
Calakmul (Mexico) No 1061 bis

Official name as proposed by the State Party

Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forests of Calakmul, Campeche

Location

State of Campeche, Yucatan Peninsula
Southern Mexico
Mexico

Brief description

Visible primarily from the air, Calakmul is an important Maya site set deep in the tropical forest of the Tierras Bajas of southern Mexico. The city played a key role in the history of this region for more than twelve centuries. Its imposing structures and its characteristic overall layout are remarkably well preserved and give a vivid picture of life in an ancient Maya capital. Tucked away within the surrounding tropical forest are the remains of many more ancient Mayan cities and towns together with evidence of reservoirs, raised fields, channel systems and causeways, testifying to the agricultural practices of the Maya.

Category of property

In terms of categories of cultural property set out in Article I of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *site*.

[Note: The property is nominated as a mixed cultural and natural site. IUCN will assess the natural significance and ICOMOS the cultural significance.]

1 Basic data

Included in the Tentative List

20 November 2001

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination

None

Date received by the World Heritage Centre

23 January 2013

Background

This is a renomination on the basis of natural criteria and extension of the "Ancient Maya City of Calakmul, Campeche" inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of cultural criteria (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) at the 26th session of the World Heritage Committee (26 COM, 2002) (Decision 26 COM 23.18).

The proposed additional criteria are the natural criteria (ix) and (x).

A retrospective statement of Outstanding Universal Value was adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013).

Consultations

ICOMOS consulted its International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management and several independent experts.

Technical Evaluation Mission

A joint ICOMOS/IUCN technical evaluation mission visited the property from 29 September to 5 October 2013.

Additional information requested and received from the State Party

A letter was sent to the State Party on 25 September 2013 requesting additional information relating to the proposed boundaries, identification of cultural sites within the proposed extended area, protection and management of the cultural attributes within the extended area, and the visual quality of the ceremonial centre. A response was received on 30 October 2013, on 18 and 27 November 2013, and further information was provided on 28 February 2014. The information has been incorporated below.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

6 March 2014

2 The property

Description

The currently inscribed site of Calakmul is located within the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, which was created in 1989 and is the largest in southern Mexico. It comprises three large groups of structures. To the west there is a large group of platforms with buildings on them around open spaces. A similar, slightly smaller, group lies to the east. In between these is the central zone, covering a roughly square area, in which very large public open spaces and the dominant Structure II are the main elements. Between the central and eastern groups but seemingly distinct from them is the large pyramidal Structure I. This is slightly smaller than Structure II, but having been built on a natural eminence it is more or less the same height. The structures in the central zone date from all the periods of occupation of the site, indicating continuity of occupation over some 12 centuries from the 4th century BCE. A barrel-vaulted chamber within Structure II containing a frieze decorated with large painted stucco masks is the earliest building known from Calakmul, and is believed to be the earliest stone structure in the region. Calakmul is especially noteworthy for the large number of stelae that have been found on the site. These both establish the history of the site and are key elements in its layout, being carefully sited in regular lines or groups in front of the stairways and main facades of the pyramidal structures. This property area is 3,000 ha.

Extension

The renomination proposes an extended property area of 331,397 ha (it is shown on the maps as 331,764 ha), which includes the already inscribed property and its surrounding tropical forest, currently part of the inscribed property's buffer zone. The proposed new property area is in turn surrounded by a proposed buffer zone of 391,788 ha, which together with the new property area totals the area of the entire Calakmul Biosphere Reserve: 723,185 ha.

The extended property represents the territorial space used, exploited and managed by the Maya of Calakmul for over two thousand years. According to the nomination dossier it includes vestiges of more than 250 sites of ancient Mayan cities and towns with a large number of stelae *in situ*; royal and other tombs containing a rich variety of ornaments, ritual pottery vessels and many jade masks. It also includes remains of reservoirs, raised fields, water channels and causeways, indicative of Mayan agricultural practices. This Calakmul hinterland testifies to the influence of the Mayan civilisation centred at Calakmul over more than twelve centuries from the 4th century BC, which related to political organisation and cultural development in the region stretching from Copán in the south-east, Edzná to the north, and Palenque to the west, intensified by Calakmul's relationships and rivalry with the other major Mayan centre at Tikal in Guatemala.

