Located in a strange lunar landscape of great geological interest, this site has one of the most important groupings of prehistoric cave art in the world. More than 15,000 drawings and engravings record the climatic changes, the animal migrations and the evolution of human life on the edge of the Sahara from 6000 BC to the first centuries of the present era. The geological formations are of outstanding scenic interest, with eroded sandstones forming ‘forests of rock’. © UNESCO

The Conservation Outlook for Tassili n’Ajjer in relation to its World Heritage values appears to be good overall, but there are wider conservation concerns related to other biodiversity values. The main issue regarding the conservation status of the natural values is that relatively little recent information is available. The information that is available suggests that pressures and threats to the natural values of the site under criteria (vii) and (viii) are limited but that threats to wider biodiversity values need to be better addressed. Ongoing UNDP-GEF project work appears to be facilitating the strengthening of laws, management and capacity, however further strengthening of management actions is required including the finalisation of a management plan for the site.
FULL ASSESSMENT

Description of values

Values

World Heritage values

► Geological records of transition of hydrographic system from fluvial to hyper-arid conditions

Signs of intense fluvial erosion on sandstone plateau. Geological conformation includes Precambrian crystalline elements and sedimentary sandstone successions of great palaeo-geographical, palaeo-climatological and palaeo-ecological interest (UNEP-WCMC, 2011). The rock art of Tassili n’Ajjer is the most eloquent expression of relationships between humans and the environment, with more than 15,000 drawings and engravings testifying to climate changes, wildlife migrations, and the evolution of humankind on the edge of the Sahara. This art depicts water-dependent species like the hippopotamus, and species which have been extinct in the region for thousands of years (World Heritage Committee, 2010).

Criterion: (viii)

► Exceptional scenic beauty of deeply eroded north-facing cliffs, gorges and valleys

The panorama of geological formations with “rock forests” of eroded sandstone resembles a strange lunar landscape that has remarkable scenic interest. The sandstone has kept intact the traces and marks of the major geological and climatic events. The erosive effects of water, and then wind, have contributed to the formation of a particular morphology, that of a plateau carved by water and softened by the wind (World Heritage Committee, 2010).

Criterion: (vii)

Other important biodiversity values

► Additional biodiversity values

This is potentially one of the prime sites for desert biodiversity conservation worldwide (GEF, 2011). The deep valleys of the site form a centre of relict Mediterranean as well as Sudano-Decan and Saharo-Sindien vegetation and flora, and a centre of plant diversity (total 300 species – GEF, 2011). This includes 73 endemic species, the globally endangered Saharan Cypress (240 specimens remaining) and 33 additional, nationally threatened plant species (GEF, 2011). There is also rich submerged vegetation in the water bodies across the site. There is a relatively rich vertebrate fauna, with four species of fish, 14 species of herpetofauna, 37 species of mammals (five of which are endangered) including 23 species of large mammals (including the globally vulnerable cheetah and, before it became locally extinct, the critically endangered Addax) as well as a community of residential and resting migratory Palearctic birds (including the globally vulnerable Lesser Kestrel) (GEF, 2011, UNEP-WCMC, 2011). There are a total of 134 bird species at the site, 14 of which are regional endemics (GEF, 2011). The mosaic of more arid and other more humid areas within the site contributes to its considerable biodiversity. The area is also an Important Bird Area and together with the neighboring Ahaggar complex comprises three Ramsar sites (Wetlands International, 2013; BirdLife International, 2013).

Assessment information

Threats
Current Threats

There appears to be very limited information on current threats to the aesthetic and geological values of the site, however increased tourism could potentially lead to the construction of roads and facilities which could affect these values if not effectively managed. Increased visitation could also pose threats to the additional biodiversity values, where poaching and the overexploitation of vegetation due to the commercial production of fuelwood, the collection of medicinal and forage plants and localised overgrazing continues to be considered a threat and pressure on biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Tassili-Ahaggar complex. Lack of updated information makes it difficult to assess the overall extent of current threats.

