



WHC/19/43.COM/INF.8B2.ADD

IUCN World Heritage Evaluations 2019

ADDENDUM: IUCN Evaluations of nominations of natural and mixed properties to the World Heritage List



IUCN REPORT FOR THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE, 43RD SESSION, BAKU, AZERBAIJAN, 30 JUNE-10 JULY 2019

Cover photo: Vatnajökull National Park - dynamic nature of fire and ice, Iceland
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ADDENDUM

IUCN Evaluations of Nominations of Natural and Mixed Properties to the World Heritage List

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY TABLE OF IUCN EVALUATIONS TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

		OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE														
State Party	Name of the property (ID number)	Note	Meets one or more natural criteria				Meets conditions of integrity				Meets protection and management requirements			Further permission required	IUCN Recommendation	
			Criterion (vii)	Criterion (viii)	Criterion (ix)	Criterion (x)	Integrity	Boundaries	Threats addressed	Justification of serial approach	Protection status	Management	Bufferzone/ Protection in surrounding			
Paragraphs of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention			77	77	77	77	78,87-95	99-102	78,98	137	78,132,4	78, 108-118, 132,4,135	103-107			
Thailand	Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex(1461Rev)		–	–	–	part	no	no	yes	–	yes	no	yes	yes	D	

KEYS

yes met
 part partially met
 no not met
 – not applicable

I inscribe / approve
 N non inscribe / approve
 R refer
 D defer

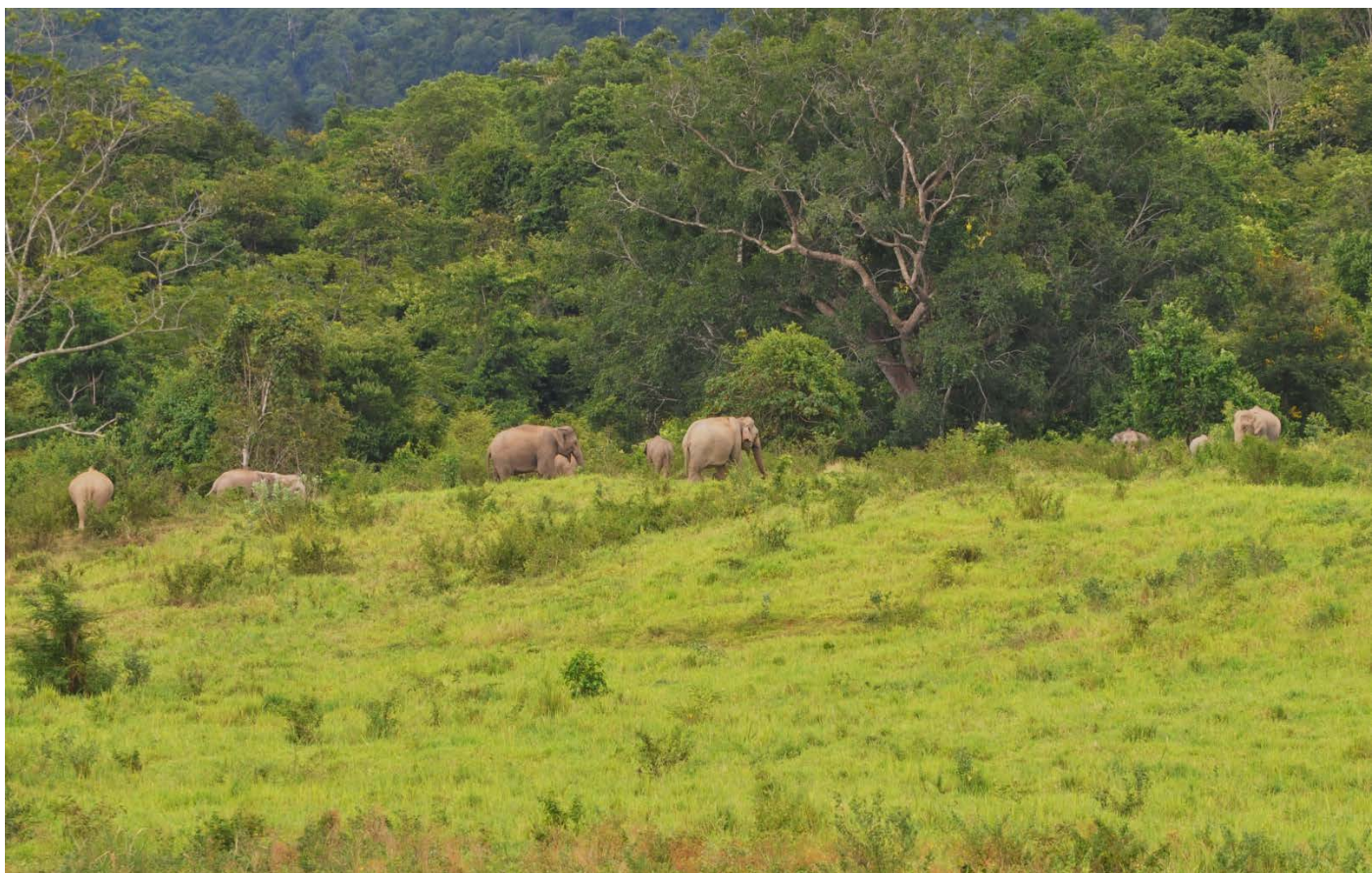
A. NATURAL PROPERTIES

A2. REFERRED NOMINATIONS OF NATURAL PROPERTIES

ASIA / PACIFIC

KAENG KRACHAN FOREST COMPLEX

THAILAND



Elephants in Kui Buri National Park © IUCN / Bruce Jefferies

WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION – IUCN TECHNICAL EVALUATION

KAENG KRACHAN FOREST COMPLEX (THAILAND) – ID N° 1461 Rev

IUCN RECOMMENDATION TO WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE: To defer the nomination of the property under natural criteria.