However ICOMOS notes that very little information is provided on the cultural attributes in the nomination dossier.

ICOMOS also notes that the map provided does not indicate 250 sites within the nominated property area, and according to the additional information the nominated property includes Calakmul and 37 recorded surrounding sites. These are 12 large centres (Altamira, Balakbal, Calakmul, Champerico, Dos Aguadas, El Gallinero, El Zacatal, La Muñeca, Los Hornos, Oxpeul, Uxul and Yaxnohcah), 9 medium centres (Candzibaantún, Cheyokolnah, Chicaanticaanal, El Laberinto, Las Delicias, Las Tucas Bravas, Los Tambores, Olvidado and Pared de los Reyes), 6 minor centres (Buenfil, Chanarturo, El Chismito, La Retranca, Los Escalones and Marihuana) and 11 small sites (Aguada Laberinto, Aguas Amargos, Cerros de Yeso, Chilar, Chumbec, Dos Caobas, El Cerrón, Naachtún Noroeste, Piedra Rota, Puerto Mexico and Villahermosa). Within the buffer zone 10 archaeological sites have been recorded including one major centre (Altar de los Reyes), 5 medium centres (Akalpetén, Doble Plaza, El Diablón, Once de Mayo and Unachillilbé), 2 minor centres (Dos Naciones and La Misteriosa Sur) and 2 small sites (Cantera and Los Tamborcitos). The large centres include temple pyramids and other buildings arranged around plazas, with ball courts and sculpted monuments, many with inscriptions. The medium centres contain monuments and inscriptions but are smaller in volume; the minor centres may have smaller structures than the medium centres, or sometimes larger but fewer structures. Some may be outliers of larger centres such as the relationship between El Chismito and

Los Tambores. Small sites do not have plazas and contain lower apparently residential mounds, and sometimes pyramidal structures. It is proposed that the large centres developed in the Late Preclassic (c 300BCE-250CE) and Classic (250CE-850CE); the earliest being in the southern part of the property.

The map provided with this list shows the buffer zone boundary running through the centre of Akalpetén in the north, Once de Mayo in the east, another site shown on the map but not listed called Plan de Ayala also in the east; and Dos Naciones is actually shown outside the boundary. This map shows many more centres outside the buffer zone boundary, and another map provided by the State Party showing the distribution of Mayan sites across the whole of Campeche State, indicates that the greatest concentration of these sites is in fact outside the nominated property area.

ICOMOS notes that the State Party has said that current knowledge of the distribution of archaeological sites within the area is restricted due to difficulties of access meaning that portions are still not surveyed. However ICOMOS considers that there are problems with the property and buffer zone boundaries in that the selection of sites to be included in the property has not been explained in terms of their relationship with Calakmul. Also the boundary should not pass through sites.

ICOMOS also notes that recent investigations within the property inscribed in 2002 have revealed mural art that has changed scholarly understandings of artistic conventions among the Maya. It also provides otherwise undocumented evidence of market exchanges among the ancient Maya and the cultural/religious spatial context of those exchanges. ICOMOS also notes that some stelae depict animals and plants providing evidence of Mayan use of these resources.

In the additional information provided by the State Party on 28 February 2014 further details were provided about stelae found at Candzibaantún and Altar de los Reyes – the latter said to be unique due to the 13 emblem glyphs (names of dynasties) contained there. However ICOMOS notes that Altar de los Reyes is outside the nominated property boundary. The State Party also provided description of the Petén and Rio Bec architectural styles found at the various sites, stating that the significance of these in reflecting the ever changing political geography including the role of the Kaan dynasty can only be discovered through further research.

History and development

Evidence of Mayan occupation of the heavily forested Tierras Bajas region, heartland of the Mayan world which is now divided between Mexico and Guatemala, dates from 1000 BC. By the Late Pre-Classic period Calakmul had become one of the two dominant cities in the region, the other being Tikal. Excavations have shown that they flourished in a state of almost continual warfare with each other during the Classic period (250 –

850 AD) until around 900 AD when population density reached its historical peak of up to 100 inhabitants per sq km. Evidence within the nominated extended Calakmul property indicates that use of the land during this period involved terraces; elevated fields and hydraulic channels; sacred orchards (*huertos*); family orchards (*huertos familiares*) and forestry systems such as slash and burn (*milpa*), still widely used today. Around 750 AD old alliances between different groups of Maya started to crumble and by 1000 AD the civilisation had collapsed. It is thought that a number of factors contributed to the collapse including over-population and severe drought exacerbated by deforestation. The decrease in population and absence of intensive farming following the collapse allowed recovery of the tropical forest, which subsequently encroached upon the decaying Mayan structures.

