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World Heritage

43 COM

AMENDMENT

Item of the Agenda	8B.5
Amended Draft Decision	43 COM 8B.5 Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex
Amendment submitted by the Delegation of	Indonesia
Date	5 July 2019

TEXT

Decision: 43 COM 8B.5

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** adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,

3. Recognizes the technical agreement reached by the State Parties of Thailand and Myanmar on the delineation of the boundary of the nominated area based on the Agreed Minutes and their pertinent coordinates of the Technical Meeting held in Bangkok on 25 – 26 April 2019 between Myanmar and Thailand;

4. Takes note of the progress made by the State Party on the adoption of new legislations namely the National Parks Act and the Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act, aiming to support the local Karen Communities to preserve their identity and way of life in the nominated area;

5. Inscribes Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (Thailand) on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion (x).

5bis Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief Synthesis

Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (KKFC) lies in the Tenasserim Range on the boundary between Thailand and Myanmar and covers a vast forest area of 3 western Thailand provinces: Ratchaburi, Phetchaburi, and Prachuab Kirikhan. The complex protects the headwaters of many important rivers such as Phetchaburi, Kui Buri, Pranburi, and Phachi Rivers. There are 4 legally gazetted protected areas in the complex, one wildlife sanctuary (Mae Nam Phachi protected under the Wildlife Protection and Preservation Act, 1992 and 2019) and three national parks (Kaeng Krachan, Kui Buri and Chaloeam Phrakiat Thai Prachan National Parks protected under the National Park Act, 1961 and 2019). Kaeng Krachan and Kui Buri National Parks are connected by Kui Buri Forest Reserve and the Army Reserve Zone. This corridor is under the Forest Reserve Act (1964) and the Military Reserve Zone Act (1935). The total area of the KKFC is

approximately 4,000 square kilometre. KKFC is located in the Tenasserim-South Thailand semi-evergreen rain forest unit within the Indo-Malayan ecoregion. This is a vast area of connected semi-evergreen forest (or dry evergreen forest), and moist evergreen forest covers respectively 51% and 21% of the total area. Mixed deciduous forest, montane forest, and deciduous dipterocarp forest also occur in the area. The area's topography is rugged with high mountains in the west and rolling hills to the east. Elevation ranges between 100-1,500 meter above sea level. The area's geology is granite and limestone. The climate is influenced by the north-eastern and south-western monsoon winds. The rainy season generally starts in mid-May and ends in mid October. The cool season is from mid October to mid February with the dry season from mid February to mid May.

Criterion (x)

The KKFC is located in the Indo-Malayan ecoregion. At the macro scale the complex is rich in biological diversity as a result of being a meeting place of four zoogeographical subregions and four floristic provinces (Indo-Burmese or Himalayan, Indo-Malaysian, Annamatic, and Andamanese). For example, there are many Sundaic species for which the complex is the most northerly known distribution including birds such as the crested fireback (*Lophura ignita*), red-billed malkoha (*Phaenicophaeus javanicus*), chestnut-breasted malkoha (*P. curvirostris*), and red-eyed bulbul (*Pycnonotus brunneus*), amphibians such as the cinnamon treefrog (*Nyctixalus pictus*) and mammals such as the banded langur (*Presbytis femoralis*). There are also many Sino-Himalayan species for which this is the most southerly distribution including the resident species of blue-throated flycatcher (*Cyornis rubeculoides*) and golden-crested myna (*Ampeliceps coronatus*). Species from the Indochinese realm to the west include the ratchet tailed treepie (*Temnurus temnurus*) whereas those from the Indo-Burmese realm to the east include Fea's muntjac (*Muntiacus feae*) and marbled cat (*Pardofelis marmorata*). These faunal distributions are complemented by floristic distributions such as the Sundaic *Parkia speciosa* and *Archidendron jiringa*. In addition to this macro-diversity at the micro scale the diverse geological characteristics and highly variable topography contribute to exceptionally high habitat diversity per unit area. Symptomatic of the high biodiversity in the area is the presence of endemic species such as *Magnolia mediocris* and *M. gustavii*, their only location in Thailand. *Trichosanthes phonsenae* is another plant species and the complex represents its only known location in the world today. In addition, the complex maintains important populations of globally endangered species. Of special note is the presence of the critically endangered, Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*) in Kaeng Krachan National Park, one of few locations in only three countries worldwide where it still exists in the wild. In addition, there are also important populations of other endangered species such as banteng (*Bos javanicus*), Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*), tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Asiatic wild dog (*Cuon alpinus*), Asian giant tortoise (*Manouria emys*); and vulnerable species such as Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*), Asian tapir (*Tapirus indicus*), southern serow (*Capricornis sumatraensis*) and stump-tailed macaque (*Macaca arctoides*). A complete suite of top carnivores has been identified in the area including eight species of wild cats. Active research programmes in the complex have inventoried 91 species of mammals and 461 bird species and more are bound to be discovered. Thus, the KKFC is highly significant to in-situ conservation of biological diversity in this region. It also protects the headwaters of Khao Sam Roi Yod wetland and many agricultural areas in Ratchaburi, Petchaburi and Prachuab Kiri Khan Provinces.