Key paragraphs of Operational Guidelines:

Paragraph 77: Nominated property has not demonstrated it meets World Heritage criteria.

Paragraph 78: Nominated property meets protection requirements, but does not meet integrity and management requirements.

Background note: The Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex was nominated in 2014 and considered by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th Session in Bonn, Germany, 2015. In Decision 39 COM 8B.5 the Committee took note of the nominated property's strong potential to meet criterion (x) and referred the nomination back to the State Party of Thailand to allow it to address in full the concerns raised by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR) concerning Karen communities within the Kaeng Krachan National Park. The Committee also requested updated data on the conservation status and population viability of key threatened species reported from the property and encouraged Thailand to consider nominating the property also under criterion (ix). The Committee welcomed the 'roadmap' adopted towards a revised nomination.

Thailand submitted further information on the property following this decision, which the Committee considered at the 40th Session. The World Heritage Committee again referred the property back to the State Party, in view of the need to continue to resolve concerns raised by the UNOHCHR concerning Karen communities within the Kaeng Krachan National Park, including the implementation of a participatory process to resolve rights and livelihood concerns and to achieve a consensus of support for the nomination of the property that is fully consistent with the principle of free, prior and informed consent. The Committee again encouraged the State Party to consider nominating the property also under criterion (ix), encouraged commendable initiatives on future biological connectivity opportunities, including those between the nominated property and Thungyai - Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries in Thailand and, working in partnership with the State Party of Myanmar, between the nominated property and neighbouring transnational protected areas within the Taninthayi Forest Corridor in Myanmar

The Committee also recommended the State Party to continue the dialogue with the State Party of Myanmar to address concerns regarding the settlement and demarcation of the proposed nominated area. IUCN recalls advice from the State Party of Myanmar dated 11 July 2016 urging the Committee to defer the nomination pending '*proper and systematic demarcation of the boundary between the two countries*'. IUCN notes that issues concerning territorial aspects of nominations are a matter for UNESCO, and thus the World Heritage Centre may have additional advice to provide on this aspect of the nomination, in relation to World Heritage procedures, should the Committee require it.

The Committee's attention is drawn to the previous evaluations (WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B2 and WHC-16/40.COM/INF.8B2ADD) in order to avoid repeating information.

1. DOCUMENTATION

a) Date nomination received by IUCN: The original nomination was submitted in 2014, and the latest information was received in February 2019.

b) Additional information officially requested from and provided by the State Party: There has been no subsequent information requested, as the new information relates to a referral.

c) Additional literature consulted: No additional literature; please see past evaluations for earlier references considered.

d) Consultations: 2 additional desk reviews received. Further consultation has taken place with the IUCN representative from the 2014 field mission. IUCN has also consulted with: the UNOHCHR Regional Office for

South-east Asia; IUCN Asia Regional Office; and the UN Human Rights, Special Procedures Branch, Geneva.

e) Field Visit: Original field mission undertaken by Bruce Jefferies, 01-09 September 2014

f) Date of IUCN approval of this report: May 2019

2. SUMMARY OF NATURAL VALUES

The significant natural values of the nominated property, and the area that surrounds it, have been documented at length in earlier evaluations. The new information makes clear, however, that there has in the present revision been a significant change to the area that is proposed for inclusion in the nomination. This is apparently a response from Thailand to territorial

discussions that have been undertaken with Myanmar, and the new information reports as follows:

“Thailand would like to maintain friendly relations with Myanmar by reducing the concern about the property area. Thus, an adjustment of the western perimeter of KKFC nomination along the border between Thailand and Myanmar will serve this purpose.”

[...]

Whenever Myanmar has no concern about the country’s border, Thailand will prompt to further submit the modification of KKFC to cover full area of the complex. Moreover, Thailand is also ready and willing to cooperate with Myanmar to further develop a nomination of KKFC and Tanintharyi [sic] Forest Complex in Myanmar to be inscribed on the transboundary natural World Heritage List.”

(2019 information, page 29, para 1).

As per the background note above, IUCN notes that the World Heritage Centre, and not IUCN, would need to provide any guidance needed to the World Heritage Committee on procedural matters concerning this issue.

In terms of nature conservation values, the resulting boundary changes on the western edge of the nominated property result in a stepped boundary of straight lines, as can be seen in Map 1. This results in a reduction in area of the nominated property from 482,225 ha to 411,912 ha (a reduction of approximately 15%). The State Party has provided adjusted areas as outlined in Table 1; however, the new maps provided are very limited in quality.

