus tamaruensis* – Fara Raiatea clumps, endemic to Raiatea. Coral reefs, lagoons, and other marine components are also found in the nominated property.

The Panel emphasized that special attention should be given to the impact of invasive alien species (plants and animals) threatening the biodiversity, landscape, and seascape of the nominated property. Also, the nomination dossier states that small hydroelectric infrastructure, as well as commercial plantations, have degraded some spaces. Tourism and anchoring in the nominated property and their impact on coral reefs and marine resources should also be extensively considered as the nomination dossier also attests to the lack of integrated monitoring of coral reefs' health.

Taking into account the land status of the nominated property, with public land (24% of the nominated property is French Polynesia land and 2% is municipality land) and private properties (38% of the nominated property), planning should be further developed on land and sea. Also, an effective protection status should be quickly adopted with a more comprehensive management plan and governance structure of the seascape and landscape.