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للربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

The Culture Sector World Heritage Centre

H. E. Mr Olzhas O. Suleimenov
Ambassador
Permanent Delegate of the
Republic of Kazakhstan to
UNESCO
59, rue Pierre Charron
75008 Paris

Ref: CLT/WHC/74/APA/13/230

26 September 2013

Subject: Northern Tyan-Shan (Ile-Alatau State National Park)

Dear Ambassador,

As you may be aware, Northern Tyan-Shan (Ile-Alatau State National Park) is in the Tentative List of your country since 2002. A Tentative List is an inventory of those properties that a State Party to the 1972 Convention considers as having Outstanding Universal Value and thus suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN have recently received an appeal from the Initiative Group "Protect Kok-Zhailyau" and the Ecological Society "Green Salvation", expressing serious concerns for the possible negative impact of a large ski resort, including hotels and a golf course, which would be allegedly being planned in the heart of the Ile-Alatau National Park.

The promoters of the appeal point to the potential loss of integrity that such a major development would cause to the property and highlight in particular the resulting threat that this would pose to rare and endangered species which live in the National Park and are included in the Red Book of the Republic of Kazakhstan, such as the Snow Leopard (*Uncia uncia*), the Turkestan Lynx (*Lynx lynx isabellinus*) and the Ibis Bill (*Ibidorhyncha struthersii*).

In the light of the above, I would be grateful if you could forward this letter to the concerned authorities in Kazakhstan, and let us have their comments along with relevant information about this project.

I thank you for your co-operation and your support in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.

Please accept, dear Ambassador, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Kishore Rao
Director

cc: National Commission of Kazakhstan for UNESCO
UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office
IUCN