▶ Other Biological Resource Use
(Degradation of vegetation through fuel wood collection and unsustainable grazing)

The commercial collection of several species for charcoal and medicinal purposes is growing and has been considered unsustainable, with an insufficient framework for the management and sustainable use of natural resources (GEF, 2011). The overexploitation of vegetation due to the commercial production of fuelwood, the collection of medicinal and forage plants and localised overgrazing continues to be considered as a threat and pressure on biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Tassili-Ahaggar complex (UNDP-GEF, 2018). A diachronic study on the evolution of the main ecosystem of Tassili-Ahaggar supported by remote sensing data (1986-2016), shows an increase in vegetation cover of 317 hectares in urban areas and 395 hectares in rural areas across the wider region, however detailed information for Tassili is not available (UNDP-GEF, 2018). In this study, 3 species were used as an indicator of anthropic pressure (Ricinus communis, Cynodon dactylon, Solanum nigrum): these species are present and often in large areas near regular camps (Teini in Tassili N’Anjjer, for example) and near water sources areas.

▶ Desertification
(Loss of reproductive capacity of some plant species as a consequence of climate change)

Aridification impairs natural reproduction of Saharan Cypress, which will most likely become extinct unless conservation measures succeed (UNEP-WCMC, 2011). Whilst species-specific information is limited, it is reported that an acceleration of the effects of climate change will be manifested mainly in the precipitation regime and the change in rainfall distribution will affect the hydrological system of Algeria’s CPs. The irregularity of rainfalls and prolonged droughts, as well as more violent floods, will have a direct impact on land management and natural resource management, thereby affecting the resilience of rural populations. Ecosystem resilience will be affected and environmental risks will increase (UNDP-GEF, 2018).

▶ Tourism/ visitors/ recreation
(Damage and littering by visitors)

In 2019, the security risk for tourists visiting Algeria was being downgraded and the flow of international tourists towards the Tassili n’Ajjer-Ahaggar region was progressively resuming (UNDP-GEF, 2019). In the past, it has been estimated that at least two million archaeological artifacts have been removed by collectors from the Ahaggar/Ajjer region (UNEP-WCMC, 2011), however the threat that this poses to the aesthetic World Heritage values remains unclear. Growing tourism could potentially lead to the construction of roads and facilities which could affect these values if not effectively managed in future, so this remains a very low concern.

▶ Hunting and trapping
(Poaching)

Hunting pressure has brought several populations including cheetah and slender-horned gazelle to the brink of extinction and threatens others. Addax and Scimitar-horned Oryx are already extinct from the...
site (GEF, 2011). However, the impact on the World Heritage values of the site is limited.

The current level of poaching and its impacts on other biodiversity values of the site beyond the OUV overall remains data deficient. However, monitoring data of poaching in priority sites for both the Tassili n’Ajjer and Ahaggar CPs for 2015-2018 shows a consolidated average of 0.27 poaching incidents/day of observation (2015: 0.5/day; 2016: 0.1/day; 2017: 0.22/day; 2018: 0.25/day) compared to baseline data extrapolated from the 1st phase of the project (2003/2007) of 0.35 poaching incidents/day. It is reported that anecdotal evidence from experienced staff operating at site level, still to be confirmed by ongoing analyses, indicate that poaching incidents may in fact be decreasing in sites where patrolling is more frequent (UNDP-GEF, 2019). However, further data and confirmation are required.

**Potential Threats**

**Data Deficient**

The 2018 announced expansion of projects for energy production and transportation in the region, including a gas pipeline crossing the site, could pose a potential threat to the site and its values. The potential impacts of any new project on the OUV of the property should be assessed, and the World Heritage Committee informed of any developments that may potentially impact the World Heritage values.

▶ **Oil/ Gas exploration/development, Mining/ Quarrying, Renewable Energy**

(Several projects for energy production and transportation)

In 2018, the Ministry of Energy announced several projects for energy production in the region (IUCN Consultation, 2020). For example, the gas pipeline between Illizi and Djanet which has been operational since 2018 and appears to cross the World Heritage site (Global Energy Monitor, 2020; Société Algérienne de Gestion du Réseau de Transport du Gaz, 2017) could potentially pose a threat to the site, however insufficient information on this project makes it difficult to assess any impacts, including indirect and cumulative, on the World Heritage values.

**Overall assessment of threats**

**Data Deficient**

There appears to be very limited information on current threats to the aesthetic and geological values of the site. Increased tourism could potentially lead to the construction of roads and facilities which could affect these values if not effectively managed, and could also pose a threat to the additional biodiversity values, where poaching and the overexploitation of vegetation due to the commercial production of fuelwood, the collection of medicinal and forage plants and localised overgrazing continues to be considered a threat and pressure on biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Tassili-Ahaggar complex. Lack of updated information makes it difficult to assess the overall extent of current threats on OUV. In 2018, several projects for energy production and transformation in the region were announced, such as the gas pipeline between Illizi and Djanet crossing the site, which could have the potential to pose a threat to the site’s values, however information remains limited.

