World Heritage List: The Archaeological Sites of the Island of Meroe (Sudan) – Additional information

Dear Sir,

ICOMOS is currently assessing the nomination of “The Archaeological Sites of the Island of Meroe” as a World Heritage Site and we thank you for your assistance with the recent mission to the property.

We would like to ask for clarifications with regard to a number of aspects relevant to the nomination.

Therefore we would be pleased if the State Party could consider the following points and additional information:

1. Provide maps that show the various features at each site actually labelled. For instance at Meroe it would be helpful to label the royal city, the western pyramid cemetery, the temples and Hafir (reservoir) in the plain and the north and south royal cemeteries to the east. Similarly at Naqa. At Musawwarat el-Sufra a map based on figure 11, p. 20 with the various features labelled would be helpful.

2. Clarify funding arrangements for the proposed management framework for the overall property in relation to co-ordination of conservation and maintenance works at the three sites.

We will look forward to your responses to these points which will be of great help in our evaluation process.

ICOMOS has no obligation to contact States Parties during the evaluation process. However, with a view to being as transparent as possible, ICOMOS has agreed to approach States Parties in specific cases. This does not prejudice the ICOMOS recommendation on the nomination and should be considered as preliminary information. It also does not prejudice the World Heritage Committee’s decision.

We would be grateful if you could provide ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre with the above information by Monday 8 November 2010.

We thank you in advance for your kind cooperation.

Regina Durighello
Director
World Heritage Programme

Copy to National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums - NCAM
UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris
The Archaeological Sites of the Island of Meroe
Funding arrangements for the management framework

Three funding sources will be coordinated for the execution of the management plan proposed for the property:

(1) Direct funding from the central government. This will include the salaries of the staff engaged in the implementation of the management plan and the funding of the conservation project of the pyramids of Meroe.

(2) Participation of the archaeological missions engaged in research programs on the three sites. These are:

- The combined mission of the University of Khartoum & the Royal Ontario Museum of Canada at the Royal City of Meroe and the Mission of the German Archaeological Institute at the Royal Baths of Meroe.

- The Mission of the University of Humboldt (Germany) at Musawwarat es-Sufra.

- The Mission of the Egyptian Museum of Berlin (Germany) at Naga.

(3) The Corporation for the Development of the Region of Shendi. This is a popular association engaged in the coordination of efforts for the development of the region. The efforts are mainly focused on education, health and community development. The preservation
and promotion of the archaeological sites of the Island of Meroe has become one of the occupations of the association. The president of the association is actually the head of the management committee of the sites.

We hope that we can manage and coordinate all these efforts for the best execution of the management arrangements.

Dr Salah Mohamed Ahmed
Director of Fieldwork Section

For/ Director General/ NCAM