Name of protected area	Area (ha)	
	Original nomination	Revised nomination
Mae Nam Phachi Wildlife Sanctuary	48,931	38,565
Chaloem Phrakiat Thai Prachan National Park	32,924	32,884
Kaeng Krachan National Park	291,470	256,870
Kui Buri National Park	96,900	73,641
Kui Buri Reserve under military control	12,000	9,953
Total	482,225	411,912

Table 1: Revised nominated areas for KKFC proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List

The new information presents maps that contend that the biodiversity values included in the revised nomination remain intact. IUCN notes, however, that the change results in a significant reduction in the area of the most significant nature conservation values that was previously included in the nomination, and also reduces the connectivity conservation functions of the property as nominated. Maps tabled during earlier bilateral discussions between the State Party of Thailand and IUCN indicate that the areas along the international border which have now been excised coincide with areas of highest biodiversity value as assessed by wildlife surveys. This view is also supported by expert reviewers who contend that these changes would

seriously compromise the natural values of the property, as the border area between Thailand and Myanmar is known to be a repository of significant biodiversity values. Thus, whilst extremely important values undoubtedly remain, the changes made reduce the potential for the nominated property to meet criterion (x) and potentially criterion (ix). With no opportunity for a further evaluation, and the limited time to assess the revised boundary, IUCN is not able to confirm that the revised and reduced nomination meets natural criteria.

3. COMPARISONS WITH OTHER AREAS

No additional comparative analysis has been undertaken. The comparisons indicated in previous evaluations remain relevant. IUCN consulted with UN Environment-WCMC regarding the changes to the boundaries. WCMC were unable to conclude on the implications on values of the boundary changes due to the poor quality mapping and need to re-examine the spatial analyses.

4. INTEGRITY, PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

4.1. Protection

The area proposed for inscription remains within the same group of protected areas as previously. IUCN has previously concluded that these provide adequate legal protection, but that coordination between the different areas should be enhanced.

IUCN considers that the protection status of the nominated property meets the requirements of the Operational Guidelines.

4.2 Boundaries

The new boundaries proposed are not optimal, as in adopting straight lines, there is no consideration of the pattern of natural attributes on the ground. IUCN does not consider that such boundaries are likely to be appropriate for the long-term delivery of effective conservation measures. In addition, they do not support the connectivity necessary for the nominated property to conserve a number of threatened but wide-ranging species reported to occur in the area. The maps provided do not appear to include a clear definition of the property and its buffer zone, and are not adequate in relation to the standards set in the Operational Guidelines.

IUCN considers that the boundaries of the nominated property do not meet the requirements of the Operational Guidelines.

4.3 Management

The new information provided clearly indicates that the State Party has been engaging in a great deal of work to implement the roadmap that was put in place following the original referral and comprised of four strategies: 1) prevention and suppression for the protection of natural resources (i.e. law enforcement);

2) biological resources management; 3) integrated cooperation with all stakeholders; and 4) effective administration and management. Commendable progress has been achieved in many of these areas.

IUCN's Thailand country office has also been involved in supporting the State Party to engage local communities in participatory management processes and benefit sharing. Activities have included participatory land use planning, the promotion of sustainable livelihoods, and the establishment of governance and monitoring mechanisms to monitor long-term effectiveness. The Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) as the responsible managing authority for the nominated property, together with Pid Thong Lung Pra Royal Project Initiative and other government authorities, has been implementing a range of livelihood development activities in Bang Kloi and Pong Leuk, including integrated agriculture, solar powered water systems and house construction.

Nevertheless, IUCN notes below continued serious concerns that are raised regarding aspects of the management in relation to communities, and which were the main focus of past referrals. As noted below, these have not yet been resolved in a fully satisfactory way, and thus, despite the progress, remain an impediment to the nomination.

IUCN considers that the management of the nominated property does not meet the requirements of the Operational Guidelines.

4.4 Community

As noted above, the State Party reports on the progress in its work in engaging communities and in addressing the issues that have been noted in past nominations, and this information is included in the referral documentation.

IUCN has sought advice from the UNOHCHR, which had previously raised concerns about the nomination. Following this request, IUCN received on 28th February 2019, via UNOHCHR a joint communication of 11 pages from the Special Procedures Branch of UNOHCHR, sent by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, and three UN Special Rapporteurs on: (a) human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment; (b) the situation of human rights defenders; and (c) the rights of indigenous peoples (Reference OL OTH 7/2019). This statement notes a related communication (AL THA 2/2019) sent to the Government of Thailand on 21st February 2019, and a separate communication sent simultaneously to the World Heritage Committee (OTH 8/2018). IUCN assumes, and conveys its expectation, that this information has been provided to the World Heritage Committee via the Secretariat.

IUCN notes in précis that the statement of 28th February 2019 raised a number of serious human rights issues. Information received by the Special Procedures Branch of UNOHCHR references “*alleged attacks and renewed harassment of the indigenous Karen peoples in KKFC,*

by [national park officials].” These allegations mention specifically the reactivation of the nomination specifically highlighting “*lack of consultation with affected indigenous peoples, and the failure to seek their free, prior and informed consent.*” It further notes that concerns have been raised over “*how UNESCO World Heritage status, if awarded, may impact on the Karen communities’ land rights and livelihoods*”.

These matters are then set out in detail in the correspondence. The communication makes clear it does not wish to prejudge the accuracy of the allegations, but expresses serious concerns regarding the situation. The communication calls on the IUCN evaluation to assess these serious concerns in line with international human rights norms (law, standards and commitments), including a series of six specific points regarding the actions of the State Party.