**Protection and management**

**Assessing Protection and Management**

▶ **Management system**

**Serious Concern**

In 2010, the management system was reported to be based on annual plans (UNESCO, 2010) and the Biodiversity Action Plan for the Tassili Ahaggar region for 2011-17 was developed but its implementation status was unclear (GEF, 2011). The Tassili Park Office is a public establishment run by a decree-appointed director, and managed by an Advisory Board which includes representatives of the various ministerial departments and local representatives (SoOUV, 2010). In 2010, staff numbered 150 (IUCN, 2010) but wardens were mainly untrained, and no specific conservation activities relevant to criteria vii
and viii were reported until 2010. The same year, plans to update and improve the management plan were reported (UNESCO, 2010).

In May 2019, the proposal for an Executive Decree determining the terms and conditions for the formulation, validation and implementation of the General Management Plan (GMP) of Cultural Parks (CPs) was finalized. The preparation of a first management plan for the site has been initiated, following the emerging guidelines for the planning and management of cultural parks in Algeria. As soon as the decree for the implementation of Law 98-04 on the GMP is ratified, it is envisaged that the management plan will be readjusted, in accordance with the approved regulatory text (UNDP-GEF, 2019). Whilst the development of a management plan is positive, the fact that there is currently no approved management plan in place (IUCN Consultation, 2020) is a serious concern for such a complex and extended site, and finalisation of the management plan should be a priority.

**Effectiveness of management system**  
Some Concern

The Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) scores for the site increased from 58 to 62 between 2006 and 2008, which was considered a satisfactory trend (GEF, 2011), with the most recent rating of 70 recorded in the 2018 METT scores based on the updated GEF BD Tracking Tool (UNDP-GEF, 2019). During the first half of the UNDP-GEF project cycle, management effectiveness was enhanced largely through increased capacity associated with the recruitment and training of specialized staff and the negotiation and implementation of collaborative management agreements involving the local populations and resource users in CP priority sites (UNDP-GEF, 2019). In 2018-2019, the site manager followed a capacity building programme on the management effectiveness Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit, however this programme did not result in a complete management effectiveness evaluation (IUCN Consultation, 2020). Management effectiveness should be an integral part of the development of the new management plan.

**Boundaries**  
Mostly Effective

The boundaries and size of this exceptionally large area are adequate to ensure the maintenance of the geological processes, ecosystems and biodiversity of the site. However, staff numbers are small in relation to the size of the site, and its remote location at the international border with Niger makes it challenging to manage effectively (IUCN, 2010).

**Integration into regional and national planning systems**  
Serious Concern

A lack of coordination between ministries and the Wilaya level, and generally significant barriers to the integration of World Heritage - as well as biodiversity management in particular - into national and Wilaya level planning, has been identified (GEF, 2011). The development and implementation of GMPs and their integration into development plans at Wilaya level will be key elements for the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable management of natural resources. It is therefore imperative to accelerate this process in order to have an appropriate regulatory framework and GMPs that allow the joint definition of activities and better coordination between different sectors (UNDP-GEF, 2018).

**Relationships with local people**  
Mostly Effective

Ministerial and local representatives are involved in an Advisory Board. Local stakeholders are intensely involved in management, according to the State Party (UNESCO, 2010). However, the need to strengthen procedures for collaborative management with the local population has also been reported (GEF, 2011).

**Legal framework**  
Some Concern

The Site is protected as a Cultural Park under the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage since 2004. A Park Office was established in accordance with this designation. Rangers/wardens control the few key access points to the Park. The legal framework was strengthened and a new guardian system was established in 2010 (UNESCO, 2010). Excellent enforcement capacity has been reported by the State Party, but staff numbers remained low relative to size of site (UNESCO, 2010; IUCN, 2010). Enforcement capacity has been considered a barrier to effective biodiversity management (GEF, 2011). The cultural
Tassili n’Ajjer was the object of an executive decree in 2012, that defined its status. Each cultural park is the object of a ministerial decree that defines its internal organisation (for Tassili this was published the 19th of April 2018). There is no information available on the implementation of these legal decisions. In May 2019, the proposal for an Executive Decree determining the terms and conditions for the formulation, validation and implementation of the General Management Plan (GMP) of Cultural Parks (CPs) was finalized (UNDP-GEF, 2019).

