

WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION – IUCN COMMENTS TO ICOMOS

DJERBA: PAYSAGE CULTUREL, TÉMOIGNAGE D'UN MODE D'OCCUPATION D'UN TERRITOIRE INSULAIRE (TUNISIA)

IUCN provides the following comments to ICOMOS based on two external desk reviewers and a review of the nomination dossier by the IUCN World Heritage Panel. The island of Djerba (51,400 ha) is located on the southern shore of the Mediterranean Sea and hosts the nominated serial property comprising 31 component parts. The nomination is presented as a cultural landscape under criterion (v), totaling 1,030.9 ha with buffer zones adding up to 4,125.23 ha. The focus of the nomination is the island's urbanism that developed from the 9th to the 18th century as an example of the adaptation and interaction of humans to the environment.

IUCN notes that Djerba hosts three Ramsar sites designated in 2007 (Djerba Ras Rmel, 1,856 ha; Djerba Bin El Ouedian, 12,082 ha; and Djerba Guellala, 2,285 ha). These Ramsar Sites, and Djerba overall, house a number of threatened species, including the Critically Endangered Slender-billed Curlew, *Numenius tenuirostris*; Fan Mussel, *Pinna nobilis* and the Endangered Egyptian Vulture, *Neophron percnopterus* as well as the insect species *Thorectes puncticollis*. The plant *Limonium steppicum* was only recently discovered in Djerba's salty marshes as a new species. The range of some of these species may overlap with the nominated property.

Whilst none of the Ramsar sites overlaps with the nominated property, two are adjacent to nominated component parts. Human activities, such as tourism pressures, pollution, sand extraction, and collection of shellfish, may affect the state of conservation of these Ramsar sites and above-listed species. As increasing tourism may exacerbate pressures on the internationally important natural values of the island, IUCN recommends ICOMOS to consider with the State Party the possibility of establishing carrying capacity indicators adapted to the context of the nominated component parts and to the island as a whole.