

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

State Party

Brazil

State, Province or Region

Maranhão State

Name of nominated property

Lençóis Maranhenses National Park

Geographical coordinates to the nearest second

2° 32’ 12” S

43° 3’ 49” W

Textual description of the boundary of the nominated property

The Proposed World Heritage Site is located on the northern coast of Brazil in the state of Maranhão (map 01). The boundaries of the nominated property starts at the following geographic coordinates: latitude 02° 39’ 30“ S and longitude 43° 11’ 43” WGr, located at the alignments of the telegraph line network connecting Humberto de Campos to Barreirinhas, this being considered as point 1; then continue in the north direction, reaching point 2 at the following geographical coordinates: latitude 2° 30’ 01” S and longitude 43° 11’ 43” WGr; change your course northwest in another straight line, reaching point 3 at the following geographical coordinates: latitude 2° 22’ 04 “S and longitude 43° 25’ 35” WGr; located at the intersection of this line with Santaninha Island, in its northern section; Heading to the southwest, reaching the point of the following geographical coordinates: latitude 2° 23’ 57” S and longitude 43° 28’ 34” WGr at point 4; between perpendicularly 1 kilometer in the Atlantic Ocean, circling the coastline to the point of the geographical coordinates: latitude 2° 33’ 51 “S and longitude 42° 45’ 01” WGr; at point 5; then following the highway that connects Ponta do Mangue to Barreirinhas to the following geographical coordinates: latitude 2° 38’ 12” S and longitude 42° 46’ 02” WGr; continue on the same highway to the point of the following geographical coordinates: latitude 2° 44’ 40” S and longitude 42° 51’ 12” WGr; located at the intersection of this highway with the telegraph line at point 7; it then follows this line, in the general northwest direction, reaching point 1 of this description, thus closing the perimeter (Maps 2, 3, 4, 5, 5th, 5b, 5d, 5e, 5f, 5g, 5h, 5i, 5j, 5k, 5l.5m, 6th, 6th, 6b, 6c, 6d, 6e, 6f, 6g, 6h, 6i, 6j, 6k, 6l, 6m).

Mário Barila



General view of one of the lagoons of the PNLM

Map of the nominated property (Map 1)