**Law enforcement**

Controlling hunting pressures is very difficult, since the site is located in a remote border region in the Saharan desert (Abulhawa et al, 2014). Enforcement capacity has been deemed excellent by the State Party (UNESCO, 2010) but considered a barrier by other sources (GEF, 2011).

**Implementation of Committee decisions and recommendations**

No recommendations made by the Committee.

**Sustainable use**

In 2011, there was an insufficient enabling framework for sustainable use management of natural resources (GEF, 2011). A UNDP-GEF project on the conservation of globally important biodiversity and the sustainable use of ecosystem services in the cultural parks of Algeria is on-going, which aims to enhance national capacity in the sustainable management of natural resources, and strengthen national capacity to fight soil degradation and desertification (UNDP-GEF, 2018).

**Sustainable finance**

The National Park is financially independent. Conservation resources were considered sufficient by the State Party in 2010 (UNESCO, 2010), with an annual operating budget for the implementation of the Action Plan, and a capital budget for the realization of major development projects and infrastructure (SoOUV, 2010). It was also noted that resources earmarked for conservation were limited and used for documentation, essential equipment and the living expenses of experts on projects (UNEP-WCMC, 2011). A total $102,871 of financial support was provided through the World Heritage Fund between 1984 and 1998 (UNESCO, 2013).

In 2019, the ongoing UNDP-GEF programme rated a sustainable financing indicator for Algeria’s Cultural Parks (CP), including this site, as “modest”, however also noted the extremely high level of financial sustainability of the national CP system, which is strongly supported and guaranteed by the Algerian state. Whilst no data are available specifically for the site, the total government funding for the core operations of the five CPs increased from $6,533,155 in 2010 to $11,188,158 in 2018, a net increase of $4,655,003 per annum (41.6%) over 8 years. The report considers that, while current levels of state funding adequately cover present CP management and investment requirements, these may increase once the first generation of management plans for the five CPs are finalized and approved. Additionally, funding for the implementation of the 7-year Biodiversity Action Plan for the Tassili n’Ajjer and Ahaggar CPs, developed during the first phase of the project, has so far been complemented by $4,844,534 of GEF/UNDP funds earmarked under the 2nd component of the project and $32,535,574 of government cofinancing mobilized to date for sustainable livelihood activities (UNDP-GEF, 2019).

**Staff capacity, training, and development**

The level of staff training and qualification level should be improved. Most staff members have a cultural/archaeological background, which are necessary to protect the cultural values of the site but inadequate to protect the natural values and ensure effective biodiversity conservation. Staff with biodiversity skills and knowledge are lacking (GEF, 2011). Wardens are trained to act as wildlife guides and to ensure that the rock art and other archaeological sites are protected and that there is no hunting, collection of plants, or damage to trees (UNEP-WCMC, 2011). However, the ongoing UNDP-GEF project on the conservation of globally important biodiversity and the sustainable use of ecosystem services in the cultural parks of Algeria is on-going, which aims to enhance national capacity in the
sustainable management of natural resources, and strengthen national capacity to fight soil degradation and desertification (UNDP-GEF, 2018), and which reports that during the first half of the project cycle, management effectiveness was enhanced largely through increased capacity associated with the recruitment and training of specialized staff and the negotiation and implementation of collaborative management agreements involving the local populations and resource users in CP priority sites (UNDP-GEF, 2019). However no detailed information on this is available.

Education and interpretation programs  
**Some Concern**

The World Heritage status is not interpreted in an effective manner but an education programme was being implemented in 2010 (UNESCO, 2010). Room for improvement of education and interpretation has been noted (GEF, 2011).

