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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Culture Sector

H. E. Mr Bassam Said Freiha
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Delegate
Permanent Delegation of Belize to
UNESCO
UNESCO House

WHC/74/204.2/MP/mgl/95

25 May 2009

Subject: Recommendation to inscribe the Belize Barrier Reef World Heritage Property onto the List of World Heritage in Danger

Dear Ambassador,

As you know, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN undertook a joint reactive monitoring mission to the Belize Barrier Reef in March this year, as per decision 32 COM 7B.33 of the World Heritage Committee. The information gathered during this mission and from other sources serves as the basis for the state of conservation report which will soon be distributed to the World Heritage Committee.

I wish to inform you that based on the results of the mission, both the World Heritage Centre and IUCN are proposing in the draft decision to the World Heritage Committee that the property be inscribed on the list of World Heritage in Danger. We have concluded that the property is under ascertained threat, primarily from the destruction of mangrove islands within the property boundaries. The loss of mangrove ecosystems, which include associated marine ecosystems, is clearly leading to the erosion of the property's Outstanding Universal Value. This concern was first communicated to you in my letter dated April 3 2009, immediately following the mission.

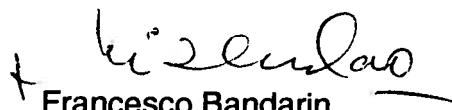
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Inscribing a property on the List of World Heritage in Danger serves to heighten the urgency for the identification and implementation of corrective measures to address the threats to which the property is exposed. It should be considered as an opportunity to renew and strengthen national and international support for conservation measures.

I would be pleased to discuss this with you further should you so require.

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

Yours sincerely,


Francesco Bandarin
Director
World Heritage Centre

Cc: UNESCO National Commission of Belize
IUCN
UNESCO Office in Kingston
UNESCO Office in Havana