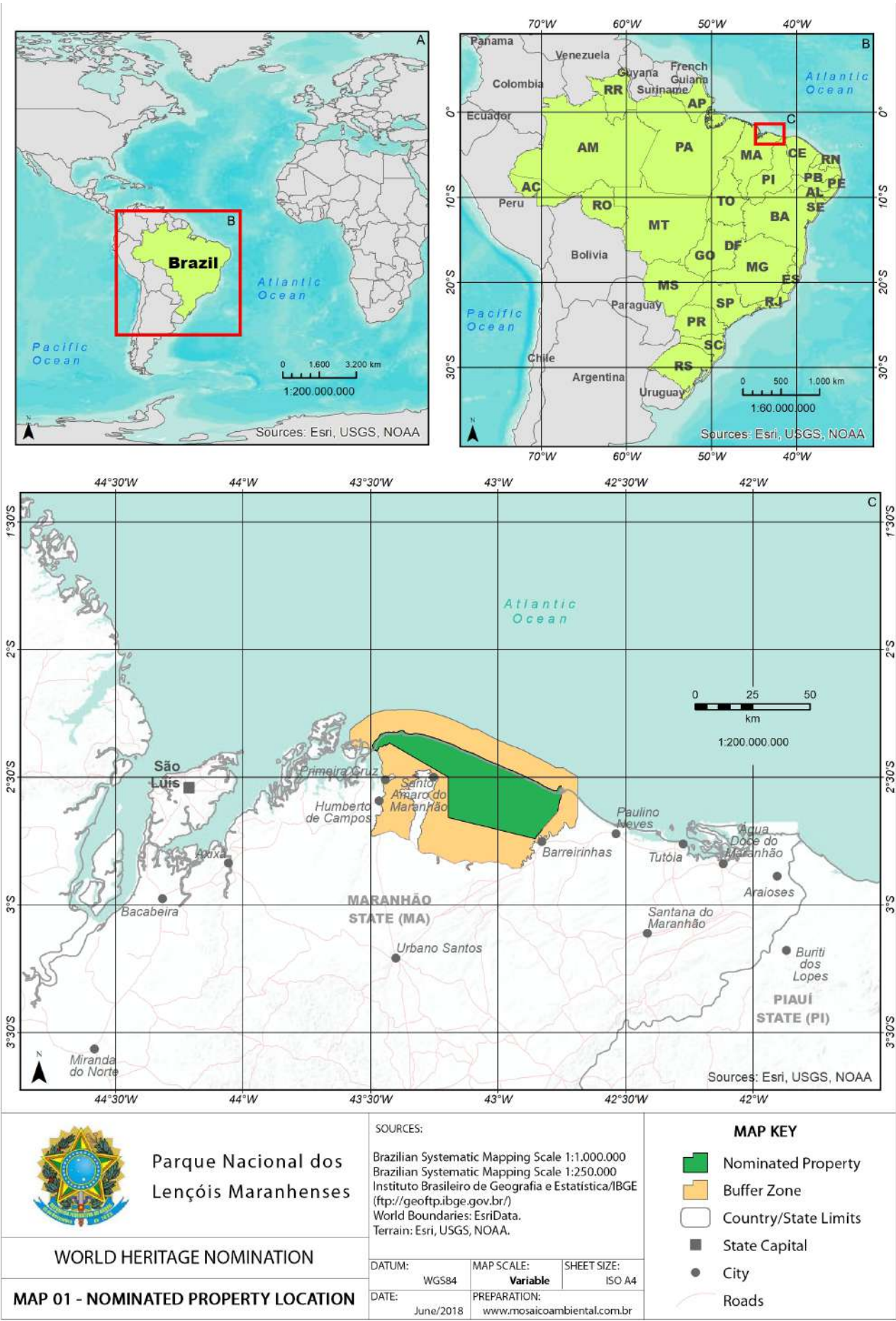


Figure 1. Location map of the named property

Criteria under which property is nominated (itemize criteria)

- (vii) – to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
- (viii) - to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth’s history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;

Cultural Landscape- Not applicable

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

a) Brief synthesis

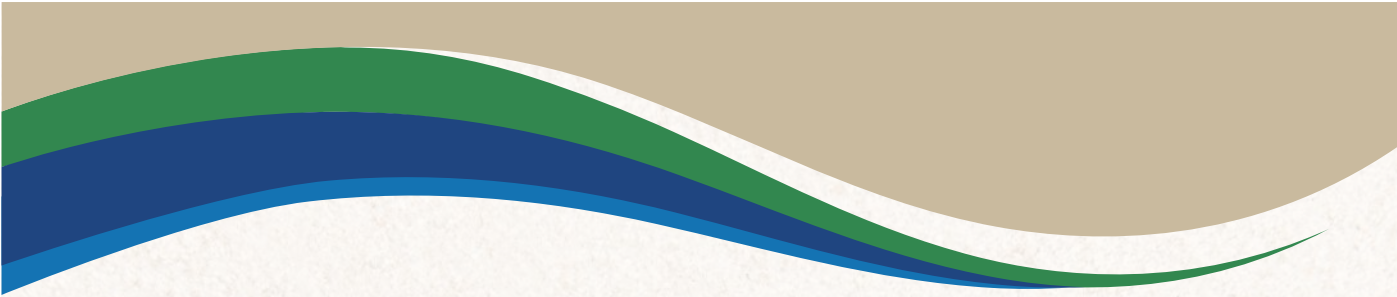
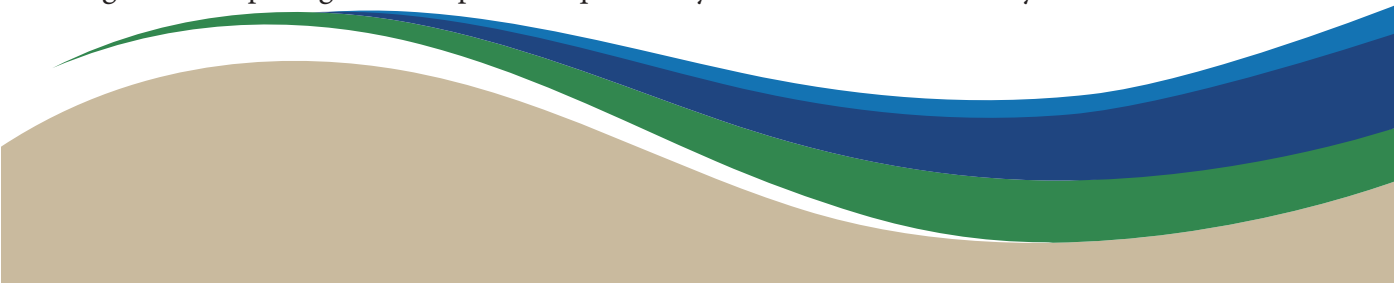
Consisting of large and extensive dunes, the Lençóis Maranhenses National Park looks like an archetypal desert at first glance but in fact it is not, presenting a relatively large volume of water that precipitates in the rainy season (between January and July) raising the groundwater above ground-level and forming temporary lagoons between the dunes.