IUCN has also received direct expressions of concern from affected communities regarding shortcomings in community engagement and respecting rights. The representations allege that, until now, most Karen people are not aware or have an understanding on the process of the UNESCO World Heritage nomination.

Based on its analysis, IUCN makes two overall observations:

- a) It is clear that, despite efforts by the State Party, there is not yet sufficient evidence that the serious concerns previously raised on issues of rights and consent have been addressed satisfactorily. To the contrary, there is evidence that these matters remain of concern, and continue to be raised in the specific context of the present nomination.
- b) The matters raised cannot be assessed adequately through the referral mechanism, given that the referral process of the World Heritage Convention provides no opportunity for consultation or exchange with either the State Party or the affected indigenous peoples and local communities. As the referral mechanism also allows no opportunity for a field mission, there is also no possibility to be able to offer the affected indigenous peoples adequate access to IUCN to be able to consider the matters raised. IUCN is of the view that, prior to a further evaluation, the preference would be that the State Party engage directly with UNOHCHR to seek to satisfactorily resolve the concerns that have been raised.

In addition to other issues raised above, the situation clearly is one where it is not possible for IUCN to recommend acceptance of the present revised nomination. The situation is also one where the nomination cannot be considered further via the referral mechanism, given this will not allow for an adequate assessment of these serious matters to be undertaken. IUCN further notes that there are now clear expectations in the Operational Guidelines regarding the need for free, prior and informed consent, which should be met before any further submission of the nomination.

4.5 Threats

The new information makes clear that continued efforts are being made by the State Party to tackle threats to the nature conservation values of the nominated property. There has been a full discussion of these threats in past evaluation reports, and IUCN notes its previous conclusions in this regard stand.

In conclusion, IUCN considers that whilst the protection requirements are met, the integrity and management of the nominated property do not meet the requirements of the Operational Guidelines.

5. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

5.1 Timescale for the nomination

IUCN has noted above that, both in terms of the new configuration of the nomination being problematic and the lack of resolution of questions pertaining to human rights, the nomination cannot be recommended for inscription, and also cannot be adequately evaluated via the referral mechanism. IUCN further notes that the original nomination was submitted in 2014, and that the previous sequence of two referrals means it is now approaching five years since the original nomination was made. As the normal timeline for referrals is anticipated to be only three years, IUCN considers that there is now a more general concern that the evaluation is too distant from the original nomination for adequate and current advice to be provided to the World Heritage Committee. For all of these reasons, IUCN is strongly of the view that deferral now represents the only viable option to proceed, whilst assuring the credibility of the Convention. Deferral would allow the State Party time to consider and resolve issues regarding the values being nominated, the measures necessary to address concerns regarding human rights, and, ideally, also to resolve an agreed means of proceeding on questions involving transboundary conservation with the State Party of Myanmar. IUCN therefore strongly recommends against a further referral of the property. IUCN considers deferral would be in the direct interests of the State Party, the affected indigenous peoples and local communities, and the World Heritage Convention.

6. APPLICATION OF CRITERIA

Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex has been nominated under natural criteria (x).

Criterion (x): Biodiversity and threatened species

As noted in previous evaluations, the area of KKFC has clear potential to meet criterion (x), in view of its notable biodiversity values, including a high number of globally threatened wildlife species. However, the reduction of

area of the nominated property, adoption of inappropriate boundaries, and lack of connectivity to adjoining areas mean the potential to meet this criterion has been significantly reduced.

IUCN considers that the extent of significant modifications to this nomination make it impossible to conclude on its potential to meet this criterion. IUCN retains the view that a revised nomination for a better connected area, including all areas of high biodiversity value within Thailand, would have potential to meet this criterion.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

IUCN recommends that the World Heritage Committee adopt the following draft decision:

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/19/43.COM/8B.ADD and WHC/19/43.COM/INF.8B2.ADD;

