

Ibiza (Spain)

No 417 rev

Identification

Nomination Ibiza, Biodiversity and Culture

Location Ibiza - Balearic Islands

State Party Spain

Date 30 June 1998

Justification by State Party

In view of the decision taken by the World Heritage Committee at its 11th session in Paris in 1987 not to accept a proposal for inscription restricted to the Upper Town of Ibiza, the State Party intends to submit a different proposal which incorporates new areas and archaeological sites of great value, adds new scientific interpretations to the value of the Properties, and demonstrates the relationship between the cultural and natural elements.

The fortifications of Ibiza, dating back to the 16th century, are a unique illustration of the architecture, military engineering and aesthetics of the Renaissance. This Italo-Spanish model exerted a very great influence, especially on the construction of fortified towns in the New World. **Criterion ii**

The Phoenician ruins of Sa Caleta and the Phoenician-Punic necropolis of Puig des Molins are an outstanding reflection of the urbanization and social life of Phoenician colonies in the western Mediterranean. They are a unique source, both in quantity and in quality, of finds from Phoenician and Carthaginian burial places. **Criterion iii**

The Upper Town of Ibiza is an excellent example of a fortified acropolis with defensive walls and an urban fabric which still show, in an exceptionally clear way, the stratification of the first Phoenician settlements, followed by the Arab and Catalan periods and up to the Renaissance bastions. The latter phase, a long process of erecting defensive walls, did not destroy but incorporated the previous construction phases and urban fabric. **Criterion iv**

Category of Property

With reference to Article 1 of the World Heritage Convention, the cultural properties nominated for inscription are in part, a *group of buildings*, and in part a *site*. Las Salinas (the Salt-Pans) are also a *cultural landscape*, as defined in paragraph 39 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (1998).

History and Description

Property nominated for inscription

- The Upper Town (Alta Vila) of Ibiza and its 16th Century Fortifications.

The Upper Town of Ibiza is the oldest area. It emerges like an acropolis standing on a headland facing the sea. Its architecture and physiognomy have not been changed since the fortifications were built in the 16th century, based on the military precepts of the Renaissance. The defensive walls and bastions have incorporated, in a much larger area, those which existed before, thus making it possible to study the stratigraphy of successive fortifications.

Ebysos (the town of Bes, an Egyptian god) was founded by the Carthaginians in 654 BC. Punic water tanks can still be seen, particularly in the area of El Soto. For 2000 years, the town and its fortified harbour were the centre of Mediterranean navigation. The local economy was based on the collection of salt from the pans, wool, and figs.

After a period of alliance with Rome, the island came under the control of the Arabs in 902. The excavated ruins of a strong earthen wall, as well as the urban plan of the medina, an Arab town spread over a surface of 4ha *intra muros*, date to this period. The medina consists of narrow streets lined by dwelling houses with windows looking over an inner courtyard, and surrounded by walls on three sides.

In 1235, the town was dominated by Christians, who built the Catalan castle, visible from the inside of the present building, the medieval fortifications, and the 13th century Gothic cathedral which can still be admired.

From 1530 to 1540, Philip II drew up a strategic plan to defend communications between Spain and Italy. In 1584-85, new fortifications were erected with the help of two specialized Italian architects, Giovanni Battista Calvi and Jacobo Paleazzo Fratin. These fortifications were to serve as models for the harbour towns of the Caribbean.

- The Phoenician-Punic cemetery of Puig des Molins

This large cemetery is situated in the south west of the Upper Town and covers a fully protected surface of several hectares. At the beginning of the 6th century BC, the ashes of the dead were placed in a natural grotto after cremation. Later, shafts and funerary chambers were dug, over a surface of 5ha and then 7ha. Monolithic sarcophagi were lowered through shafts into hypogea, family sepulchres. This cemetery was in use until the end of the Roman period.

The Phoenician Punic cemetery is the oldest to have been preserved, thus making it possible to study a wide variety of tombs, statues, and cult objects. It has been included in the urban perimeter and has added to the beauty of the site, with its terraces planted with olive trees to take advantage of the humidity of the underground chambers.

Compared to the 1986 request for inscription, the perimeter of the cemetery has been added to that of the Upper Town in the 1998 request.

- The Phoenician-Punic Archaeological Site of Sa Caleta

This is the site of the first Phoenician occupation, near the salt-pans. It was abandoned around 590 BC in favour of the site of Ibiza. This settlement covered the 5ha of the peninsula before it was eroded by the sea.