Located in northeastern Brazil, on the east coast of Maranhão, the Lençóis Maranhenses National Park has an area of 156,562 ha, of which about 90,000 ha are composed of an extensive dune field with temporary and permanent lagoons. Along the 80 km of coastline, there are beautiful beaches followed by the deflation plains, where the sediment removal by wind prevails, forming barchan dunes. With the inward movement of the prevailing winds, these dunes take the form of long chains of barchans, filled in the rainy season by lagoons of different colors, shapes, sizes and depths. The site presents its best scenery, when the inter-communal lagoons reach their maximum volume, creating a scenario of rare beauty and attracting visitors to bathe in its crystal-clear waters.

The origin of the dune field is related to the great contribution of sediments by marine transgressions and regressions, which combined with the wind action allowed the formation of dune fields along the Quaternary. This formation is located in a transition region between three Brazilian biomes: Cerrado, Caatinga and Amazon. The park’s vegetation is composed of pioneer formations of restinga, mangroves and alluvial communities that, together with marine and freshwater environments, are fundamental for the conservation of species diversity.

b) Justification for Criteria

Criterion (vii): The Lençóis Maranhenses National Park is part of an incomparable landscape. It is formed by successive dune chains interspersed with temporary and perennial lagoons. Along the park’s 80 km of coastline, there is a beach between 600m and 2km wide that meets dunes with heights between 10 and 20m. Connected to each other, the barchan dunes form long winding chains up to 75 km long and penetrate over 20 km inland. The appearance of crumpled sheets of these dune chains, when seen from above, gave rise to the name of the site (Lençóis means bed sheets in Portuguese) When they receive rainfall during the first half of the year, these dune chains are filled with waters rising from the water table, resulting in temporary lagoons of varying shapes, sizes and depths. Diving in these freshwater lagoons is the main attraction of the place, as well as contemplation of the majestic white dunes interspersed with green and blue lagoons, composing a landscape of unique beauty that cannot be found anywhere else in the world.



Criterion (viii): The Lençóis Maranhenses National Park is located in the Barreirinhas Basin. The sediments that cover this region are provided by erosive and depositional processes. Under wind action, the transportation of these sediments form a field of fixed and mobile dunes, considered the largest in South America. This process constitutes one of the most extraordinary evidence of the development of coastal dunes along the Quaternary. This great contribution of sediments, constantly worked by the trade winds, blowing from the northeast, takes the form of long chains of barchans arranged in the same direction, increasing in size as they advance inland. In the rainy season, however, the temporary ponds formed by the rise of the water table, soften and lengthen the curves of the barchanoids, also limiting their movement and growth. Therefore, it is this perfect alternation between winds and rains that guarantees the extraordinary beauty of the proposed site.

c) Statement of Integrity (for all properties)

Lençóis Maranhenses National Park has an area of 156,562 ha, of which 90,000 ha are formed by dune fields with beautiful chains of barges interspersed with temporary and perennial lagoons. More than 40,000 ha are covered by restinga vegetation, which along with mangroves, lagoons, rivers, marine areas and other ecosystems supports species diversity. The area is therefore large enough to guarantee the representativeness of elements and processes that confer its exceptional universal value. In addition, it is part of the National System of Protected Areas (SNUC), belonging to the integral protection group, where natural resources can only be used indirectly. It features a buffer zone, with norms and restrictions specific to human activities to minimize negative impacts on the environment. All of these factors contribute to ensure the integrity of the proposed site.

d) Statement of authenticity for properties nominated under criteria (i) to (vi)
Not applicable

e) Requirements for protection and management

Among the territorial management instruments aimed at environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, the National System of Protected Areas (SNUC) stands out as the most important. SNUC was created as a reserve, Natural Monument, Wildlife Refuge, and National Parks, such as the Lençóis Maranhenses National Park.