Integrity

The nomination embraces 4 protected areas covering almost half a million ha. and ranging from 100 meters to over 1500 meters in elevation. As such, it is of sufficient size and contains all necessary habitats to include all elements of the exceptional biodiversity outlined above. A threat analysis has identified challenges such as poaching, agricultural encroachment and growing human populations. However, all PA units in the complex are under protective legislations and have active management programmes to address these

challenges. Some examples of these programmes include the successful outreach programme to mitigate human-elephant conflicts, the establishment of prey recovery zones to provide enhanced food supply for the remaining populations of tigers, and establishment of new ranger patrol stations and enhanced patrolling. The Royal Thai Government is committed to ongoing investment in enhancing protection in the KKFC and is currently supporting several research programmes in the area. The continued existence of many species in the complex that are vulnerable to human threats is tangible testament to the integrity of the property.

Comparison with other similar properties. The KKFC is in the same ecoregion as the first natural World Heritage site in Thailand, Thungyai-Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary (THKKWS) but in a different subregion. The KKFC is 220 kilometers to the south of Thungyai - Huai Kha Khaeng WS and, as such, has a greater proportion of evergreen elements in the flora and a greater mixing of fauna from the Sundaic realm. Examples are given in the statement of Outstanding Universal Value. Furthermore, the exceptionally high topographic complexity of KKFC also generates very high species diversity per unit area and harbours endemic species and globally endangered species that are not found in the THKKWS World Heritage Site. Another World Heritage site in Thailand is Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (DPKY-FC) representing tropical moist evergreen forest. It also contains significant habitats for many species of international concern. However, this complex has a east-west orientation whereas the KKFC has a north-south orientation. Therefore in comparison to KKFC, DPKY-FC lacks the Sundaic and Indo-Burmese elements that characterize the current nomination and also the highly variable topography that is likely to lead to considerably more species being discovered in the nominated.

Protection and Management Requirements

As mentioned above, the property covers the area of approximately 4,000 km² and consists of four legally protected areas under the protection of Wildlife Protection and Preservation Act, 1992 and 2019 as well as the National Park Act 1961 and 2019, which are the legislations aimed to preserve, restore and maintain good conditions of natural resources, ecosystem and biodiversity of the protected area, including allowing people who are landless and have resided in or utilized the protected area to continue residing and utilizing the land and natural resources in accordance with their traditional way of life. Kaeng Krachan and Kui Buri National Parks are connected by Kui Buri Forest Reserve and the Army Reserve Zone. This corridor is also under the Forest Reserve Act (1964) and the Military Reserve Zone Act (1935).

The property have the highest level of protection that exists under Thailand's constitution and regulations. The management of the property is under the responsibility of the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP). The Protected Area Advisory Committee (PAC) of each protected area in the complex is established as a key mechanism to provide advice and plays important role in the planning and monitoring process, as well as the management of the KKFC. PAC consists of representatives from all sectors, namely government, private sector, general public, media, local scholars, and representatives from the Karen community and usually meet at least twice a year to discuss and provide advice on the relevant management issue of the property.

DNP is responsible to develop KKFC Ecosystem Management Plan with the involvement of all stakeholders to strengthen forest complex management, enhancing corridor management, and promoting buffer zone management around the property. This management plan will be maintained, developed and updated regularly in cooperation with relevant stakeholders and local communities. Annual budget from DNP is allocated to these four protected areas for implementing all activities under the plan to ensure the protection, conservation, tourism and promotion of participation. In addition, collaboration with relevant international organisations will continue to strengthen the capacity of park

rangers, enhance effectiveness of study and research for monitoring natural resource status and promote participatory management with local communities and related stakeholders.

In addition, each protected area consists of a unit Superintendent, and one or more deputies and a series of patrol stations located in and around the boundaries. Patrol units undertake enforcement and outreach activities on a regular basis from these stations. Violators of park regulations may be warned or prosecuted depending upon the circumstances and seriousness of the offence.

~~3. Defers the examination of the nomination of **Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex, Thailand**, to 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 States 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.~~

5. Encourages effective implementation of the new legislations in order to ensure the rights and livelihood of Karen Community based on their free, prior and informed consent;

6. Further encourages the State Parties of Thailand and Myanmar to work in partnership on future biological connectivity opportunities between the nominated property and proposed protected area within the Taninthayi Forest corridor in Myanmar.