In its additional information the State Party has proposed that the presence of large monumental sites in the Mirador Basin south of the nominated property in Guatemala Petén dating to the mid-first millennium BCE indicates that the migrations and cultural influences radiated from there into south-eastern Campeche. The date corresponding to 396CE recorded on 3 stelae at Candzibaantún is the earliest date so far recorded on the Maya monuments in Mexico. In the Classic period the area was overwhelmed by the Kaan dynasty, which moved their capital from Dzibanché to Calakmul in the Late Classic period c 636CE. Several sites within the property show evidence of Kaan hegemony, and it was during this dynasty that Calakmul was predominant until suffering defeats in military conflict with Tikal in 695 and 736CE. On the basis of this information ICOMOS considers that if the proposed extension is to reinforce significantly the outstanding universal value of Calakmul, it should at least be shown to include important Kaan centres.

From the early 16th century contact with Europeans following the Spanish conquest population in the area decreased further due to epidemics and famine. The indigenous people known as *Cehaches* had relatively large settlements surrounded by ranches in the 17th century, but the nominated property area, being land beyond Spanish control was occupied by a nomadic indigenous population that fluctuated according to the harvest cycle. The area continued to be a zone of refuge for indigenous people into the 19th century. Its forestry resources were recognised but not exploited due to lack of access. The area was declared an unpopulated zone by the government at the beginning of the 20th century.

In the early 20th century latex exploitation led to the establishment of rubber tapper camps in Campeche, some of which developed into permanent settlements. The remains of the city of Calakmul were discovered in 1931 and recognised as one of the most important cities of the Maya civilisation. While the immediate environs of the city remained untouched, exploitation of the forestry resources in the wider area greatly increased from 1940-60. When demand for latex fell away, the land began to

be cleared for cultivation and cattle ranching by traditional slash and burn methods. Timber exploitation increased and a network of roads was created. The nominated property area however remained inaccessible and with the influence of the concepts of ecological balance and environmental protection the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve was decreed in 1989, in order to protect the extensive wooded mass of tropical forest. From 1993, the Calakmul Archaeological Project (PAC) undertook studies of the Calakmul city site and it was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2002.

3 Justification for inscription, integrity and authenticity

Comparative analysis

The nomination dossier justifies the extended Calakmul area on natural criteria only. However it notes that of the 24 properties analysed, nine have archaeological sites, two of which, the nominated property and Tikal National Park, Guatemala (1979, criteria (i), (iii), (iv), (ix) and (x)) contain archaeological remains of two of the most important contemporary cities of the Maya culture. ICOMOS notes that within the Tikal National Park, only the remains of dwellings scattered throughout the surrounding countryside are recorded apart from the ceremonial city centre. Within the nominated extended Calakmul property however, much wider archaeological evidence of the hinterland activities that supported the ceremonial and political centre has been discovered, as well as many of the largest Mayan centres yet documented. ICOMOS considers that in this respect the other World Heritage inscribed Mayan site of similar period to Calakmul and Tikal at Palenque, Mexico (1987, (i), (ii), (iii), and (iv)) is also not directly comparable in that, although the property includes the surrounding tropical jungle, any archaeological remains within it apart from the ceremonial centre which might testify to the way of life of the Maya, have not been recorded. The Mayan sites of Copán (1980, (iv) and (vi)) in Honduras and Quiriguá, Guatemala (1981, (i), (ii) and (iv)) do not include any surrounding hinterland. Sian Ka'an (1987, (vii) and (x)) includes 23 archaeological sites and a 24km Mayan artificial canal, but the property was inscribed for natural values only. The World Heritage inscribed Mayan sites of Chichen-Itza, Mexico (1988, (i), (ii) and (iii)), and Uxmal, Mexico (1996, (i), (ii) and (iii)), are of a later period so are also not directly comparable. ICOMOS considers that it would be useful however to know how Calakmul interacted with its hinterland and the value of the landscape to the already inscribed property.