Excavations have unearthed walls of a thickness of 45-60cm. Scattered square-shaped buildings were linked by an irregular system of streets and triangular public areas, revealing an archaic form of urbanization. In the southern district, the sub-structures of a dwelling house can be visited; it is composed of a large rectangular room and seven other rooms, probably shops and kitchens. Bread was baked in 2m diameter ovens. The site was inhabited by a community of about 800 people, it had an egalitarian social structure, and an economy based on agriculture, metallurgy, salt, and fishing.

Properties located in the buffer zone

- Es Soto

Punic water tanks, tombs that extend the cemetery of Puig des Molins, as well as an old Moslem cemetery and the ruins of a Christian chapel, were unearthed in this southern part of the headland, between the defensive walls of Dalt Vila and the sea.

The inclusion of this zone of archaeological interest, which is fortunately in a good state of preservation, makes it possible to maintain a green space between the fortifications and the sea.

- Ses Feixes

This area stretches along the coast, over a flat surface situated on the other side of the harbour, opposite the Upper Town. It displays a form of cultivation based on an ingenious irrigation system: the fields are divided into long, narrow rectangles by a network of canals which have a dual function of collecting water and irrigating the fields. This system permits an intensive but well balanced cultivation of arid and marshy soils.

The proposal for inscription includes this site in the buffer zone as evidence of an agricultural organization that has both a technical and an aesthetic value.

- Las Salinas

Situated in the southern tip of the island, opposite the island of Formentera, this site is put forward as a cultural landscape. An age-old human activity has created a natural setting favourable to the maintenance of biodiversity. The collection of salt has always played a key role here. The area was laid out with a system of canals, dams, and dikes which formed wetland areas of great beauty and ecological interest, with a specific flora and fauna.

Management and Protection

Legal status

All the cultural properties in question are placed under the protection of various laws and regulations

concerning monuments, historic centres, archaeological sites, and the natural environment.

National Decree No 309/1969 gives Dalt Vila and Es Soto the status of Historic Complex. The salt-pans of Ibiza and Formentera are natural reserves protected by Law No 26/95. The archaeological ruins are protected by national, regional, and local measures. In 1997, the Autonomous Community of the Balearic Islands adopted a *Partial Regional Plan for Ibiza and Formentera* with a view to protecting the salt-pans. There is also a *Special Protection Plan* and an *Urban Development Plan*.

Perimeter and buffer zone

The perimeter is precise and logical. The Upper Town is clearly demarcated by its walls. The Puig des Molins cemetery and the ruins of Sa Caleta have been demarcated just as precisely as an archaeological area.

An extensive buffer zone includes the headland of the Upper Town and the cemetery, and it stretches along the coast, thus protecting the other headland and the area of Ses Feixes on the other side of the bay. The protective measures for Es Soto and the cemetery prevent any kind of alteration from being made to the environment of the fortified town. To the north, the buffer zone protects the urban districts situated beyond the walls, as they are important sources of information. In this way, the popular districts, with an Arab-style town plan and architecture, are preserved. The protective measures of the area of Ses Feixes and the headland which dominates the town prevent speculative development.

Management

In the last ten years, the public authorities of Ibiza have implemented a programme of major works which have had a decisive impact on the cultural management of the island and have also enhanced the monuments of Dalt Vila.

The perimeter of the bastions has been freed of ancillary buildings which used to mask them. Water tanks and other additions which disfigured the top of the fortifications have been removed to restore the beauty of the landscape. The dwelling houses located within the walls have been equipped with modern facilities (water supply, sewerage). Electric wires have been buried. Many buildings have been restored using historic documents as a guide, and respecting the requirements of authenticity.

The curators and experts are highly qualified and well supported by the administrative authorities. The town council is determined to resist the pressure of speculation, which could affect the area of Ses Feixes.

Training

The town council has organized a training workshop where young people, supervised by experienced architects and archaeologists, can learn about restoration. They are encouraged to start small maintenance firms.

Authenticity

Archaeological excavations have not affected the authenticity of the Phoenician and Punic cemeteries. The monuments were not reconstructed and the structures are the original ones. Admittedly, certain openings were made in the hypogea to enable visitors to enter them one after the other. However, this alteration was made a long time ago and can be considered as being part of the history of the site.

The authenticity of the Upper Town is a more complex issue. Changes were made regularly in order to meet the social needs of its residents, an important factor for preserving the living character of the town. In this respect, the height and size of certain walls are a determining factor to safeguard the physiognomy of the town. On the whole, it may be considered that the urban structure is intact, and that the determination to improve living conditions is positive.