2. Recalling Decisions 39 COM 8B.5 and 40 COM 8B.11;

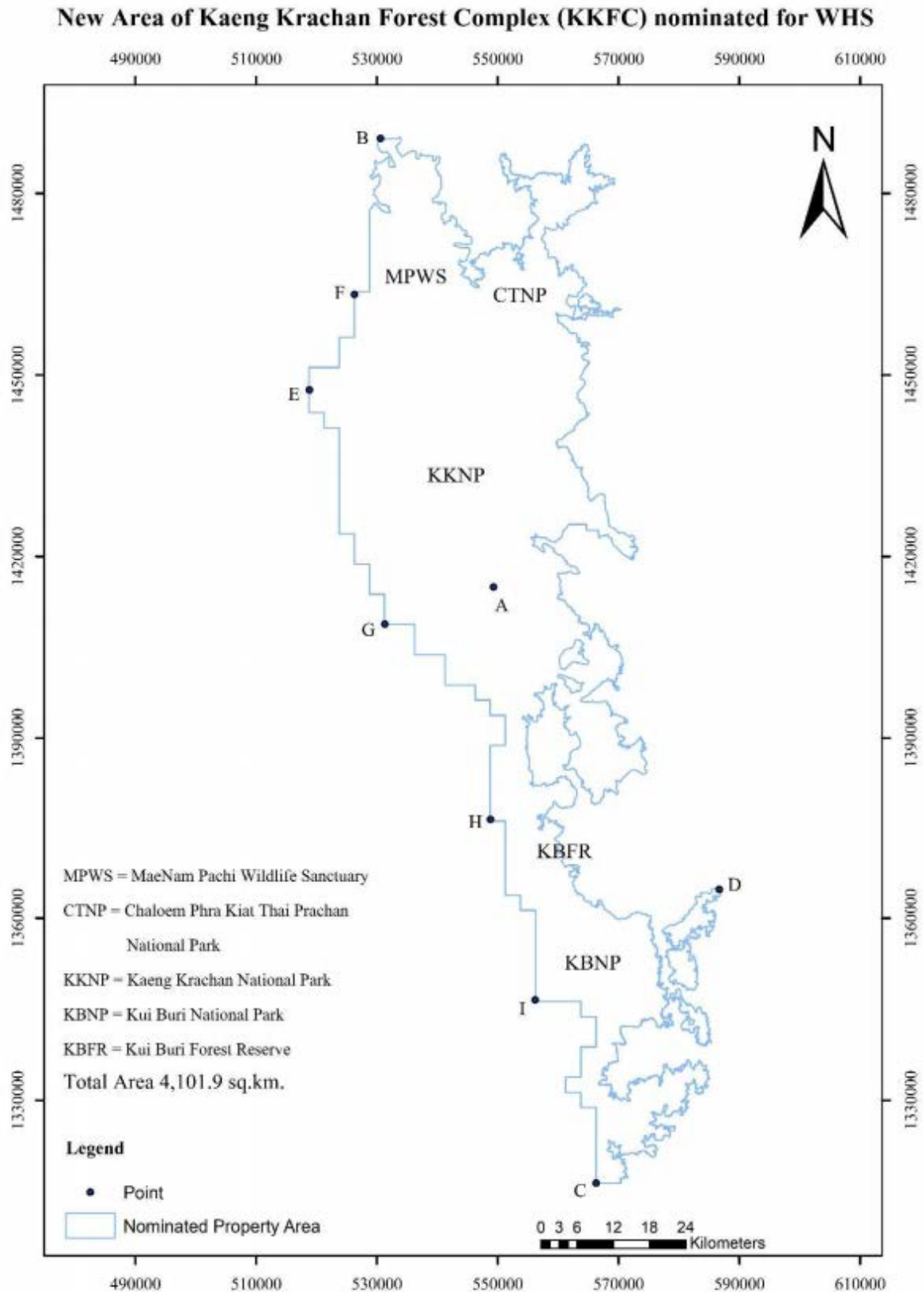
3. Defers the nomination of **Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (Thailand)** on the World Heritage List under criterion (x).

4. Recommends that the State Party consider resubmission of the nomination in the format of a new nomination, after:

- a) Concerns regarding rights have been resolved, in full consultation with the affected indigenous peoples and local communities, and to the satisfaction of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights. This process should ensure that the requirements of the Operational Guidelines are fully met regarding the need to demonstrate that the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples for the nomination has been obtained;
- b) A revised comparative analysis has been completed, demonstrating that the reduced area of the nominated property would be sufficient to meet criterion (x) and potentially also criterion (ix), including the related conditions of integrity.

5. Continues to encourage the State Parties of Thailand and Myanmar to collaborate in transboundary conservation and management of the highly significant nature conservation values of the region, and to evaluate the potential to bring forward a further nomination on a transboundary basis.

Map 1: Nominated property – revised boundary



A. NATURAL PROPERTIES

A3. MINOR BOUNDARY MODIFICATIONS OF NATURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

ILULISSAT ICEFJORD

DENMARK

WORLD HERITAGE MINOR BOUNDARY MODIFICATION PROPOSAL – IUCN TECHNICAL EVALUATION

ILULISSAT ICEFJORD (DENMARK) – ID No. 1149 Bis

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ilulissat Icefjord was inscribed on the World Heritage List in at the 28th Session of the World Heritage Committee in 2004.

2. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BOUNDARY MODIFICATION

The proposal submitted by the State Party has two different aspects:

- a) A correction to the area of the property, due to adoption of digital mapping technology, but not to change the boundaries. The previous measurement was 402,400 ha, whilst the corrected figure is 399,800 ha (a difference of less than 1%).
- b) The creation of a buffer zone surrounding the property, which comprises a “local buffer zone” around the settlement of Ilulissat (430 ha), and a “recreational buffer zone” around the remainder of the property (64,890 ha).

The proposal indicates in summary the different policies that will apply to the two buffer zones, and that the existing legislation for the property continues to apply.

3. IMPACT ON OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

The correction of the area of the property has no impact on its OUV, and is not in fact a boundary modification of any kind. The World Heritage Centre can update the property’s records with the correct figure. There is no mention of the area of the property in the Statement of OUV, so no amendment to that document is required.

Regarding the buffer zone, IUCN notes that the Committee has agreed that the creation of buffer zones should be processed through the minor boundary modification process. IUCN further notes that the retrospective statement of OUV for the property refers to the proposal to create a buffer zone, so this is already anticipated. IUCN considers that the proposals represent an improvement in the overall protection and management system for the property, and thus are to be welcomed.

