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Mr Hiroshi Onodera
Director General
Nature Conservation Bureau
Ministry of the Environment
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyodaku
Tokyo 100-8975
Japan

2 February 2005

Dear Mr Onodera,

Shiretoko (Japan): nominated for inclusion on the World Heritage List

In relation to the nomination of Shiretoko for World Heritage status, the IUCN World Heritage Panel, which met from 13-17 December 2004, noted with appreciation the supplementary information you provided in your letter of 5 November, 2004. The Panel studied this information carefully and noted that the site has many important features, reinforcing the preliminary advice provided by the IUCN Mission of July 2004 that the importance of this site clearly relates to the productivity of the ecosystem and the plant and animal life that this site supports. The Panel noted that the main significance of this site rests on the interrelationship between the terrestrial and marine components and that maintaining this interrelationship is essential for sustainability in the long term.

The IUCN World Heritage Panel was of the view that the level of protection for the marine environment, both within and outside the nominated site, needed to be strengthened. In particular the Panel questioned whether the limited marine area included within the nomination could provide sufficient coverage of habitat and sufficiently strong protection so as to ensure the long term ecological health of marine life, and to safeguard terrestrial life (including birds) dependent on marine food sources.

As a result of the Panel's discussions, IUCN is seeking further advice as to whether the State Party can:

- (a) expedite the Marine Management Plan, as well as strengthen the provisions within this Plan so as to ensure the protection of marine species; and
- (b) substantially extend the marine component of the nominated site.

Your advice on the above would be appreciated. Thank you.

Please note that the response should be sent officially to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, to the attention of Francesco Bandarin, with a copy (electronic if possible) to IUCN Headquarters, to ensure that it is registered as part of the nomination. In order for IUCN to meet the deadline for submitting its reports to UNESCO, we would welcome your response to the above points at your earliest convenience, by the end of February if possible, but no later

than the 31 March 2005. As per the decision of the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session, only information received by the 31 March 2005 will be examined by the Advisory Bodies.

Should you have any questions concerning these matters or have difficulty in providing the requested information by the end of March 2005, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Georgina Peard, Project Officer – World Heritage

Thank you again for your collaboration and support for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

Yours sincerely,



William J. Jackson
Director Global Programme

Cc:

H. E. Mr Teiichi Sato, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegate of Japan to UNESCO

Mr Ikuo Hirayama, Chairperson, Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

Giovanni Boccardi / Alessandro Balsamo, UNESCO WH Centre

David Sheppard, IUCN Programme on Protected Areas