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H. E. Mr Jamoliddin Ubaidullo
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Ambassade du Tadjikistan
42 avenue Montaigne
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25 January 2023

IUCN Evaluation of Tugay Forests of the Tigrovaya Balka Nature Reserve – Interim Report and request for supplementary information

Dear Ambassador,

Further to the above nomination to the World Heritage List, I am writing with information on progress with the IUCN evaluation. As noted in previous correspondence, IUCN seeks to develop and maintain a dialogue with States Parties during the evaluation process of all nominations.

The IUCN World Heritage technical evaluation missions to the Tugay Forests of the Tigrovaya Balka Nature Reserve was undertaken by Mr Chimed-Ochir Bazarsad from 11 to 15 October 2022. The evaluator greatly appreciated the excellent support, organisation and co-operation provided by your authorities in the preparation and implementation of the mission, and the kind welcome throughout the missions. Please convey our sincere thanks to all of the officials, scientists and contributors that assisted the missions.

Following the field evaluation mission, 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 2023, following which the IUCN evaluation report will be issued to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. The IUCN Panel examined in detail above-mentioned nomination, including reports of field evaluators and desktop reviews of external reviewers, as well as other references regarding the nominated properties.

The Panel greatly appreciated the State Party's efforts in relation to this nomination, and will be discussing the nomination again at its second meeting, to be held in March 2023. The Panel would be very grateful to your authorities for further information as set out below:

1. The Panel seeks reassurance from the State Party that the proposed buffer zone functions as an effective added layer of protection to the nominated property. Therefore, the Panel would be grateful to receive the legal document that confirms the protection status of the buffer zone, with a summary in English explaining the current situation regarding the protection and management regime of the buffer zone.
2. The Panel also seeks reassurance regarding the State Party's commitment and action to secure a hydrological regime in the nominated property that ensures the long-term maintenance of its natural values. The Panel would be grateful if the State Party could please provide more detailed information on concrete measures in this regard and any current and planned restoration and maintenance measures to ensure that the regular water supply from the Vakhsh River to the system of water bodies that support the nominated property is maintained, in terms of both its quality and quantity.
3. The Panel would be grateful to receive an up-to-date list of all species of plants and animals, including species other than mammals, which have been recorded within the nominated property. This list should indicate:
 - a. the currently valid species name (following the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>),
 - b. the global conservation status of each species (Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, Near-threatened, Least Concern) according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, when available,

- c. information on distribution (endemic to nominated property, endemic to State Party or endemic to region), and the size of the population or percentage of the global population, if this data is available.

The attached table may be used to provide this information, if your authorities wish.

We would appreciate your response to the above points as soon as possible, in order to facilitate the evaluation process, but **no later than 28 February 2023**, 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. Therefore, we kindly ask your authorities 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 all completed and submitted supplementary information to both the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Mr Alessandro Balsamo (a.balsamo@unesco.org) and IUCN Headquarters, Mr Clemens Küpper (clemens.kupper@iucn.org) would also be greatly appreciated. Taking into account your response, IUCN will formulate its final recommendation to the World Heritage Committee.

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 conference call.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Clemens Küpper, Evaluations & Operations Officer (clemens.kupper@iucn.org) if you have any questions regarding this request, or if you would wish to arrange a conference call to discuss this request.

Please allow me to reiterate our thanks for your support 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.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your kind cooperation in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, and I remain,

Yours sincerely,



Tim Badman
Head, Heritage and Culture

Enc.

- cc. Tajikistan National Commission for UNESCO, Ms Zulfiya Butaeva, Secretary General
UNESCO World Heritage Centre
IUCN Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Annex – Template for species list

Scientific Species Name (according to IUCN)	Common Name (English or French)	IUCN Red List Status (Global) (if known)	% of population within nominated property (estimate)	Source of population estimate	Component parts of the nominated property (if relevant)	endemic to property	endemic to State Party/Parties	endemic to region

Please follow the instructions below when filling the species list in the table above:	
Scientific Species Name	Please use the currently accepted scientific species name according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (or other accepted classifications if the species is not included in the IUCN Red List).
Common Name	Please enter the common name, in English or French, as provided by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (if existent).
IUCN Red List Status (if known)	Please enter the current global Red List category according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (please list only global status, and please do not list status as per regional assessments).
% of population within nominated property	Enter the estimated percentage of the global population of the species located within the nominated property boundaries (or for migratory species, which visit the nominated property), if known.
Source of population estimate	Please note the source used to undertake the population estimate provided, and, if known, the basis for making this estimate (e.g. number of mature individuals; area of occupancy; extent of suitable habitat; range; number of localities; distinct genetic diversity)
Component parts of the nominated property (if relevant)	In case the nominated property consists of several component parts, please specify in which component parts the species is found
Endemic to a) property b) State Party/Parties c) region?	Specify by indicating <i>yes</i> or <i>no</i> in each relevant column in the table, whether the species is endemic to the nominated property, to the nominating State Party (or Parties if this is a transnational nomination) or to a wider region