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H.E. Ms Paula Alves de Souza  
Ambassador  
Permanent Delegate  
Délégation permanente du Brésil auprès de l'UNESCO  
100 avenue Suffren  
Paris  
75007  
France

14 December 2023

## **IUCN Evaluation of Lençóis Maranhenses National Park – Nominated for inclusion on the World Heritage List – 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. The IUCN World Heritage technical evaluation mission to Lençóis Maranhenses National Park was undertaken by Ms Paula Bueno and Mr Raphaël Glemet in August 2023. The evaluators 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 2024, 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 property.

The Panel greatly appreciated the State Party's efforts in relation to this nomination, and considers a strong case has been put forward regarding the relevant criteria. We will be discussing the nomination again at the Panel's second meeting, to be held in March 2024. Further to the information available, the Panel would be very grateful to your authorities for further information as set out below:

The Panel noted a generally secure level of protection and management. The Panel notes that local traditional communities are living within the nominated property, but that the nomination confirms there are no indigenous communities living in the area. The Panel also noted the exchanges during the mission. In order to fully clarify and document the situation of the relevant local communities, IUCN would be very grateful if the State Party could provide:

- (a) the definitions adopted in Brazil of indigenous communities and traditional communities as understood in the nomination document, including an explanation on any differences between these two definitions (we would be grateful for the original definition in Portuguese as well as the explanation in one of the two working languages of the Convention);
- (b) details on the areas used by local and traditional communities (and any relationships with communities that identify as Indigenous Peoples), for example through maps showing the nominated property, its buffer zone, and the wider region;
- (c) if relevant, considering the above two points, confirmation with appropriate documentation that Free, Prior and Informed Consent is in place for any matters where the nomination could affect indigenous communities.

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 2024**, 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 their response concise and to 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](mailto:a.balsamo@unesco.org)) and IUCN Headquarters, Mr Clemens Küpper ([clemens.kupper@iucn.org](mailto: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](mailto: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. Division of Cultural Multilateral Affairs (DCMA)  
UNESCO World Heritage Centre  
IUCN Regional Office for South America