IUCN notes that the documentation is not fully clear regarding the intended operation of the buffer zones. In particular, it is unclear what activities/developments are permitted in the ‘local’ and the ‘recreational’ buffer zones. The text in the first paragraph of p.4 implies that a limited number of cabins and survival huts can be established in the local buffer zone, whereas the summary table beneath it states that no construction is permitted in this zone. The prescription for the

recreational buffer zone is also somewhat vague. It would be important that the State Party clarifies this matter both in terms of general management provisions, but also because there have recently been exchanges between the State Party and the World Heritage Centre, concerning a couple of proposed developments, one of which is the Aurora building that would appear to be located inside the proposed local buffer zone, and the other being a proposed visitor centre (Icefjord Centre) that would be located just outside of the proposed buffer zone. These are, however, matters that are independent of the adoption of the buffer zone *per se*. IUCN further notes that it will remain important that the State Party screen all developments with the potential to impact OUV, regardless of whether they are located within or outside the new buffer zones, including through appropriate environmental and social impact assessment prior to any approvals.

4. OTHER COMMENTS

None.

5. RECOMMENDATION

IUCN recommends that the World Heritage Committee adopts the following draft decision:

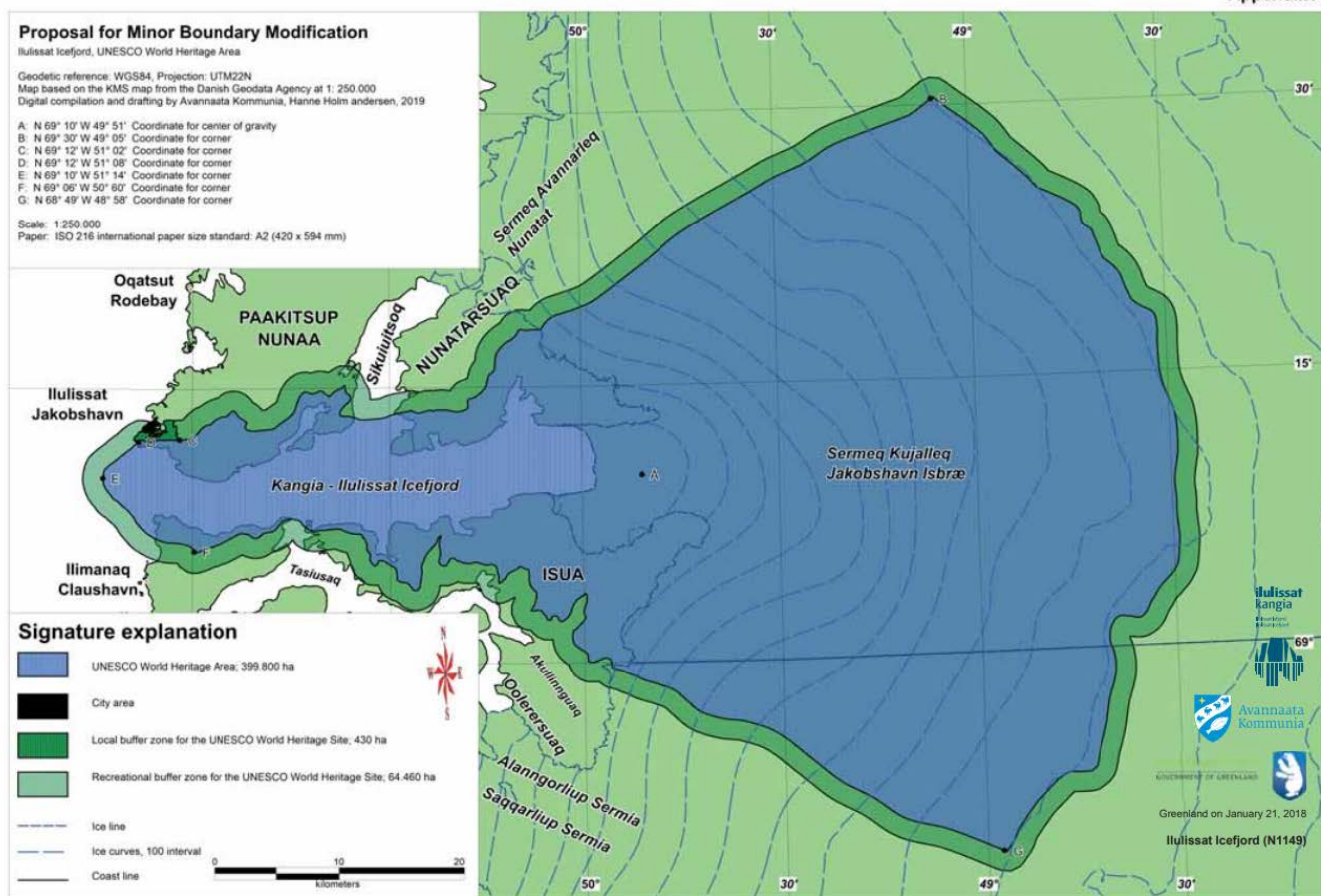
The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/19/43.COM/8B.ADD and WHC/19/43.COM/INF.8B2.ADD;
2. Recalling Decision 28 COM 14B.8;
3. Approves the minor boundary modification request for Ilulissat Icefjord (Denmark);
4. Requests the World Heritage Centre to update the approved records of the area of the property;
5. Requests the State Party to provide further details to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2020, for review by IUCN, to clarify the policies that will apply to the local and recreational buffer zones, in particular regarding the scope of development that is anticipated to be permitted;
6. Also requests the State Party to continue to assess any development, whether inside or outside the property and its buffer zone, that has the potential to impact on its OUV in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Impact Assessment, and to notify the World Heritage Centre of any such development plans in accordance with following the

procedures of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Map 1: World Heritage property and proposed minor boundary modification (creation of buffer zone)