The materials and the forms of the 16th century walls are authentic. Reproductions of the original plans can be consulted in the archives.

The harmony of the ensemble is spoilt by the construction of steps in reinforced concrete and a communications trench near the entrance. This unattractive intervention does not comply with professional conservation standards. It would be appropriate to stress that this type of intervention is unacceptable in order to avoid a repetition in the future and to recommend the restoration of the place to its original state.

Evaluation

Action by ICOMOS

An ICOMOS mission visited the nominated property in February 1999.

Comparative analysis

The fortified town and the Phoenician and Punic ruins have an exceptional character. The expertise of Calvi and Fratin in the construction of fortifications with bastions has always been recognized. The archaeological sites are of great interest.

The organization of the fields of Ses Feixes is unique in the Mediterranean and reveals an Arab-Berber origin. The Nabataeans used a similar capillary system in the Negev desert. The use of such an irrigation system implies a well planned use of the soil and control of water resources, a careful study of the differences in levels, and the erection of dams and retaining walls. An extensive social organization would have been necessary, and this was continued by the Christian parishes.

The features of the cultural landscape described are not limited to the sites nominated for inscription but can also be found in the agricultural environment of Ibiza and Formentera, despite the development of tourism, mainly confined to the coastal areas, and thanks to the deep attachment of the population to its traditions. This attachment is also reflected in local dances, popular beliefs, and forms of spirituality. This close relationship between the land and cultural traditions should be taken into account when

evaluating the sites, for it is the foundation for their conservation.

Comments by ICOMOS

ICOMOS considers that the cultural properties and cultural landscape in question are of great interest, and they have fortunately come to light in the remarkable and very detailed file submitted by the State Party. The historic importance of the fortifications of the Upper Town and their influence on the architecture of harbour towns in the Caribbean should be underlined, as well as the great wealth of the Phoenician and Punic cemetery which is included in the request for inscription. Nevertheless, these historical and cultural values were already known in 1986 at the time of the first request for inscription, when ICOMOS had made a negative evaluation, and again in 1987 when the World Heritage Committee had decided to turn down this request.

In the course of the last few years, the public authorities, especially at regional level, have pursued an active policy to preserve and rehabilitate the site, which deserves praise. However, there is no new revelation to permit a possible revision of previous evaluations.

Stress is laid on the cultural value of the irrigated landscape of Ses Feixes and the ancient salt-pans of Las Salinas. It is difficult to understand, therefore, why these are included in the buffer zone if the object of the nomination is to emphasize the cultural diversity of Ibiza.

ICOMOS is not convinced that the State Party has made a persuasive case for the resubmission of this property, the central feature of which was rejected by the Committee in 1987. Although new elements have been added, some of them are in the designated buffer zone. If this nomination is to be considered further, it is essential that the State Party should revise its presentation so as to submit all these elements in an integrated way and thereby justify the title that appears on the cover of the volumes making up the nomination (but not in the formal nomination form), "Ibiza - Biodiversity and Culture."

Recommendation

That this nomination be **referred back** to the State Party requesting a revised justification for inscription to treat the various elements in the nomination as components of an integrated whole. In the event that this is made available in an acceptable form, ICOMOS will recommend inscription on the basis of *criteria ii, iii, and iv*:

Criterion ii The intact 16th century fortifications of Ibiza bear unique witness to the military architecture and engineering and the aesthetics of the Renaissance. This Italian-Spanish model was very influential, especially in the construction and fortification of towns in the New World.

Criterion iii The Phoenician ruins of Sa Caleta and the Phoenician-Punic cemetery of Puig des Molins are exceptional evidence of urbanization and social life in the Phoenician colonies of the western Mediterranean. They constitute a unique

resource, in terms of volume and importance, of material from the Phoenician and Carthaginian tombs.

Criterion iv The Upper Town of Ibiza is an excellent example of a fortified acropolis which preserves in an exceptional way in its walls and in its urban fabric successive imprints of the earliest Phoenicians settlements and the Arab and Catalan periods through to the Renaissance bastions. The long process of building the defensive walls has not destroyed the earlier phases or the street pattern, but has incorporated them in the ultimate phase.

Note

A revised justification for the inscription of this property has been received by ICOMOS. This is to be considered by the ICOMOS Executive Committee at its meeting on 16 October 1999, and a recommendation will be made orally to the World Heritage Committee in Marrakesh.

ICOMOS, September 1999