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AMENDMENT/PROPOSAL

Agenda item	Item 7B State of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List
Draft Decision	46 COM 7B.66
Submitted by the Delegation of...	BELGIUM
Co-author(s) (if any)	
Date of submission	22/07/2024

TEXT

Proposed amendment Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.66

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,*
- 2. Recalling Decisions **34 COM 8B.2**, **39 COM 7B.14** and **45COM 7B.17** adopted at its 34th (Brasília, 2010), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,*
- 3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the World Heritage Committee;*
- 4. Reiterates its deep regret that the State Party decided to lift the 2015 landmark closure of the property for commercial fisheries, and that the reversed fishing license designed to compensate foregone fishing revenue appears not to have sufficiently benefited the livelihoods of the people of Kiribati to ensure its sustainability;*

5. Recalling the importance to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of this property of maintaining sufficiently large no-take zones **and, emphasizing the importance of commitments from other States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to establish sufficiently large no-take zones,**

6. **R**eiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that any management decision related to the property, such as removing the protection status of the no-take zone and allowing commercial fishing operations, is science-based and ensures the protection of the OUV of the property;

76. **A**lso **r**eiterates serious concern about the lack of details and clarity concerning the envisaged Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Programme and other measures being developed by the State Party to replace the no-take zone, requests again the State Party to provide the following as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN:

- a) The assessments, which were undertaken to forecast any impact on the OUV of the property as a result of the reported decision,
- b) Maps indicating changes in protection under the envisaged MSP, including areas which will remain as no-take zones,
- c) The measures it is taking and foreseen to monitor, survey and enforce sustainable best fishing practices within and outside of the no-take zones under the envisaged MSP;

87. Recalling its utmost concern that opening up the property to commercial fisheries has resulted in a significant weakening of the protection status of the property and reiterates that in case no urgent action is taken to ensure the effective protection of the OUV, the property might meet the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;

9. Requests the World Heritage Centre and UNESCO to provide more thorough follow up of the property, including through the regional office.

108. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to review its state of conservation, assess the status and implications of any decision to change the no-take regime within the property, assess if the property might meet the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger and make recommendations on options to ensure that the property's OUV is safeguarded, whilst ensuring the sustainable use of the property's marine resources in such a way that serves the needs of the people of Kiribati;

119. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**