The table provided by the State Party in the additional information compares the extended Calakmul property with Kakadu National Park, Australia (1981, 1987, 1992, (i), (vi), (vii), (ix) and (x)); Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu, Peru (1983, (i), (iii), (vii) & (ix)); Río Abiseo National Park, Peru (1990, 1992, (iii), (vii) (ix) and (x)); Ecosystem and Relict Cultural Landscape of Lopé-Okanda, Gabon (2007, (iii), (iv), (ix) and (x)) and Mount Emei Scenic Area, including Leshan Giant Buddha Scenic

Area, China (1996, (iv), (vi) and (x)) as well as Tikal, and concludes that as a whole, the extended nominated area is unique in preserving evidence of intensive population growth and evolution of social complexity conditioned by successful adaptation to the natural setting and accompanied by technological achievements and cultural development reflected in the architecture, hieroglyphic writing, sculpted monuments and fine arts.

The proposed extension was not mentioned in the comparative analysis for the first nomination, but the nominated property was described as being part of an extensive ancient settlement set in a tropical forest.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis could justify consideration of this proposed extension for the World Heritage List.

Justification of Outstanding Universal Value

The proposed extension is considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a mixed property for the following reasons related to cultural value:

- More than 250 vestigial sites of ancient Mayan cities and towns, containing stelae in situ, royal and other tombs with ornaments, ritual pottery vessels and jade masks provide unique evidence of a rich, vanished civilisation.
- The great city of Calakmul represents exceptional testimony to the interchange of influences for more than twelve centuries in political organisation and cultural development in a vast area of the Maya region.
- The structure and floristic composition of the forests are extraordinary evidence of the long interaction between man and nature.

The justification for the inscription of the first nomination was:

- Calakmul contains the largest number of stelae found in situ and an impressive series of tombs, some royal. The assemblage of ornaments, ritual ceramic vessels and jade masks excavated at the site provide unique evidence of a rich, vanished civilisation.
- The large city of Calakmul represents outstanding testimony of the exchange of influences over more than twelve centuries in political organisation and cultural development over a vast area of the Maya region.

ICOMOS considers that this justification should be extended to deal with the cultural remains in the extended nominated property area and cover discoveries since 2002 within the previously inscribed property.

Integrity and authenticity

Integrity

The integrity of the proposed extension is problematic in terms of whether it includes all elements necessary to reinforce the outstanding universal value of the already inscribed property because it has not been established whether all the sites related to Calakmul within its immediate sphere of influence are included within the boundary. ICOMOS was not able to visit all the sites that are within the boundary, and has had to rely on the findings of archaeological surveys carried out in 2008. These report evidence of looting at some sites. However the State Party maintains that the sites are generally protected by their inaccessibility and are visited regularly by staff of the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH). ICOMOS considers that the fact that these sites are buried within the tropical forest means that relationships between them and Calakmul cannot be perceived, and they are vulnerable to deterioration processes caused by overgrowth.

Authenticity

Calakmul and the other sites within the nominated property as extended were part of a settlement system that depended on the surrounding ecosystem for its supporting agricultural and forestry activities. Evidence of these still exists in the form of raised fields, channels and reservoirs. ICOMOS considers that these attributes need to be recognised in order to for the proposed extension to be seen to truthfully express its outstanding universal value in terms of location and setting as well as form and materials.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity have not been met at this stage.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The proposed extension is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv), the same criteria as for the existing World Heritage property and natural criteria (ix) and (x).

Criterion (i): *represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the many commemorative stelae at Calakmul are outstanding examples of Maya art, which throw much light on the political and spiritual development of the city.

ICOMOS notes that this is the same wording as for the existing world heritage property. New wording was provided in the additional information provided on 28 February 2014. ICOMOS considers that an insufficient amount of information about the stelae in the nominated extension has been provided either in the nomination dossier or in the additional information to significantly reinforce this criterion. The further information provided on

28 February 2014 with details of stelae at Candzibaantún and emblem glyphs at Altar de los Reyes go some way towards remedying this. However Altar de los Reyes is outside the nominated property boundary.

ICOMOS considers that while more information has been provided in the additional information of 28 February 2014, it has still not been explained how the attributes of the proposed extension significantly reinforce this criterion.