Tourism and visitation management  
**Mostly Effective**

The site administration issues permits and guides to tourists wishing to cross the plateau on 4x4 tours. In 2019, the security risk for tourists visiting Algeria was being downgraded and the flow of international tourists towards the Tassili n’Ajer-Ahaggar region was progressively resuming. The development of ecotourism is a priority in both the national 2016-2030 NBSAP and the ongoing UNDP-GEF project, and a Sustainable Tourism Charter was developed through the first phase of the project. In 2019, 17% of certified tour operators are estimated to adhere to the sustainable tourism approach developed by the project, with further growth projected. Based on the Strategic Action Plan for the development of domestic tourism in the region of Tassili n’Ajer-Ahaggar, a new initiative is underway to engage local tourism bureaus in the development of circuits targeting the national clientele and strengthen the involvement of certified tour operators during the rest of the project cycle. In addition, partnership agreements have been formalized with local associations to jointly support the development of local crafts and other initiatives promoting sustainable tourism in the region (UNDP-GEF, 2019). Tourism measures should be aligned with the development of the new site-specific management plan in the context of the World Heritage values.

Monitoring  
**Some Concern**

Monitoring has helped to develop an action plan for the site (UNESCO, 2010) but no effective monitoring system of geo-morphological values was in place in 2010 (IUCN, 2010). A biodiversity monitoring system for the wider Tassili-Ahaggar region was developed in the first phase of the UNDP-GEF project (GEF, 2011), and a 2018 mid-term project evaluation noted that the outcome of “expanding the national system of cultural parks manages ecosystems and biodiversity assets in a systematized, inclusive and efficient way” remains “satisfactory”, with further capacity building required (UNDP-GEF, 2019).

Research  
**Data Deficient**

Some research into Saharan Cypress and natural resources was undertaken in the 1980s. Some ongoing research (without specification) was reported in 2010 (IUCN, 2010; UNESCO, 2010). As part of the ongoing UNDP-GEF project to verify and update data on the presence and density of flagship species (cheetah, gazelles, Barbary sheep) in the wider Tassili-Ahaggar region, a 30-month study was started in July 2017 to develop a cheetah conservation plan using camera traps (UNDP-GEF, 2018). Local teams were tasked with producing annual ecosystem monitoring reports for the two Tassili N’Ajer and Ahaggar CPs, and six missions were carried out to update data on flagship species (Barbary sheep, gazelle and cheetah) (UNDP-GEF, 2018), however this data is not readily available. Overall, monitoring and research appears to be being strengthened, but very limited recent information is available.

Overall assessment of protection and management  
**Some Concern**

There is limited recent information available on the protection and management of the site. The site has been protected as a Cultural Park under the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage since 2004. A UNDP-GEF programme on strengthening biodiversity management at the site remains underway, reporting that in 2019 the proposal for an Executive Decree determining the terms and conditions for
the development of a General Management Plan (GMP) of Cultural Parks was finalized, and the preparation of a first management plan for the site has been initiated. Since no approved management plan is currently in place, the finalisation of the GMP and a management plan should be an urgent priority in order to ensure an appropriate regulatory framework and improve coordination between sectors. The protection of the site may be sufficient to control the limited current pressures on its aesthetic and geological World Heritage values but it is unclear whether this is also the case for the protection of additional biodiversity values.

Assessment of the effectiveness of protection and management in addressing threats outside the site  
Data Deficient

There is a lack of updated information and the availability of recent reports is very limited.

Best practice examples

In 2018-19, the site manager participated in a capacity building programme on management effectiveness for World Heritage sites organised by the Arab Regional Center for World Heritage (ARC-WH).

State and trend of values

Assessing the current state and trend of values

World Heritage values

Geological records of transition of hydrographic system from fluvial to hyper-arid conditions

Good Trend: Stable

The geological values have been relatively well protected by the site's geographic isolation and the difficulty of access since the time of inscription (UNEP-WCMC, 2011).

Exceptional scenic beauty of deeply eroded north-facing cliffs, gorges and valleys

Low Concern Trend: Stable

There are no major construction projects that might affect the exceptional scenic beauty values of the property and no changes have been reported since inscription (UNEP-WCMC, 2011; IUCN, 2010), however the announcement in 2018 of several projects linked to the production and transportation of energy in the region remains a potential concern. Some impacts from tourism may be present, but there is insufficient information available to assess their extent.

Summary of the Values

Assessment of the current state and trend of World Heritage values

Low Concern Trend: Data Deficient

The geo-morphological values of Tassili n’Ajjer were considered to be relatively well-preserved at the time of inscription, because of the remoteness and difficulty of access to the area. Little information on their current status is available. The potential effects on the OUV of energy related infrastructure is difficult to assess due to the lack of information, but it is potentially of concern.

