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Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Culture Sector
Division for Heritage

Mr Luís Ferreira
President
Platform Save the Tua
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1200-727 Lisboa
Portugal

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28 March 2016

Dear Sir,

We acknowledge the emails over recent months, by which individuals express their concern over the construction of the Foz Tua Dam at the World Heritage property "Alto Douro Wine Region" (Portugal).

We have taken due note of the concerns raised by your organization. In compliance with paragraph 174 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the information has been transmitted to the Permanent Delegation of Portugal to UNESCO and to the National Commission of Portugal for UNESCO.

The World Heritage Centre is fully aware of the construction of the dam, which is inside the buffer zone, but outside the property's limit. We are following the matter very closely with the authorities of Portugal, in order to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property will be maintained.

For your information, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property took place in 2012 with international specialists which reviewed this matter. The mission report is available on our web-site: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1046/documents/>.

Subsequently the World Heritage Committee examined the state of conservation of this property, taking into consideration the various reports, and adopted a Decision in this regard in 2013. The decision is also available on-line at the following page: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5093>.

Given the above actions taken, we kindly request you direct your concerns to the national authorities of Portugal.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in safeguarding World Heritage.

Yours sincerely,

Isabelle Anatole-Gabriel
Chief
Europe and North America Unit
World Heritage Centre

cc: National Commission of Portugal for UNESCO
Permanent Delegation of Portugal to UNESCO