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Subject: Submission of the report

First of all, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to You and the World Heritage Centre for your continuous collaboration for the implementation of the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Referring to the World Heritage Committee's Decision 39 COM 8B.15, I am pleased to send you the enclosed report of the implementation of protection of the Great Burkhan Khaldun Mountain and its surrounding sacred landscape for the examination.

Once again, thank you for your cooperation and continuous support for Mongolia.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Uyanga Sukhbaatar
Secretary-General

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no 03/12/18

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN 2015-2018 REGARDING CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE SITE "THE GREAT BURKHAN KHALDUN MOUNTAIN AND ITS SURROUNDING SACRED LANDSCAPE"

Ulaanbaatar, November 30, 2018

Legal environment of cultural heritage in Mongolia

As the State Party to the UNESCO's World Heritage Convention and several other Cultural Conventions Mongolia is implementing relevant reforms to improve the legal environment within the framework of conservation and protection of cultural heritage.

In 2014, the "Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage" was amended and following clauses related to the World Heritage were included:

- Categorization and classification of cultural heritages were defined in details in Chapter 2 (Categorization and Classification of the Cultural Heritage) and for the first time in Paragraphs 5.1.9., 5.1.10. of Article 5. "Immovable historical and cultural memorials" the "sacred sites" and "memorial sites of historical events" were identified as cultural heritage,
- In Chapter 3 (The Powers of State and Local Self-Governing Bodies Concerning Cultural Heritage) the Article 11.1.1. states that the President of Mongolia shall have the powers "to issue directives for the relevant bodies to implement tasks related to research on, protection of and information on the burial grounds, tombs, surroundings of memorials and findings of the Great Chinggis Khaan as well as Mongolian Kings and Queens"; 12.1.3 on the authority of the State Great Khural states "to take cultural heritage memorial sites under the state special protection and delineate their boundaries, by the Government submission"; 13.1.3. on the Powers of the Government states that the Government shall have powers "to approve the rules, staff, and structure of protection of the protection administration of the World Cultural Heritage Sites and National Cultural Heritage Memorial Sites, based on proposals by the state administrative central authority in charge of cultural affairs"; 13.1.9. "to approve the National World Heritage Committee's

structure and function procedure"; 14.1.14. on the Powers of the state administrative central authority in charge of cultural affairs "to approve the management plans of cultural heritage memorial sites"; Article 14¹.1.3. on the authority of the state administrative authority in charge of cultural issues (the "Governmental Implementing Agency, Department for Culture and Arts") to "organize activities to nominate cultural heritage to be inscribed on the World Heritage List as well as take measures to preserve and protect the inscribed properties"; Article 15.1.1. authorizes the Citizens' Representatives Khurals of provinces, capital city, soums and districts to "monitor and approve the necessary budget to develop plans and programmes for implementation, as well as provide implementation of the legislation concerning the protection of cultural heritage within their territory", 15.1.4. "to monitor the activities of the protection administration, as well as issue proposals concerning the protection of historical and cultural memorial sites within their territory"; Article 16.1.3. on the Powers of the Governors of provinces and capital city, states "to organize tasks to monitor, protect, register and search for cultural heritage", 16.1.9. "to jointly conduct tasks with professional organizations to delineate the boundaries of protection zones of cultural World Heritage Sites, as well as National cultural heritage memorial sites deliver reports to the competent authority";

- Article 38.1.1. about Prohibited activities concerning the protection of cultural heritage of the Chapter Seven (System for the Protection of Cultural Heritage) prohibits "to conduct mining, agricultural and industrial activities, as well as building infrastructure within the historical and cultural memorial site and its buffer zone";
- Articles 42.1., 42.3. and 42.6. of the Chapter Eight (Protection of Memorial Sites) state that "the State Great Khural shall make the decision to take cultural heritage memorial sites under special protection with the purpose to protect the authenticity and original feature of the cultural property, as well as to approve its boundary", "Cultural Heritage memorial sites include World Heritage and national memorial sites", "With the permission of the state administrative central authority in charge of cultural affairs, tourist activities may be undertaken in the protected areas and buffer zones as long as they do not adversely affect the natural and cultural heritage",
- Also in order to protect the historical and cultural memorial sites Chapter Eight, 45.3 states "In addition to the activities stated in Article 38.1 of this Law, the

following shall also be prohibited in the protected areas of historical and cultural memorial sites”:

45.3.1. to excavate the land and its subsoil;

45.3.2. to plant trees, bushes, and variety of plant species without the assessment by a professional organization;

45.3.3. to build gers, settlements, and constructions;

45.3.4. to pasture livestock;

45.3.5. to allow vehicle entry and aircraft to land other than in emergency situations;

45.3.6. to prospect and exploit minerals;

45.3.7. to exploit timber, sand, gravel and rocks;

and 45.4. Promotional activities for the purposes of restoration, research and tourism may be conducted in the protected areas of historical and cultural memorial sites.

