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H. E. Mr KIM Dong Ji
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UNESCO House
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30 December 2019

IUCN Evaluation of the Getbol, Korean Tidal Flat – Nominated for inclusion on the World Heritage List

Progress report on IUCN evaluation and request for supplementary information

Dear Ambassador,

Further to my letter of 23 October 2019, and as noted in previous correspondence, IUCN seeks to develop and maintain a dialogue with States Parties during the evaluation process of all nominations. As per the Operational Guidelines (paragraph 149 and Annex 6 – ‘Evaluation procedures of the Advisory Bodies for nominations’), this letter also provides the short interim report outlining the status and any issues relevant to evaluations, which is requested to be sent by IUCN before 31 January 2020.

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/April 2020, following which the IUCN evaluation report will be issued to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. At its first meeting held in the week of 2 December 2019, 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. They also examined the supplementary information received via email on 25 November 2019.

The Panel greatly appreciated the efforts that have been made in relation to this nomination, and will be discussing the nomination again at its second meeting, to be held in March 2020. At this stage, the Panel noted a number of points of concern, where further additional information is required, and we would be grateful for the State Party’s response on the following points:

1. The Panel wishes to better understand the degree of impact arising from anthropogenic modifications on the ongoing geomorphological processes that shape and maintain the coastal and marine landforms and ecosystems of the nominated property. Please identify and provide evidence of the cumulative impacts (including mapping and photography where available) of shoreline alteration, coastal development and modifications to rivers and river catchment areas (including, but not limited to dams, weirs, flow regulation, bank alteration, adjacent land reclamation and irrigation) on the values and integrity within the nominated property. In addition, please provide information on how such impacts will be monitored and mitigated with respect to the geomorphological and ecosystems dynamics of the nominated property.
2. The IUCN Panel notes the differences in boundary alignments and apparent lack of coherence in management and protection arrangements across various protected area designations and conservation designations as they relate to the nominated property (for example Ramsar sites, Biosphere Reserves, Marine Protected Areas, National Parks etc.). Please elaborate on the rationale for the selection, and the design, of the boundaries of the component parts and how this collectively ensures the conservation and protection of critical ecosystem processes and biodiversity. More specifically, please also indicate, including through providing maps, how the proposed configuration supports habitat conservation in relation to the most important areas for migratory birds that have been identified in the East Asia-Australasian Flyway.
3. The IUCN Panel considers that the extent and connectivity of protected areas is especially crucial for conservation and protection of biodiversity, including threatened species, in the nominated property. The Panel views the current selection of areas to be quite limited and would thus like to receive further information on plans for any future phases to add components to the serial property.
4. Noting the inscription on the World Heritage List in 2019 of Phase I of the property ‘Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China’, the IUCN Panel requests further information

on how and when the State Party envision formalising collaboration with China on Phase II of the above property which is requested to be brought back to the World Heritage Committee in 2022.

5. The IUCN Panel would like more information on the involvement of the Ministry of Environment and its Korea National Park Service given their protection and management responsibilities for land-based areas of importance for birdlife. Please elaborate on the State Party's approach to foster inter agency/department collaboration for the conservation of species that are highly mobile and use habitat both with the nominated property and outside the boundaries as proposed.

6. Noting that 100m buffer zones have been provided around landward parts of the nominated property, IUCN would like to understand how critical areas for birdlife (feeding, roosting and nesting areas), which lay outside these buffer zones, are planned to be managed to ensure adequate protection and management.

7. The IUCN Panel wishes to better understand whether there are potential threats from future infrastructure proposals and coastal reclamation. For the nominated property and the buffer zone area, please provide information on any proposed infrastructure and development plans and the associated strategy to mitigate impacts, particularly on migratory birds. Please include specific details pertaining to wind and tidal power generation developments, as well as proposed bridge and road development.

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 2020**, 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 also be submitted officially in two 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 (ulrika.aberg@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 29 June to 9 July 2020 in Fuzhou, China.

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. We would be pleased to organise a meeting via Skype or conference call as an alternative. Both you and/or your representatives are also welcome to visit IUCN's headquarters in Switzerland to meet in person if you wish, to discuss this nomination, or any other matter of interest.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ulrika Åberg, World Heritage Officer (Tel: +41 22 999 0221; email: ulrika.aberg@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.

Please allow me to reiterate our thanks for your support of the World Heritage Convention and for the conduct of IUCN's recent mission. We thank you for your cooperation in providing this very important information, which will facilitate the panel in making its recommendations.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Shadie
Director - World Heritage Programme

cc. Korean National Commission for UNESCO, Mr Kwangho Kim, Secretary-General
UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Mr Feng Jing and Mr Alessandro Balsamo
IUCN Asia Regional Office, Ms Aban Marker Kabraji, Regional Director