Assessment of the current state and trend of other important biodiversity values

High Concern Trend: Data Deficient

The state of several other important biodiversity values of the site appears to be of high concern, however little recent information is available. Two mammal species are considered locally extinct...
(Scimitar-horned Oryx and Addax), two are considered endangered (Cheetah and Slender-horned Gazelle), and others (e.g. Barbary Sheep) have been considered to be declining. Exploitation of several plant species for fuel wood, charcoal and medicinal use also continues, however recent data are limited.

Additional information

Benefits

Understanding Benefits

► History and tradition

The site comprises an immense gallery of Neolithic art from 8,000 to ca. 1,500 years ago which also document climate history over this period (UNEP-WCMC, 2011). This offers rich cultural, archaeological and historical benefits.

Factors negatively affecting provision of this benefit:
- Habitat change: Impact level - Low, Trend - Continuing

The magnitude and impacts of the change in land use are not understood or properly reported upon.

► Livestock grazing areas

The property supports a traditional extensive Tuareg grazing economy, with more than 20,000 Tuareg keeping 100,000 heads of camel, goat and sheep each in the wider area including the property (GEF, 2011).

Factors negatively affecting provision of this benefit:
- Overexploitation: Impact level - High, Trend - Continuing

The impact of grazing are mainly related to other biodiversity values (e.g. vegetation cover and floral diversity).

► Traditional agriculture

Wheat, root and fruit crops are grown in a few northern valleys such as Oued Iherir where more than 1000 people live (UNEP-WCMC, 2011).

Factors negatively affecting provision of this benefit:
- Invasive species: Impact level - High, Trend - Continuing

Invasive species impacts are not understood or reported upon. Their potential remains high.

► Outdoor recreation and tourism

The considerable scenic and wilderness values as well as tourism potential of the area is currently only incompletely used although some efforts to develop sustainable tourism exist (GEF, 2011).

► Importance for research

The property not only offers unique archaeological and historical insights, but also consists of ecosystems and biodiversity highly adapted to arid conditions, which may affect extended areas in the future as a result of climate change (GEF, 2011).

► Tourism-related income

Tourism generates income and jobs for local people, although there are currently still low tourist numbers (IUCN, 2010).
Summary of benefits

Besides the benefits from its immense archaeological, cultural, geological and scenic values, for which the property is recognized, Tassili N’Ajjer also provides rich benefits to local Tuareg herders and has a huge but currently only incompletely used potential to contribute to global biodiversity conservation and sustainable nature-based tourism.

Projects

Compilation of active conservation projects

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<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Brief description of Active Projects</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>UNDP-GEF</td>
<td>Conservation of Globally Significant Biodiversity and Sustainable Use of Ecosystem Services in Algeria’s Cultural Parks, with a wide range of conservation related activities, second phase 2011-2017. The Ministry of Culture of Algeria is developing an important national network of cultural parks, presently covering an impressive 937,430 km². During a first phase intervention the UNDP/GEF targeted the Tassili N’Ajjer and Ahaggar Cultural Parks. Due to its vast size and relative integrity, the Tassili - Ahaggar complex, represents a key biodiversity site in the central Saharan ecosystem and one of the prime sites in the world for desert biome conservation. With their legally protected status and official governance and management structure, there is good potential for cultural parks in Algeria to form a cohesive conservation network that will provide an effective buffer against threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services. However, a number of systemic, operational and institutional barriers are hindering the Ministry of Culture’s efforts toward improving the management effectiveness of the cultural park system. The first phase of the project had been designed to implement a comprehensive package of measures to enable an effective country-driven conservation initiative that secures global environmental benefits. In its second phase, the project has been revised to reflect emerging realities, incorporate lessons from the first phase, and align with the dual priorities of the Biodiversity and Land Degradation focal areas. The long-term solution proposed by this project is a strengthened network of cultural parks with adequate systemic, institutional and operational capacity to: (i) effectively plan and manage the cultural parks based on scientific data and information; (ii) mitigate the threats to, and pressures on, the biodiversity and ecosystem services contained within the cultural parks; (iii) effectively plan sustainable financing for cultural park management and improve cost effectiveness; and (iv) ensure better integration of the socio-economic development priorities of local resource users in the management of the cultural parks. The project will focus on improving capacities at central level in the Ministry of Culture and in two demonstration sites, the Tassili N’Ajjer and the Ahaggar Cultural Parks.</td>
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### REFERENCES

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