



WORLD HERITAGE WATCH

Berlin, March 04, 2024

His Excellency
President of the Republic of Brazil
Luís Inácio Lula da Silva
Palácio do Planalto
Brasília, Distrito Federal,
gabinetepeessoal@presidencia.gov.br

Mr. President,

The Members of our global *World Heritage Watch* network (www.world-heritage-watch.org), including its Brazilian Members, address you with utmost concern.

We kindly solicit Your Excellency's attention to a serious transgression that affects Brazil's most emblematic landscape -- Rio de Janeiro, the Bahia da Guanabara and its Sugar Loaf Mountain.

We are profoundly worried about the possible re-authorization of structures that would permanently disfigure Sugarloaf Mountain and the beautiful, world famous landscape that for times immemorable characterizes the city of Rio de Janeiro.

The unacceptable, destructive so-called „Tirolesa“ project, approved in the previous government and unfortunately endorsed by the National Institute of Historic and Artistic Heritage of your Ministry of Culture, **offends the very principles that led to the listing of the Rio de Janeiro Landscape as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.**

We are appalled by the threatening violation of the rules of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, and we simply cannot believe that your Government's Federal and State authorities could ever agree to and authorize the disfigurement of Sugar Loaf Mountain.

We write to you with a keen sense of urgency, and in response to the request of the representatives of "World Heritage Watch" in Brazil and Rio de Janeiro. We fully endorse their requests - to halt any further disfigurement of the Rio de Janeiro Landscape, and to urge UNESCO to include the "Urban Cultural Landscape of Rio de Janeiro" on the list of *World Heritage Sites in Danger* unless this issue is resolved favorably, before more damage occurs (some has been done already).

We understand that this stance is supported by a strong popular movement in Rio de Janeiro and that it counts on the support of ICOMOS, the highly respected scientific organization that provides UNESCO with technical opinions on the World Heritage Convention.

We sincerely hope that Your Excellency's intervention will preserve Sugar Loaf Mountain, maintaining the singular beauty of the *UNESCO World Heritage – Urban Cultural Landscape of Rio de Janeiro* for now, and for all future generations.

With sincere respect and heartfelt admiration for your Government's dedication to the maintenance of Brazil's most notable sites,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Maritta Koch-Weser". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Maritta Koch-Weser
President, World Heritage Watch

Cc.: Ministries of Culture, MMA, Itamaraty, and authorities of Rio de Janeiro.