Criterion (ii): *exhibit and important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that within a single site Calakmul displays an exceptionally well preserved series of monuments and open spaces representative of Maya architectural, artistic, and urban development over a period of twelve centuries.

ICOMOS notes that this is the same wording as for the existing world heritage property. New wording was provided in the additional information of 28 February 2014, which included further information on the attributes of sites in general but referred in particular only to Altar de los Reyes which is outside the nominated property boundary.

ICOMOS considers that the attributes of the proposed extension have not been demonstrated to significantly reinforce this criterion.

Criterion (iii): *bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilisation which is living or which has disappeared;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the political and spiritual way of life of the Lowland Maya cities is admirably demonstrated by the impressive remains of Calakmul.

ICOMOS notes that the wording has been slightly changed to refer to the Lowland Maya cities instead of "Maya cities of the Tierras Bajas region". New wording was provided in the additional information of 28 February 2014 which included further argument relating to evidence of the decline in population in the 9th -10th centuries.

ICOMOS considers that the justification for this criterion needs to be able to be expanded to say that the political, spiritual, economic and social way of life of the Lowland Maya cities is admirably demonstrated by the impressive remains of Calakmul with its mural art, stelae, associated settlements, agricultural areas and water management systems within the surrounding tropical forest, as referenced in the nomination dossier and the additional information but insufficiently documented.

ICOMOS considers that the attributes of the proposed extension have not been demonstrated to significantly reinforce this criterion.

Criterion (iv): *be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that Calakmul is an outstanding example of a significant phase in human settlements and architecture.

ICOMOS notes that the wording has been slightly changed from "human settlement and the development of architecture" to human settlements and architecture. New wording was provided in the additional information of 28 February 2014, which included further information on the architectural styles found at some of the sites. It was stated that further research is required into how these might reflect the political geography of the area. ICOMOS considers that the additional information goes some way to reinforcing this criterion and notes that the area of Kaan hegemony is particularly relevant to Calakmul since it is stated that the Kaan capital was moved from Dzibanché to Calakmul in the late Classic period. However the location of Dzibanché is not shown on the boundary map.

ICOMOS considers that the attributes of the proposed extension have not yet been demonstrated to significantly reinforce this criterion.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that conditions of authenticity and integrity have not been met at this stage and that the proposed extension could reinforce significantly criteria (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) but this has not been demonstrated at this stage.

4 Factors affecting the property

The proposed extension is not subject to development pressure. Tourist numbers are low, around 300 per month. The current Calakmul property is 60 km from the entrance to the Reserve and the other sites are not easily accessible. The property is four hours by vehicle from the nearest airport. The nomination dossier refers to an increase in population in the region but there are no inhabitants within the property. However some isolated archaeological sites have been looted. There are 2,625 inhabitants within the buffer zone.

Traditional slash and burn agriculture is practised in the region together with extensive livestock farming. Local communities also practice subsistence hunting and poaching. Other pressure comes from forest extraction and associated forestry camps. Water extraction in the surrounding region for human consumption has the potential to affect reservoirs in the property.

Threats include hurricanes and forest fires. There is a comprehensive Fire Management Plan for the nominated property and its buffer zone (the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve) which uses fixed and mobile terrestrial detection, as well as aerial and satellite detection.

ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the cultural values of the property are looting and decay.

5 Protection, conservation and management

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

It is not clear on what basis the boundaries of the proposed extension were established. In response to ICOMOS' query the State Party has said that the boundaries take into account appropriate physical (topographical and hydrological), social (land ownership, population, communication routes), cultural and administrative factors. The cultural factor is the presence of an abundance of archaeological sites that provide invaluable information on the diverse aspects of Maya culture and its evolution in the central lowlands of the Yucatan peninsula.

ICOMOS considers that clearly many Mayan sites lie outside the property boundary and the basis for the selection of sites included in the property has not been explained. In the additional information provided on 28 February 2014 it was stated that the area of the property is "where the six natural and cultural criteria bind and concentrate because it holds the highest ecological integrity, which provide protection to the cultural elements located in it". However on the basis of the additional information provided on 28 February 2014, ICOMOS considers that sites mentioned as being attributes in support of the justification including Altar de los Reyes and Dzibanché would need to be included within the property boundary.

The buffer zone boundary coincides with the boundary of the Biosphere Reserve. ICOMOS notes that it runs through the centre of two of the named sites (Akalpetén and Once de Mayo).