Appendix A



LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN

**CERRADO PROTECTED AREAS: CHAPADA DOS VEADAIROS AND EMAS
NATIONAL PARKS**

BRAZIL

WORLD HERITAGE MINOR BOUNDARY MODIFICATION PROPOSAL – IUCN TECHNICAL EVALUATION

CERRADO PROTECTED AREAS: CHAPADA DOS VEADEIROS AND EMAS NATIONAL PARKS (BRAZIL) – ID No. 1035 Bis

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Cerrado Protected Areas: Chapada Dos Veadeiros and Emas National Parks was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2001. At this time, following recommendations of the IUCN evaluation and a decision of the Bureau, the area of the Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park was expanded by a Federal decree to 235,970 ha. Subsequently, the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List, including the whole of this area.

In 2010, information was received by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN that the Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park had been reduced to its original 65,515 ha following a ruling that the Federal decree was void, as the process in 2001 did not meet necessary public consultation standards. This left a large remaining area of the national park within the World Heritage property without a legal protection status. The Committee considered these matters at its 35th Session in 2011, and subsequently at the 36th, 37th, 39th, 40th and 41st Sessions also. The World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to reinstate the appropriate legal protection regime over the entire World Heritage property. There has also been past consideration of possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, due to the loss of protection status.

As a result of the concerns raised, the State Party has been progressing the formalisation of legal protection of the property, and this has also involved some reconsideration of the boundaries of the national parks that provide for the protection of the property. A reactive monitoring mission by IUCN in 2013, and subsequent advisory mission by IUCN in February 2016 have been part of this process. The IUCN Advisory mission visited the property to evaluate the results of the new public consultation process on the expansion of Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park and examine the possible need and related procedures of a major boundary modification and renomination, including the potential design of a revised boundary. The mission concluded that the consultation process now met the national legal requirements for expansion and creation of conservation units, and that concerns expressed by the affected stakeholders had been taken into account in the design of the new expanded boundaries of Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park. The proposal reviewed by the mission included expansion of the national park to 248,301 ha, largely following the expanded boundaries from 2001 and further adding areas important for conservation of some species, while excluding some areas along the borders which had been degraded. The mission also confirmed that other recently created protected areas overlapping with the current boundaries

of the property, particularly the Chapada de Nova Roma Ecological Station (IUCN Protected Area category Ia), were proposed to be included in the new boundaries in addition to the expanded national park.

In its Decision 41COM 7B.10 the Committee requested the State Party *“to prepare and submit, as soon as possible, a proposal for a boundary modification of the property, in conformity with Chapter III.1 of the Operational Guidelines, in order to align the boundaries of the Chapada dos Veadeiros component with the new boundaries approved for Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park, including the State proposed Nova Roma ecological station”*.

The relevant documentation is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1035/documents/>

2. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BOUNDARY MODIFICATION

The proposal made by the State Party follows the above process, and presents a confirmed boundary of the property. The proposal would expand the overall area of the property by 14,074 ha (3,67% increase), and the area of the Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park is confirmed to be 240,611 ha, following its re-expansion in 2017. Full details with associated maps are provided in the documentation that has been submitted. In addition to the expansion of the national park, an ecological station, Chapada de Nova Roma, was created within the territory of the World Heritage property. Furthermore, part of the area is covered by private reserves and therefore the legal protection regime represents a mosaic of protected areas, with the national park covering the majority of the territory within the proposed new boundaries. Overall the new proposed boundaries largely follow the current boundaries of the property (i.e. the “old” expanded boundaries of the national park), with some areas excluded and some areas added along the border, as well as around the Macacos River cluster to the south of the main area. The proposal also largely follows the one that was discussed with the 2016 IUCN Advisory mission.

3. IMPACT ON OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

IUCN notes that the present proposal represents a resolution of the situation that has caused concern regarding this property, and that it results from a consultative process in which the Committee and IUCN have participated directly. Whilst ideally such a proposal would be made via the process for significant

modification of boundaries, IUCN notes the Committee left open both options in its most recent decision, and that the advisory mission has been able to provide a reasonable level of scrutiny of the proposal on the ground. IUCN has been able to consult the expert from that mission on the present proposal in providing its advice to the World Heritage Committee.

IUCN concludes that overall the proposal retains the OUV of the property as inscribed, and can mostly be accepted as meeting the relevant integrity requirements. The proposal is also beneficial for the property in order to confirm its protection status, and to align its management with the new nationally approved boundaries of the national parks.

IUCN notes one exception to this advice, which is that the Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park component of the property was clearly inscribed as a coherent area, but the proposal includes one area near the centre of the component that is proposed for excision, creating a “hole” within the component. The status of this area requires clarification with the State Party, and this is not possible in the minor boundary modification process. It appears that this area remains in private land tenure and thus likely could not be included in the boundary of the national park; however, this information could not be fully verified by IUCN and therefore it remains unclear what is located within this area and whether it represents any current or potential threat to the OUV of the property. IUCN considers that it would be problematic from a management perspective to excise this area from the World Heritage Site, and therefore recommends that this area not be removed from the property via the minor boundary modification process under consideration.