Activities in the framework of implementing the recommendations of the Decision 39 COM 8B.15 of the World Heritage Committee

Before being inscribed in the World Heritage List in 2015 following actions were taken regarding the Great Burkhan Khaldun Mountain:

1. The revival of the historical traditions and declaration of the Great Burkhan Khaldun Mountain as the State Worshipped Mountain by Presidential Decree in 1995.
2. Great Burkhan Khaldun Mountain was proclaimed as “The Sacred Mountain of National Pride” by Government’s resolution A-364 in 2013;
3. The 2013 order A-159 of the Minister of Nature, Environment and Green Development mandates the tourist sightseeing route of the Great Burkhan Khaldun;
4. By the 2013 order of A-361 of the Minister of Nature, Environment and Green Development, the procedures of traveling and practicing the traditional customs at the Great Burkhan Khaldun have been approved.

Based on the recommendations of the Decision 39 COM 8B.15 issued by the World Heritage Committee issued, the following activities related to the conservation of the

“Great Burkhan Khaldun Mountain and its surrounding sacred landscape” were implemented in 2015-2018:

a) In the context of the recommendation to “Put in place legal protection for the property that covers cultural as well as natural attributes”:

- On December 3, 2015, the Parliament of Mongolia approved the amendment of the Criminal Code to be adopted by September 1, 2016. The amended version includes the Chapter Twenty-fifth - "Crime against the Cultural Heritage", on the actions and punishment in the event of a crime committed against cultural heritage.

- On 11 May 2017, the Parliament of Mongolia passed the revised Law on Infringements and it was adopted from 1 July 2017. Its Chapter 9 (Violation of education, culture, science and operation of technology regulations), includes following provisions relating to the violation of the Law on the Protection of the Cultural Heritage:

Article 9.7. Violation of the Law on Protection of the Cultural Heritage

7. In the event of a breach of protection regime of cultural heritage or historical and cultural monument, a person shall be fined by an amount of *tugriks* equal to fifty units and a legal entity shall be fined by an amount of *tugriks* equal to five hundred units.

8. If the actions of protection and reporting on tangible cultural heritage, detected during the possession or use of the soil, were not taken the special license on the use of the land shall be invalidated and individual shall be fined by an amount of *tugriks* equal to three hundred units and the legal entity shall be fined for three thousand units in *tugriks*.

13. In case of conduction of prohibited activities in the protection and buffer zones of the Cultural heritage sites, damages and compensation shall be imposed on individuals and individuals shall be fined for two thousand units of *tugriks* and a legal entity shall be fined for twenty thousand units of *tugriks*.

- Following the resolution #20 of February 20, 2017, by the Parliament of Mongolia, it was decided that at the location 48°45'43.3844, 109°00'36.1315 of the Khan Khentii area, 2361.5 meters above the sea level the Great Burkhan Khaldun Mountain will be marked on the map.

b) In the context of the recommendation to " Clearly define the protection offered by the buffer zone ":

- the Khan Khentii State Protected Area Administration has officially assumed responsibility for World Heritage Burkhan Khaldun and its surrounding landscapes,
- the entrance gate to Khoid Khoriud of Mungunmorit soum of Tuv province was established by the order of the of Khan Khentii SPA Administration, on October 15, 2015,
- environment protecting rangers (2 personnel) have been employed at the World Heritage site by the order B / 28 of the Director of the Khan Khentii SPA, from October 31, 2018.
- A fire-fighting and rescue unit has been established in Mungunmorit soum, Tuv province by the Resolution No. 114 of the Government of Mongolia on 02 May 2018.

c) In the context of the recommendation to “Confirm that no mining or extractive industry will be permitted within the property”:

The World Heritage ‘Burkhan Khaldun and its surrounding sacred landscapes’ was taken under the State Special Protection by the Decree of the State Baga Khural in 1992, and it is within the category of Strictly Protected Area by resolution 26 of the State Great Hural (Parliament) of 1995. Therefore, the Law on Special Protected Areas applies and Article 12 of the second chapter of the law, Part 1 (Activities Prohibited in Strictly Protected Areas) prohibits:

1. to change natural characteristics by plowing, digging, use of explosives, exploration of natural resources, mining, extracting sand or stone, harvesting wood and reeds, or constructing roads in areas other than in Limited Use Zones;
2. to collect and prepare secondary natural resources or medicinal, food, and technical plants for commercial purposes;

d) In the context of the recommendation to "Put in place an overall management structure with resources to implement an augmented and approved management plan":

By the resolution 299 of October 27, 2018, by the Government of Mongolia, it was decided that the official office responsible for the World Heritage Burkhan Khaldun and its surrounding landscapes will be established from January 1, 2020. Also by the same resolution, the responsibility was temporarily given to the Khan Khentii SPA administration.

e) In the context of the recommendation to “Draw up and implement a conservation programme, covering preventative and active measures, based on a wide assessment of need and priorities”:

- The Settlement points for visitors to the Burkhan Khaldun Mountain were established at the Iluuriin River and Tsagaan Aral in Mungunmorit soum of Tuv province.
- The information boards were put in place during 2016-2017 for the visitor to worship the mountain from afar.
- In collaboration with 150th command of the General Staff of the Mongolian Armed Forces, on May 10-15, 2017, the restoration of worship site and improvement of the surrounding area, on one of the sacred sites of the Burkhan Khaldun mountain, the Tengeriin ovoo, was done.
- A bulletin board informing about the inscription to the World Heritage List was placed along the border, between May 10 and 15, 2017.
- In March 2017, fully equipped firefighting vehicle in order to protect the inscribed territories of World Heritage site, have been handed over to the rangers protecting the Great Burkhan Khaldun Mountain.
- The monument to the World Heritage site was established at the Bosgo Tenger Davaa of Umnudelger soum, Khentii province, in November 2017.
- In collaboration with the Institute of Geography and Geo-Ecology of the Academy of Sciences, a water quality study of the rivers at the source of the Kherlen River, located on the territory of the World Heritage Site, was conducted in April 2017.
- On November 20, 2017, the Khan Khentii SPA administration in joint cooperation with Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, held a meeting on "The World Heritage Management Issues - The Sacred Sites of God", with the involvement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, and other governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- On 8th January of 2018, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports, Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, representatives from the Japan World Heritage National Committee, Khan Khentii SPA administration, the Department of History and Archaeological Studies of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences jointly organized a meeting "World Heritage Management Issues - Burkhan Khaldun Mountain and Mount Fuji, exchanging experiences".

- In August 2018, a joint research study on tree species aggregation and plant aging in the surrounding areas of the Burkhan Khaldun Mountain was conducted, under the Cooperation Agreement with the Chonnam University of Republic of Korea.
- Mapping of mammals in the vicinity of the Burkhan Khaldun Mountain was completed in September 2018.
- A study on the indirect impact on the forest surrounding the Great Burkhan Khaldun Mountain was conducted in 2018.12.01.
- In May 2018, the Khan Khentii SPA administration and the National Center for Cultural Heritage organized a joint meeting and exchanged views on future collaboration with respect to preservation and protection of the World Heritage Burkhan Khaldun and its surrounding sacred sites.
- The book dedicated to promotion and introduction of the documents, materials from the National Archive, and researches on worshipping of the Burkhan Khaldun Mountain, the "National Pride the Great Burkhan Khaldun Mountain" was published by the Institute of History and Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences in collaboration with the Khan Khentii SPA administration, in 2015.
- With the support of the Japan Trust Fund, the Institute of History and Archeology of Mongolian Academy of Sciences and the Otani University, Japan, have jointly organized the International Scientific Conference on "Research and Conservation of the World Heritage Site Great Burkhan Khaldun and its surrounding sacred landscapes" on 21-22 of September 2018, in Ulaanbaatar.
- In 2018, the Khan Khentii SPA administration, with the support of the Seoraksan National Park of Republic of Korea has published a total of 700 copies of the photo album "Khan Khentii-Burkhan Khaldun", and printed 50 booklets "World Cultural Heritage and National Pride" in Mongolian language, and 40 in Korean language.
- Improvement of the working conditions of rangers who regulate and supervise the movement of tourists at Tsagaan Aral, Mungunmorit soum, Tuv province and the establishment of the new field garrison, in November 2018.

**Activities implemented in the framework of the
"Operational Guidelines for the Implementation
of the World Heritage Convention"**

f) Production of plaques to commemorate the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List

The monument to commemorate the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List with official logos of UNESCO World Heritage Committee and World Heritage Great Burkhan Khaldun and its surrounding sacred sites made of a granite stone of 3,65 meters' high was placed at the Tsagaan Aral, Mungunmorit soum, Tuv province by the order A/40 of 2018, of the director of the Khan Khentii SPA administration. The opening ceremony for the monument was held on November 21, 2018, with the involvement of the representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports, the National Center for Cultural Heritage, and the Khan Khentii SPA administration.

g) Appointment of the dedicated authority responsible for providing the information to the World Heritage Committee, on the restoration works at the World Heritage Site and construction works

Article 11, Paragraph 7 of the Law on Special Protected Areas states "Pursuant to the appropriate permit, the following activities may be conducted in the Limited Use Zones using environmentally safe technology: "use accommodations constructed pursuant to appropriate procedures and designated for temporary residence, camping, observation, research and investigation by travelers and other people with permission".

h) Creation of the website dedicated to the World Heritage Site "Great Burkhan Khaldun and its surrounding sacred landscapes", in English and Mongolian languages

The Khan Khentii SPA administration, in cooperation with the National Center for Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports, has created and working on the improvement of the website to provide information and raise

awareness of general public about the World Heritage Site “Burkhan Khaldun and its surrounding sacred landscapes”. The website includes 360⁰ panoramic view of the site. Please follow the link: <http://burkhankhaldun.mpa.gov.mn>

Report prepared and translated by:
The National Center for Cultural Heritage