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the proposed extension and of its buffer zone are not adequate at this stage.

Ownership

The property is owned primarily by the Federal government with 88.5% being public lands including the existing World Heritage site and 11.5% owned by forestry agencies.

The Biosphere Reserve as a whole including the property and buffer zone is 48.4% State-owned and 49.6% communal-owned, with 2% being privately owned.

Protection

The Calakmul Biosphere Reserve including the nominated property was established by Presidential Decree in 1989 and is protected as a natural area.

The existing Calakmul World Heritage property is protected under the Federal Law on Monuments and Archaeological, Artistic and Historical Zones, 1972. According to the State Party's response to ICOMOS' query, the archaeological sites discovered within the nominated property are included in the record system and automatically protected under that Law.

ICOMOS considers that the existing World Heritage site of Calakmul is effectively protected. However the other archaeological sites within the proposed extension that are recorded in the inventory of sites of Campeche State are vulnerable to looting and would appear to require better Federal archaeological protection by being officially declared as archaeological zones. The whole proposed extension requires protection as a natural and cultural zone at the Federal level.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the legal protection in place is not adequate at this stage.

Conservation

The sites so far discovered within the proposed extension have been recorded in an inventory and data base as part of a project being undertaken to do this for the whole Campeche State since 2007. This project 'Development and use of a 4D GIS to support the conservation of the Calakmul site (Mexico, WHP)' is providing an information management system for the conservation authorities (natural and cultural) of the Biosphere Reserve and Archaeological Urban Centre of Calakmul.

A conservation programme is being implemented at the existing World Heritage property on the stucco masks and frieze and mural paintings but there is no conservation programme for the archaeological sites within the proposed extension outside the existing World Heritage site.

In response to ICOMOS' query regarding trees growing in the Calakmul ruins the State Party has said that those supporting the structures have had to be retained.

ICOMOS considers that the existing Calakmul World Heritage property is well maintained and conserved but was unable to visit all the other sites within the proposed extension. These are mostly unexcavated but with ruins and stelae exposed and are in need of a conservation programme.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that conservation is not yet adequate in that a conservation programme needs to be put in place for the cultural sites within the proposed extension.

Management

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes

The Biosphere Reserve is managed by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), through the National Commission for Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) supported by the National Institute of Ecology (INE) with regard to wildlife, and in collaboration with the Campeche State Government, the Municipality of Calakmul, and the Ministry of Social Development (SEDESOL). An Advisory Body comprising representatives of government and non-government organisations, academic institutions and local communities advises the Director of the Reserve.

The archaeological sites including the existing world heritage site are managed by the National Institute for Anthropology and History (INAH), which is an agency of the National Council for Culture and the Arts (CONACULTA) and the Ministry of Public Education (SEP) working through its Campeche Regional Office. According to the nomination dossier there is close and constructive collaboration between the INAH Campeche Regional Centre and the administration of the Biosphere Reserve, and the INAH site management team also has close and cordial relationships with the small indigenous communities within the Reserve.

The management team for the archaeological sites is headed by a senior archaeologist who is supported by professional staff including archaeologists and architects and 14 permanent on-site staff including custodians and maintenance personnel. Workers are recruited and trained on short term contracts from the small settlements within the Reserve to work on specific conservation and restoration projects at the existing world heritage site.

A diagram is given in the nomination dossier showing the management structure for the Biosphere Reserve but this does not show the involvement of INAH.

ICOMOS considers that there could be closer communication between the archaeologists working in the proposed extension outside the existing World Heritage site and the professionals responsible for the natural areas.

The nomination dossier described funding programmes relating to the natural values of the site but not relating to the cultural values. ICOMOS notes that the conservation programme at the existing world heritage site has ongoing funding but there is no funding programme for the other archaeological sites within the proposed extension.

Risk preparedness focuses on fire prevention as described above.

Policy framework: management plans and arrangements, including visitor management and presentation

The Strategic Guidelines for the National Programme on Natural Protected Areas 2007-2012 (reformulated every six years) provide the policy framework for the Annual Operating Programme for the Biosphere Reserve including the proposed extension. The general objectives of the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve Management programme do not include any relating to the cultural sites, but these are covered in the particular objectives. The archaeological area of the existing World Heritage site of Calakmul has a Management Plan (1999) which requires updating, but the archaeological sites within the proposed extension itself do not have a Management Plan. Co-operation between Mexico, Guatemala and Belize on the protection of adjoining natural areas is being pursued. However nothing is mentioned about the cultural sites, although the Mirador archaeological region south of the Mexican border in Guatemala includes many sites that share similar characteristics to those from southern Campeche.

