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19 December 2024

IUCN Evaluation of Møns Klint – 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 Møns Klint was undertaken by Ms Sophie Justice and Ms Zsuzsa Tolnay. 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 mission. Please convey our sincere thanks to all of the officials, scientists and contributors that assisted the mission.

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 2025, 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 2025. At this stage, the Panel noted a number of points that would require supplementary information. IUCN would therefore be highly grateful if the State Party authorities could provide the following elements of supplementary information to the Panel:

A. Values proposed under criterion (viii)

Regarding the proposed justification of criterion (viii), the Panel notes that the Global Comparative Analysis provided in the nomination dossier appears limited to Pleistocene sites in the Northern Hemisphere and to a two-dimensional assessment of lateral exposure. The Panel would therefore be grateful if the State Party could provide:

1. Further detail and background on the analysis underpinning the comparative analysis in the nomination dossier, if available, including an objective determination of the reduced geographic area used for the comparative analysis site selection. The Panel invites the State Party to consider expanding the global comparative analysis beyond Northern Hemisphere Pleistocene to include further areas, and different time periods where glaciotectionic features may be found – including sites with currently active glaciers. It was suggested by reviewers that this could include recent scientific studies on glaciotectionic features in regions such as Greenland, Svalbard, the Himalaya and the Andes. Whilst the Panel could not review all of the texts cited in selecting the sites included in the Comparative Analysis (Annex 5), it also noted that some of the books concerned include considerably fuller recognition of sites other than the Møns Klint, compared to the mentions of the nominated property, and also noted some sites (e.g. Svalbard) seem to be mentioned in the references but are not carried into the comparative analysis. As the comparative analysis requires to be global in scope, the Panel would also welcome confirmation that the methodology established is supported by a sufficient cross-section of international opinion, and would therefore be grateful if the State Party could confirm the means by which it verified that the method carries international support from the scientific community;

2. A supplementary comparative analysis addressing the nominated property and sites for comparison as three-dimensional glaciotectonic complex, i.e. assessing sites for their spatial coverage, and not only for their lateral extent and vertical development;
3. Geological and geomorphological maps of the nominated property illustrating the three-dimensional nature of the nominated property in relation to the proposed boundaries of the nominated property and its buffer zone, and to support the development of a geo-heritage inventory and ongoing site monitoring.

B. Boundaries of the nominated property

Based on the above, the Panel would be grateful for a technical review of the proposed boundaries of the nominated property and its buffer zone, considering the nominated property as a three-dimensional geological complex, providing:

4. a science-based rationale for the boundaries of the nominated property and its buffer zone as proposed, and the extent to which attributes of significance lie beyond the proposed boundaries, including a justification of the northern limit of the nominated property and its buffer zone;
5. scientific data, if available, mapping the erosion of the chalk cliff and projections in light of climate change and consideration of a potential revision of the boundaries.

C. Protection and Management

Whilst the Panel considers that the nominated property benefits from a strong protection system, the Panel has a number of questions regarding the need to strengthen conservation of geological heritage and would therefore be grateful if the State Party could:

6. provide a detailed plan for annual or biannual long-term monitoring of the erosion of the nominated property;
7. confirm the current and planned deployment of geoscientists for geo-heritage site management within the nominated property and its buffer zone;
8. confirm (a) that the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland would be included in the geological advisory board, and (b) that the geological advisory board would be represented in the World Heritage Steering Committee together with the local advisory board;
9. provide financial projections for the management needs of the nominated property and its buffer zone including commitments for long-term support;
10. confirm if the State Party would consider expanding the management plan to include a timeline, needs, measurable objectives and roadmap for action and if so, indicate actions and a timeline to address this need.

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 2025**, 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 Mr Clemens Küpper, Programme Officer, Nominations and Strategy (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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'TB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tim Badman
Director World Heritage

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