



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للترقية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE / CENTRE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

Seascope Año 2,
Unesco Patrimonio
mundial

H. Exc. Mrs. María Zulema VELEZ
JARA
Ambassador
Permanent Delegate of Colombia to
UNESCO
UNESCO House

WHC/74/208.2/MP/AB/mgl/242

23 August 2006

Subject : Nomination of properties for inscription on the World Heritage List

Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary (N 1216), Colombia

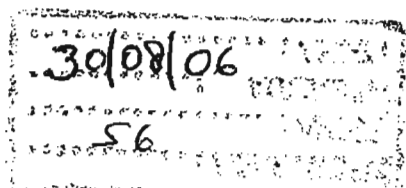
Madam,

I have the pleasure to inform you that the World Heritage Committee, at its 30th session (Vilnius, Lithuania, 8 - 16 July 2006), examined the nomination of *Gorgona and Malpelo Islands, Coastal and Oceanic national Marine Parks of Colombia's Eastern Tropical Pacific* and decided to **inscribe Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary** on the World Heritage List and to **defer** the examination of the nomination of *Gorgona Natural National Park*. Please find enclosed the decision **30 COM 8B.28** of the Committee concerning the inscription.

I am confident that your government will continue to take the necessary measures for the proper conservation of this new World Heritage property. The World Heritage Committee and its Secretariat, the World Heritage Centre, will do everything possible to collaborate with you in these efforts.

The *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (paragraph 168), requests the Secretariat to send to each State Party with a newly inscribed property a map of the area(s) inscribed. Please examine the attached map, as well as the notification of the characteristics of the property, and inform us of any discrepancies in the information by **15 October 2006**.

The inscription of the property on the World Heritage List is an excellent opportunity to draw the attention of visitors to, and remind local residents of, the *World Heritage Convention* and the outstanding universal value of the property. To this effect, you may wish to place a plaque displaying the World heritage and the UNESCO emblems at the property. You will find suggestions on this subject in paragraphs 127-128 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*.



In many cases States Parties decide to hold a ceremony to commemorate the inscription of a property on the World Heritage List. Upon request to the World Heritage Centre by the State Party, World Heritage Certificate can be prepared for such an occasion.

I would be grateful if you could provide us with the name, address, telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address of the person or institution responsible for the management of the property so that we may send them World Heritage publications.

Please find attached the brief descriptions of your site, prepared by IUCN and the World Heritage Centre, in both English and French. As these brief descriptions will be used in later publications, as well as on the World Heritage web site, we would like to have your full concurrence with their wording. Please examine these descriptions and inform us, by **15 October 2006** at the latest, if there are changes that should be made. If we do not hear from you by this date, we will assume that you are in agreement with the text as prepared.

Furthermore, as you may know, the World Heritage Centre maintains a web site at <http://whc.unesco.org/>, where standard information about each property on the World Heritage List can be found. Since we can only provide a limited amount of information about each property, we try to link our pages to those maintained by your World Heritage property or office, so as to provide the public with the most reliable and up-to-date information. If there is a web site for the newly inscribed property, please send us its web address.

A copy of the *Decisions of the World Heritage Committee* will be sent to you shortly.

Please accept, Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Francesco Bandarin
Director

Cc: National Commission
IUCN
UNESCO Office

Extract of the Decisions adopted by the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee (July 2006)

Decision 30 COM 8B.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-06/30.COM/8B* and *WHC-06/30.COM/INF.8B.2*,
2. Inscribes the **Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary, Colombia**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of natural criteria (ii) and (iii):

Criterion (ii): As the largest no-fishing zone in the Eastern Tropical Pacific, the Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary is a globally significant and largely pristine marine protected area with unaltered and non-threatened ecosystems, free of invasive species, that is essential to maintain and replenish the population of sharks, giant grouper and billfish in the Eastern Tropical Pacific, whilst providing unique opportunities for ecosystem conservation, research, and recreational diving.

Criterion (iii): Malpelo's pristine underwater environment is of striking natural beauty because of the incredibly rich and diverse marine life; and major aggregations of large predator fish. Visitation to this site is an exhilarating experience for divers, and has been featured in specialized diving periodicals *around the world*.

3. Defers the examination of the nomination of **Gorgona Natural National Park, Colombia**, to the World Heritage List on the basis of natural criteria;
4. Commends the State Party for its continued efforts in conserving these important marine protected areas, as well as the NGOs, other institutions and private partners that are contributing to their conservation;
5. Recommends the State Party to:
 - a) Improve the management of Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary, including through the implementation of a programme to ensure that illegal fishing pressure is avoided permanently in the areas in and around the sanctuary;
 - b) Strengthen tourism management and develop the funding base for long term management of both Gorgona Natural National Park and Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary;
 - c) Commence research on the deeper waters in both areas, including seamounts within them.

Surface and coordinates of the property inscribed on the World Heritage List by the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee (Vilnius, Lithuania, 2006) in accordance with the Operational Guidelines.¹

Colombia				
ID No.	Name	Area	Buffer zone	Centre point coordinates
N 1216	Malpelo Flora and Fauna Sanctuary	857 500 ha 350 ha terrestrial 857 150 ha marine area	--	N03 58 W81 37

The following map (see next page) submitted by the authorities represents the site as inscribed by the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee.

¹ Information abstracted from document WHC-06/30.COM/8B presented to the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee (Vilnius, Lithuania, 2006).

Brief Description

Located some 506 km off the coast of Colombia, the site includes Malpelo island (350 ha) and the surrounding marine environment (857,150 ha). This vast marine park, the largest no-fishing zone in the Eastern Tropical Pacific, provides a critical habitat for internationally threatened marine species, and is a major source of nutrients resulting in large aggregations of marine biodiversity. It is in particular a 'reservoir' for sharks, giant grouper and billfish and is one of the few places in the world where sightings of the short-nosed ragged-toothed shark, a deepwater shark, have been confirmed. Widely recognized as one of the top diving sites in the world, due to the presence of steep walls and caves of outstanding natural beauty, these deep waters support important populations of large predators and pelagic species (e.g. aggregations of over 200 hammerhead sharks and over 1,000 silky sharks, whale sharks and tuna have been recorded) in an undisturbed environment where they maintain natural behavioural patterns.

Brief Description in French

Ce sanctuaire se situe à 506 km de la côte colombienne et comprend l'île de Malpelo (350 ha) ainsi que la zone marine environnante (857 150 ha). Ce vaste parc marin, qui est aussi la plus grande zone où la pêche est interdite dans le Pacifique tropical oriental, constitue un habitat d'une importance critique pour un certain nombre d'espèces marines menacées au plan mondial. C'est aussi une source majeure de nutriments et une zone importante d'agrégation de la biodiversité marine. On y trouve en particulier des requins, mérus géants et voiliers, et c'est l'un des rares sites au monde où a été confirmée la présence de l'odontospide féroce, un requin des profondeurs. De l'avis général, ce milieu sous-marin est l'un des sites de plongée les plus remarquables du monde du fait de la beauté naturelle extraordinaire de ses murs abrupts et de ses grottes. De plus, ces eaux profondes abritent de larges populations de grands prédateurs et d'espèces pélagiques (on a par exemple relevé la présence de bancs de plus de 200 requins-marteaux et de plus de 1000 requins soyeux, requins-baleines et thons) qui, dans ce milieu non perturbé, conservent des comportements naturels.

This map shows Malpelo's previous protected area (65,450 ha in yellow) and actual protected area (857,500 ha - white).