A visitors' centre located some distance from the existing world heritage site provides a brief and general introduction to the site. In the nomination dossier this is described as a 'Culture for Conservation Centre' with four rooms for permanent exhibits from the pre-Hispanic era, a room for Calakmul biodiversity and another for the Maya era. From there a path takes the visitor to the existing world heritage site which can be explored by different routes, taking a maximum of seven hours. The other archaeological sites within the proposed extension are not open to the public.

ICOMOS notes that the signage could be improved and does not include mention of the surrounding sites in the region or the connections to the Guatemalan region.

Involvement of the local communities

Local communities are involved through the Advisory Body and directly with the INAH Campeche Regional Centre in management of the Reserve. ICOMOS notes that a group of researchers is working with the communities around the property to rescue traditional ways of planting and growing crops. ICOMOS also noted that the communities were consulted through a community meeting about the proposed extension boundary and its proposed declaration as a protected zone.

ICOMOS considers that the Management Plan for Calakmul the already inscribed property should be extended to cover the cultural sites of the proposed extension.

ICOMOS considers that special attention is needed for the protection, conservation and management of the archaeological sites and for the proposed extension's cultural value as a whole.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the management system for the property should be extended to include more directly the authorities responsible for the conservation, protection and management of the archaeological sites. Furthermore, ICOMOS recommends that the Management Plan for the already inscribed site of Calakmul be updated and extended to cover the cultural sites of the proposed extension.

6 Monitoring

The nomination dossier describes a monitoring system for the natural values but makes no mention of the cultural values.

ICOMOS considers that a monitoring system is required for the cultural sites within the proposed extension.

7 Conclusions

ICOMOS considers that the justification for the proposed extension as provided in the nomination dossier is not appropriate on its own because it deals neither with the cultural remains in the extended nominated property area, nor does it cover discoveries since 2002 within the previously inscribed property. However the additional information, particularly that provided on 28 February 2014, goes some way towards remedying this. The integrity of the proposed extension is problematic in terms of whether it includes all elements necessary to reinforce the outstanding universal value of the existing World Heritage site because it has not been established whether all the sites related to Calakmul within its immediate sphere of influence are included within the boundary. ICOMOS considers therefore that the condition of integrity has not been met as the boundaries are not adequate. The condition of authenticity could be met if all the attributes demonstrating that the proposed extension were part of a settlement system that depended on the surrounding ecosystem are considered. ICOMOS considers that the proposed extension could reinforce significantly criteria (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) and meet conditions of authenticity and integrity, but this has not been justified and demonstrated at this stage. The justification for criterion (iii) needs to be expanded to include all attributes. It should be able to say that: the political, spiritual, economic and social way of life of the Lowland Maya cities is admirably demonstrated by the impressive remains of Calakmul with its mural art, stelae associated settlements, agricultural areas and water management systems.

ICOMOS considers that the sites other than the already inscribed site within the proposed extension area are mostly unexcavated but with ruins and stelae exposed and are in need of a conservation programme with an identified funding source and appropriate personnel. The archaeological sites other than the already inscribed site within the proposed extension are vulnerable to looting. The whole for the proposed extension requires protection

as a natural and cultural zone at the Federal level and a management plan is needed for the proposed extension as a whole, including the cultural sites. ICOMOS considers that the management system for the property should be extended to include more directly the authorities responsible for the conservation, protection and management of the archaeological sites and a monitoring system is required for the cultural sites within the proposed extension.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed extension is a positive initiative by the State Party to recognise and understand better the significance of the property and reinforce its protection.

