

## About IUCN-The World Conservation Union

IUCN is the advisory body for natural heritage properties under the World Heritage Convention. The specific role of IUCN in relation to the Convention includes: (a) evaluation of natural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List; (b) monitoring the state of conservation of natural and mixed World Heritage properties; (c) reviewing requests for International Assistance submitted by State Parties; and (d) providing input and support for capacity-building activities.

### Overview of the IUCN Evaluation Process

The IUCN evaluation process of properties nominated for inclusion on the World Heritage List involves:

- **Data Assembly.** A standardized data sheet is compiled on the nominated property by UNEP's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), using the nomination dossier, the World Database on Protected Areas and other relevant reference material;
- **External Review.** The nomination is sent to independent experts knowledgeable about the property or its natural values, including members of IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas, other IUCN specialist commissions and scientific networks or NGOs working in the region. Usually 8-10 independent experts review each nomination;
- **Field Mission.** Missions involving one or more IUCN expert(s) evaluate the nominated property on the ground and discuss the nomination with relevant national and local authorities, local communities, NGOs and other stakeholders. Missions usually take place between June/July and October.
- **IUCN World Heritage Panel Review.** The IUCN World Heritage Panel meets at least once per year, usually in December, at IUCN Headquarters in Switzerland to examine each nomination. A second meeting or conference call is arranged as necessary, usually in the following March. The Panel intensively reviews the nomination dossiers, field mission reports, comments from external reviewers, the UNEP-WCMC data sheets and other relevant reference material, and provides its technical advice to IUCN on recommendations for each nomination. A final report is prepared and forwarded to the World Heritage Centre in May for distribution to the World Heritage Committee.
- **Final Recommendations.** IUCN presents the results and recommendations of its evaluation process to the World Heritage Committee at its annual session in June/July. The World Heritage Committee makes the final decision on whether or not to inscribe the nominated property on the World Heritage List.