IUCN notes that the property is being considered by the Committee under the State of Conservation process (Item 7B) at its present session, and it is anticipated that there will be a further SOC report on the property considered by the Committee in 2021. IUCN recommends that the SOC process is used to further review the implementation of protection and

management in relation to the property with its revised boundary, including the effectiveness of coordinated management of different protected areas included in the new boundaries, and to also clarify the status of the area in the centre of the property, noted in the above paragraph including options for how this area could be retained within the property, despite its location outside the present boundaries of the national park.

4. OTHER COMMENTS

None.

5. RECOMMENDATION

IUCN recommends that the World Heritage Committee adopts the following draft decision:

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/19/43.COM/8B.ADD and WHC/19/43.COM/INF.8B2.ADD;
2. Recalling Decisions 37 COM 7B.29, 39 COM 7B.27, 40 COM 7B.71 and 41 COM 7B.10;
3. Approves the minor boundary modification request for Cerrado Protected Areas: Chapada dos Veadeiros and Emas National Parks (Brazil), however, does not approve the excision of the area at the centre of the Chapada dos Veadeiros component of the property;
4. Takes note of the ongoing consideration of the State of Conservation of the property by the Committee, and recommends that the next report on the property includes consideration of the effectiveness of the implementation of the protection and management requirements of the property in relation to its revised boundary.

Map 1: World Heritage property and proposed minor boundary modification

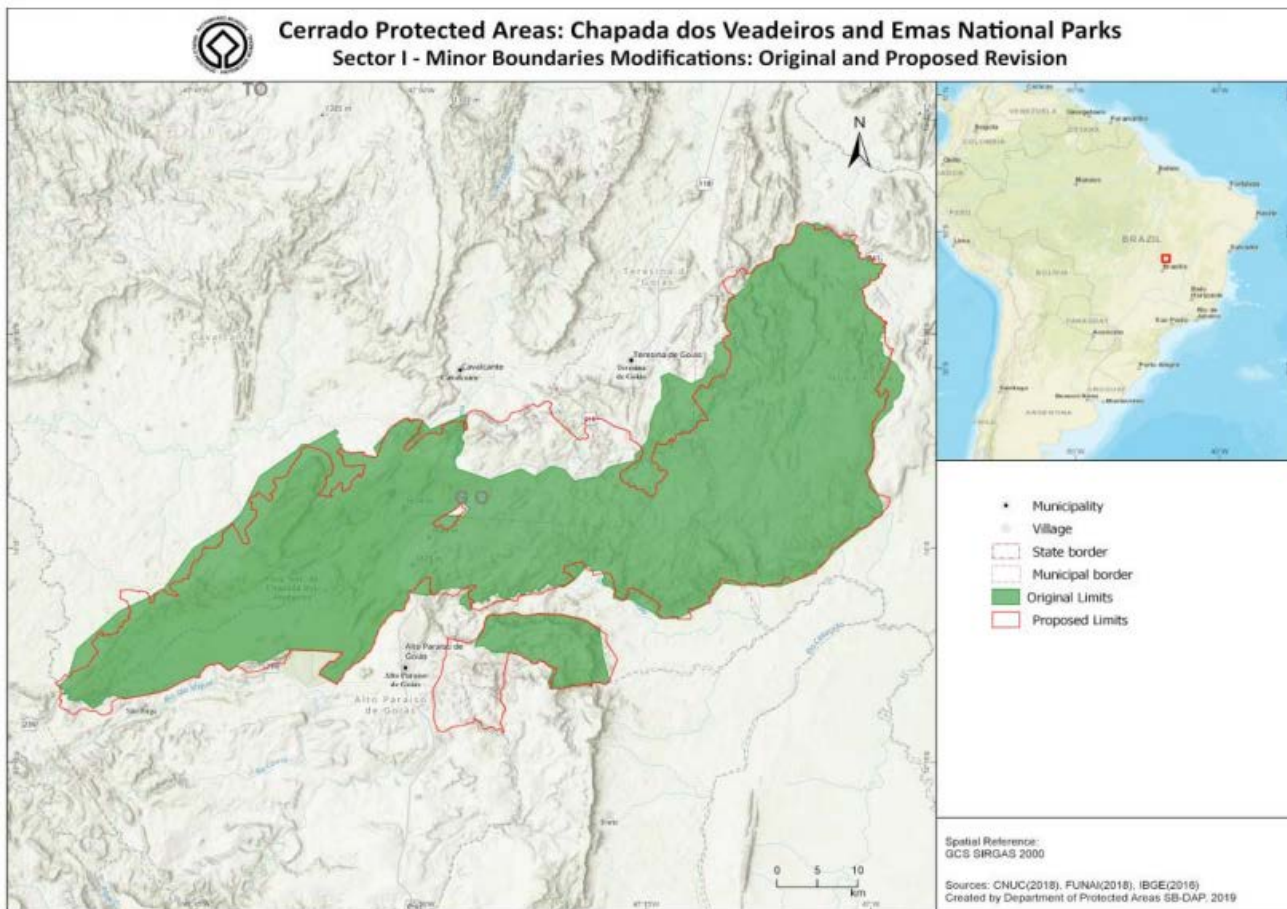


Figure 2: Proposed new limits (red line) for the World Heritage Site Cerrado Protected Areas Sector I, compared with the original (green).



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FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE**

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
Rue Mauverney 28
1196 Gland, Switzerland
Tel +41 22 999 0000
Fax +41 22 999 0002
www.iucn.org

