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H.E. Ms Anna Nsubuga
Permanent Delegate
Permanent Delegation of the United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland to UNESCO
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75383
France

14 December 2023

IUCN Evaluation of The Flow Country – Nominated for inclusion on the World Heritage List – Interim report and request for supplementary information

Dear Ms Nsubuga,

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 missions to The Flow Country was undertaken by Ms Radhika Murti and Mr Tobias Salathé 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 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 notes the strong potential of the nominated property to demonstrate global significance under criterion (ix), and would be very grateful to your authorities for further information as set out below:

1. Based on the information currently available, the Panel notes that the global significance under criterion (x) could be contested. Therefore, the Panel would be grateful to receive an up-to-date list of all species 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 present within the nominated property, if this data is available.

The attached table may be used to provide this information, if your authorities wish. Further to this table, the Panel invites the State Party to provide an updated and expanded comparative analysis for criterion (x);

2. The Panel also notes that up to 27% of the nominated property's area does not appear to be formally protected in the long-term as these areas are not located in formally designated areas (see also p. 13 and p. 90 of the nomination document). Therefore, the Panel seeks reassurance from the State Party that legal protection of the entire nominated property is guaranteed in order to ensure the protection of the potential Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in the long-term. The Panel would be grateful to receive a clear and legally binding commitment regarding the nominated property's protection in its entirety;

3. The Panel further notes that the nominated property has no buffer zone. Therefore, the Panel would be grateful to receive a map and explanations regarding any areas within the nominated property (and beyond, if applicable) that could be considered as areas providing an additional layer of protection for the attributes of potential OUV;
4. Lastly, the Panel would be grateful to receive an updated map detailing (a) all existing and planned wind farms, including the locations of individual turbines, (b) all areas within which wind turbines could potentially be planned in future, and (c) all areas in which wind turbines are not permitted in future, in relation to the boundaries of the nominated property.

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) 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 us 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,



Clemens Küpper
Executive Officer to the IUCN World Heritage Panel

Enc.

cc. United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO
UNESCO World Heritage Centre
IUCN Europe Regional Office

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 |
|--|------------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
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| Please follow the instructions below when filling the species list in the table above: | |
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| 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) nominated 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 |