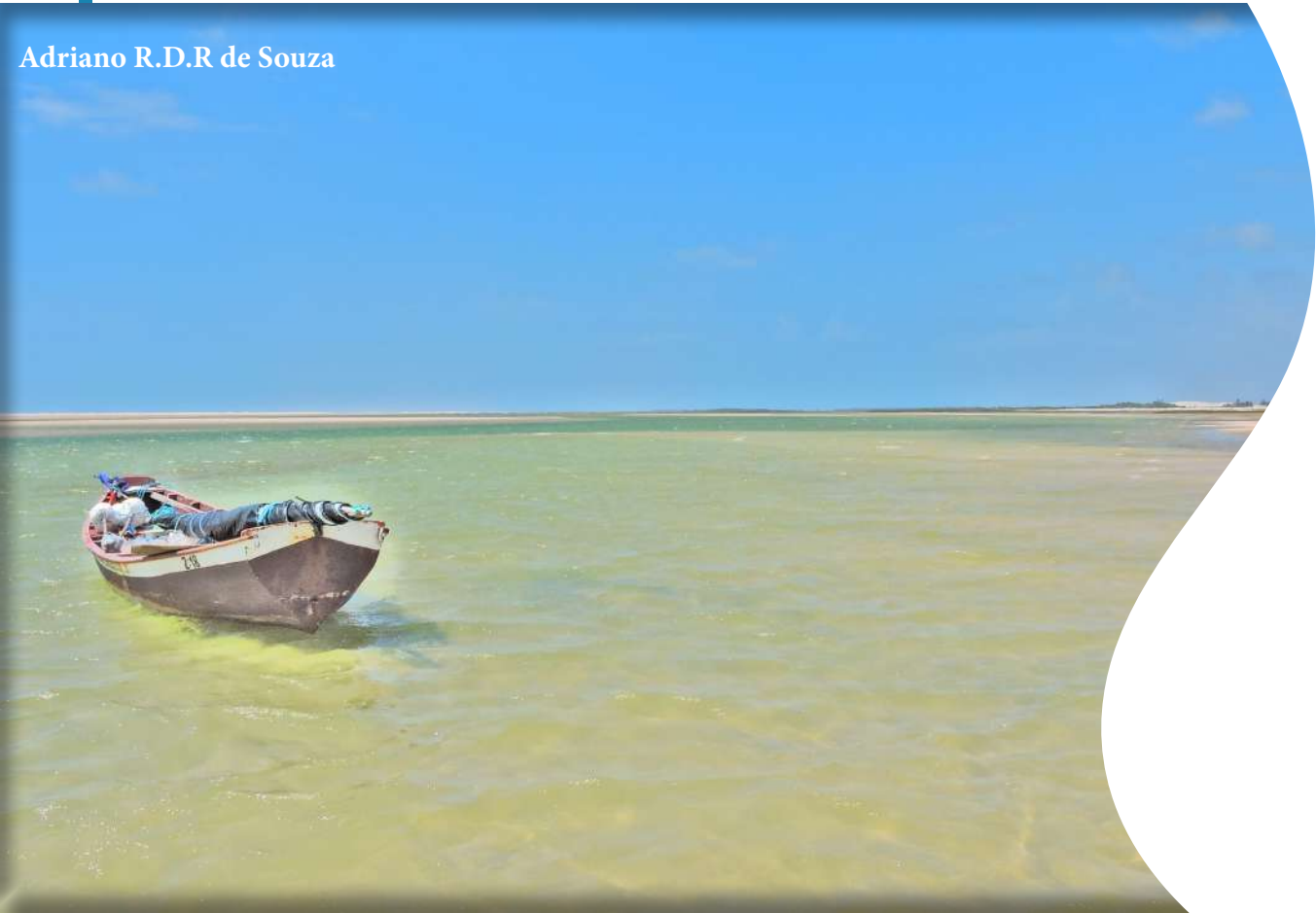
The network of protected areas in the proposed area also interacts with other levels of environmental protection and management at the state and municipal levels.

The Lençóis Maranhenses National Park is managed by the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation – ICMBio, a federal agency linked to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. For the management of this space, according to Law nº 9.985/2000, all protected areas must have a management plan that covers not only the area of the protected area, but also the buffer zone and possible ecological corridors. The management plan is a technical document that establishes the zoning and norms that should guide the use of the area and the management of natural resources, including the physical structures necessary for the protected area Management. Management plans should also include measures to promote the integration of protected areas into the economic and social life of resident and neighboring communities.

In addition to protected areas officially recognized by different governmental spheres, Brazil has the Native Vegetation Protection Law (Law No. 12,651 of May 25, 2012), a legal instrument dealing with the protection, conservation and sustainable management of natural areas. This law defines protected areas within rural properties that need to be maintained with their natural and protected vegetation cover. They are of two natures: (a) Permanent Preservation Area (APP), which should be protected due to physical and ecological fragility and whose definition is related to its position in the landscape, as marginal ranges of any watercourse and steep slopes; b) Legal Reserve, which constitutes a proportion of the area of property that must maintain native vegetation to, together with the APPs contribute to the conservation of biodiversity. The Native Vegetation Protection Act is an important tool for the conservation of forests and other forms of native vegetation, as it establishes protective measures for environmentally sensitive areas, such as river banks, springs, hilltops and dune-fixing vegetation. In the Cerrado biome every rural property, or Settlement Project, must maintain 30% of its area occupied by native vegetation in the form of Legal Reserve, in addition to the Permanent Preservation Areas. These measures ensure the maintenance of important portions of conserved habitats and the connectivity between the environments, functioning as ecological corridors, linking protected habitats of the Lençóis Maranhenses National Park through the surrounding forested areas, ensuring long-term conservation of species.

Name and contact information of official local institution/agency/organization
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Oceanic portion of the PNLM at it's extreme East