

Position Paper

Submitted by-
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Committee- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Agenda- The Impact of Climate Change on World Heritage Sites

Country Allotted- Brazil

Brazil is home to one of the richest biodiversities in the world (being a member of a group comprising 17 megadiverse countries). Consequently, it recently started a consultation process to define public policies capable of implementing large-scale sustainable practices.

Establishing protection areas is one of the most effective instruments for conserving biodiversity. As a result, a tremendous national effort has been exercised to create and consolidate the protected areas of the country.

To this end, the Brazilian government approved and has been implementing legal instruments practices. These are innovative frameworks as they offer the community the possibility to participate in decision-making and to apply financial mechanisms that make the system viable, as well as encouraging the conservation of natural environments. Today, the country has a little over 1,600 federal, state and private Conservation Units (CUs) that protect 16% of the

continental territory and 0.5% of the marine area, which corresponds to 1,479,286 square kilometers

Among the several challenges inherent to the consolidation of CUs in Brazil, particularly for those that comprise core zones of Brazilian biosphere reserves. The following difficulties should be noted: creating and organizing markets for products collected in a sustainable way; strengthening community-based productive chains, entrepreneurship in the area of ecological tourism, and incentives to encourage a low carbon economy. Besides, initiatives to make charges for environmental services, and a mechanism that generates income and supports or compensates for environmental conservation, aim to develop CUs.

UNESCO contributes with the consolidation of the National System of Nature Conservation Units – particularly concerning the areas recognized as Biosphere Reserves and Natural World Heritage sites –, through technical cooperation and resource management to projects focused on these areas.

A recent study aimed to estimate the biodiversity conservation gaps of the Brazilian protected area network by analysing more than 880 thousand records of species presence from online databases. Although we agree with its general message that Protected Areas are poorly known, unevenly distributed, and not sufficient to safeguard the Brazilian biodiversity, we question its methodological approach and feel that its conclusions must not be received uncritically. **A major concern is that their analyses are based on an arbitrary set of widespread, abundant, and non-threatened species and on a subset of the species widely recognized as conservation priorities, such as the red-listed species.** Furthermore, they question the efficiency of the Brazilian protected area network based only on species data, missing other facets of biodiversity, such as habitat/community diversity, ecosystem processes, and services.

UNESCO publicly expresses its solidarity with the cities of Ouro Preto and Congonhas, in Minas Gerais state, which have been hit by heavy rains in the region in recent days. As the UN System agency responsible for the mandate on culture, UNESCO deeply regrets the damage caused to these two significant world cultural sites in Brazil inscribed on the World Heritage List: Ouro Preto (1982) and Congonhas (1985).

The UNESCO Brasilia Office has reported the facts to the World Heritage Centre that has monitored the situation of these world heritage cultural sites. It has also informed the Culture and Emergency Division at UNESCO headquarters, in Paris. Besides, the Office has contacted the National Historical and Artistic Heritage Institute (Instituto do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional – IPHAN) to offer technical support and contribute to the Brazilian government on whatever is necessary. IPHAN is a partner of UNESCO in the implementation of relevant international cooperation projects for protecting cultural heritage.

As a solution, we Brazilian suggest that we are cutting more than enough trees which is not good and is causing erosion and due to lack of trees we are experiencing either extreme hot temperatures or facing deep floods. We request to take action on this dangerous issue or it can be worse in future years

