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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

World Heritage Committee
Fifteenth session

Carthage, Tunisia
9-13 December 1991

ITEM 15 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA: Nominations of natural properties to the World Heritage List and to the List of World Heritage in Danger

1. At its fifteenth session, the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee examined eleven nominations of natural properties, in the light of the evaluations of IUCN. The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe four of those properties on the World Heritage List. The Bureau referred back the nominations of two natural properties to the States concerned for additional information, deferred the nominations of four other sites and recommended that the Committee not inscribe one site on the World Heritage List. The natural properties which the Bureau recommended for inscription, did not recommend for inscription and referred back to nominating States for additional information are listed under Sections A, B and C, respectively. For each property the text of the Bureau's recommendations and notes on action taken by the Secretariat are given.

A. Nominations recommended for inscription

Komodo National Park, Indonesia

"The Bureau recommended that this site be inscribed on the List and that the Indonesian authorities complete the gazetting process for this site and report on the progress before the fifteenth session of the Committee in December 1991. The Bureau also encouraged the Indonesian authorities to conduct research on marine areas in order to incorporate marine concerns in the management of this site."

The recommendations of the Bureau were transmitted to the Indonesian authorities by letter of 12 August 1991. The Indonesian authorities acknowledged the receipt of the letter sent by the Secretariat and transmitted information on the gazetting of Komodo National Park by their letter of 2 October 1991. The information provided, however, was not completely up-to-date and IUCN has contacted the authorities in Indonesia to obtain additional information.

Ujung Kulon National Park, Indonesia

"The Bureau recommended that this site be inscribed on the List and that the Indonesian authorities a) complete the gazetting process and report on progress made before the forthcoming session of the Committee in December 1991, and b) strengthen the consideration of marine values in the management of the site."

The recommendations of the Bureau were transmitted to the Indonesian authorities by letter of 12 August 1991. The Indonesian authorities acknowledged the receipt of the letter sent by the Secretariat and transmitted information on the gazetting of the Ujung Kulon National Park by their letter of 2 October 1991. The information provided, however, was not completely up-to-date and IUCN has contacted the authorities in Indonesia to obtain additional information.

Aïr-Ténéré Reserve, Niger

"The Bureau recommended that this site be inscribed on the World Heritage List and that the Committee commend and encourage the Government of Niger, particularly the Direction de la Faune, Pêche et Pisciculture, in their efforts to continue to protect and restore the area. The Bureau also requested ICOMOS to report to the Committee on the cultural values of this site."

The Bureau's recommendation was transmitted to the Permanent Delegate of Niger to UNESCO by letter dated 30 August 1991. In accordance with the Bureau's wish that the cultural values of this site be examined, the nomination dossier for this property was transmitted to ICOMOS.

Thungyai-Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary, Thailand

"The Bureau recommended that this site be inscribed on the List and that the Committee encourage the authorities of Thailand to accelerate efforts to implement management plans for the two Sanctuaries and projects in their buffer zones. The Bureau also suggested that the Committee compliment Thailand for rejecting the proposed construction of the Nam Choan dam and express its concern over any proposal that might affect the integrity of adjacent forests in Myanmar. The Bureau noted that the Government of Myanmar may nominate these adjacent forests for inscription on the World Heritage List when it becomes a State Party to the Convention."

The recommendations of the Bureau were transmitted to the authorities in Thailand by letter of 12 August 1991. These authorities acknowledged receipt of this letter by their letter of 11 October 1991.

B. Property which the Bureau did not recommend for inscription on the World Heritage List

Tarutao National Park, Thailand

"The Bureau urged the authorities of Thailand to strengthen the management of this area possibly by using the coastal biosphere reserve approach of UNESCO-MAB which would be most appropriate for addressing marine resources conservation".

The recommendation of the Bureau was transmitted to the Thailand authorities by letter of 12 August 1991.

C. Properties for which nominations were referred back to nominating States for further information/documentation

Shark Bay, Western Australia

"The Bureau agreed that this site met all four natural heritage criteria but referred the nomination back to the Australian authorities requesting them to respond to the six specific suggestions put forward by IUCN regarding the changes in the boundaries of this site, in order to improve the management of the area for conservation purposes. The Bureau requested that the Australian authorities also provide information, before the next session of the Committee, on a) plans for the speedy implementation of the management agreement between the State of Western Australia and the Commonwealth of Australia; b) long-term plans for the development of the fishing industry in the area, and c) plans for increasing the staff employed in the conservation of the site."

The recommendations of the Bureau were transmitted to the Australian authorities by letter of 12 August 1991. In their

reply dated 3 October 1991, the Australian authorities had provided detailed information in relation to items a, b and c recommended by the Bureau and responded to the six suggestions made by IUCN regarding the changes in the boundaries of this site. The reply of the Australian authorities has been transmitted to IUCN.

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, Romania

"The Bureau agreed in principle that this site met natural heritage criteria (iii) and (iv). The Bureau, however, requested the Romanian authorities to provide information before the next session of the Committee, on progress made in relation to a) the legal declaration of the site; b) development of a management plan, and c) negotiations with the Ukraine regarding international co-operation. The Bureau also recommended that the Committee encourage transboundary agreements among the seven countries sharing the drainage basin of the Danube and congratulate the Romanian authorities for changing their policy on the Delta to give priority to its conservation values."

The recommendations of the Bureau were transmitted to Romanian authorities by letter of 13 August 1991. Subsequently, the Romanian authorities together with IUCN's Programme for Eastern Europe organized an International Seminar for the Integrated Planning of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve from 17-20 September 1991. A sum of US\$8,000 was approved under preparatory assistance by the Chairperson of the Committee for supporting the costs of participation of some ten international experts at this planning meeting. A member of the Secretariat also participated. The results of this Seminar, namely a list of priority objectives for the future integrated management plan has been finalized by the experts and will be sent shortly to the Romanian authorities. On 31 October 1991, the Romanian authorities informed the Secretariat that they would reply to the points raised by the Bureau and propose an exact delimitation of the area nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List.

2. Proposal to remove a Property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Garamba National Park, Zaire

The Bureau recalled that the Committee, at its thirteenth session, had noted that the rhinoceros population in this site had grown from 15 in 1984 to 21 in 1989 and recommended that the Zairois authorities request the removal of this site from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Bureau was pleased to note that in accordance with the wish of the Committee, the Minister for Environment and Nature Protection of Zaire had, by his letter of 26 February 1991, requested that this site be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Bureau recommended the Committee remove the Garamba National Park from the List of World Heritage in Danger, observing that the population of rhinoceros in this site has nearly doubled since 1985.