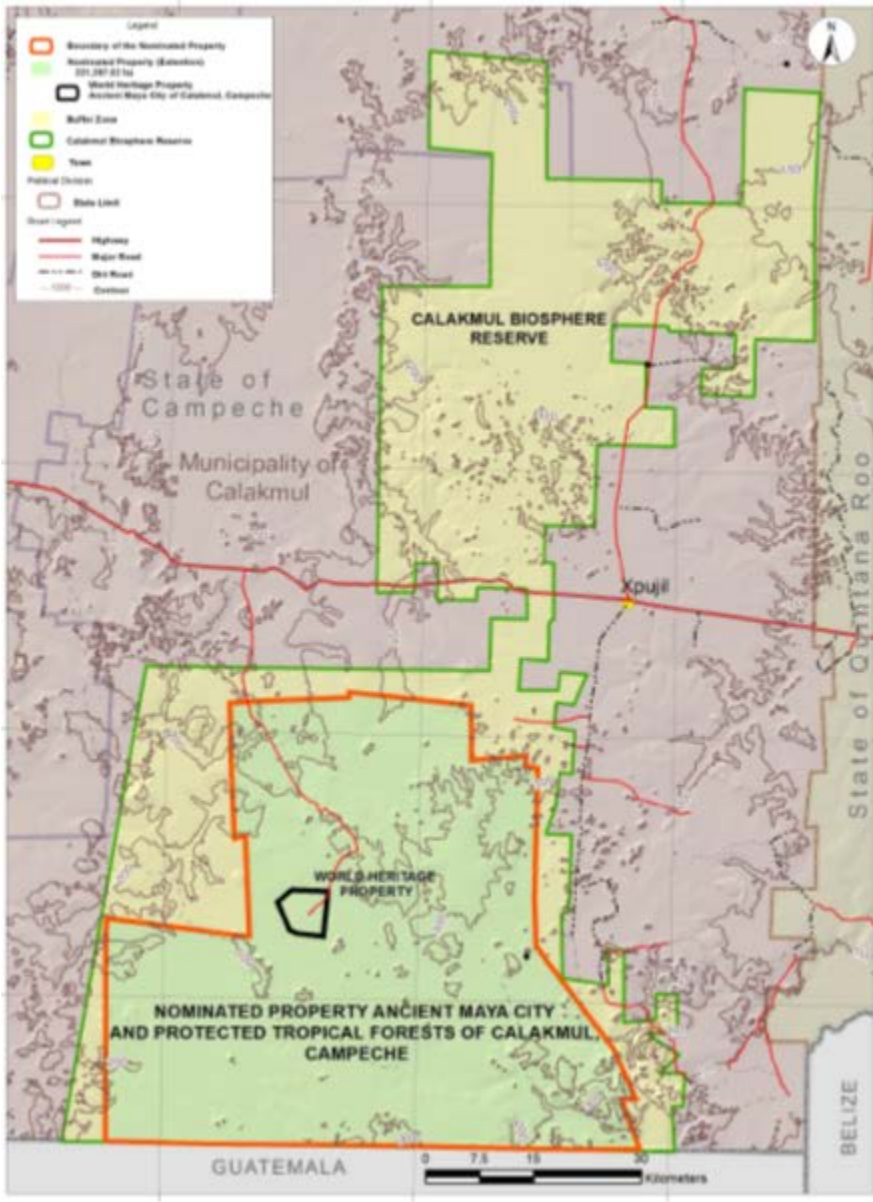
8 Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the examination of the proposed renomination and the extension of the Ancient Maya City of Calakmul, Campeche to include the Protected Tropical Forests of Calakmul and become the Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forests of Calakmul, Campeche, Mexico, to the World Heritage List in relation to cultural criteria, be **deferred** in order to allow the State Party, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, if requested, to:

- Ensure that the revised boundaries of the proposed extension include the identified cultural sites within and around it that relate to Calakmul;
- Expand the justification for the proposed extension to cover all the cultural attributes and demonstrate how they reinforce significantly the value of the existing World Heritage site of Calakmul;
- Provide legal protection at the Federal level for the cultural sites within the proposed extension;
- Extend the management system to involve more directly the authorities responsible for the conservation, protection and management of the cultural sites;
- Update the Management Plan for Calakmul and extend it to cover the cultural sites within the proposed extension;
- Develop a monitoring system for the cultural sites within the proposed extension.

ICOMOS considers that any revised nomination would need to be considered by an expert mission to the site.



Map showing the boundaries of the proposed extension



Aerial view of the inscribed site "Ancient Maya City of Calakmul, Campeche"



The Calakmul archaeological site



Mural painting in Structure I



Stucco mask in Structure II