
Coimbra University (Portugal) No 1387

Official name as proposed by the State Party

University of Coimbra – Alta and Sofia

Location

Beira Litoral, Baixo Mondego
Portugal

Brief description

Situated on a hill overlooking the city, the University of Coimbra has grown and evolved over more than seven centuries to form its own well-defined urban area within the old town. Established initially as an academy in the late 13th century it coalesced in Coimbra as a series of colleges including the College of Jesus. Key markers of the university's ideological, pedagogical and cultural evolution are the 16th & 17th century buildings including the Royal Palace of Alcáçova which has housed the University since 1537, St Michael's Chapel, the Joanine Library and the remaining colleges; the 18th century facilities including the laboratories, Botanical Garden and the University Press, and the large 'University City' created during the 1940s.

Category of property

In terms of categories of cultural property set out in Article I of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a serial nomination of two *groups of buildings*.

1 Basic data

Included in the Tentative List

26 November 2004

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination

None

Date received by the World Heritage Centre

30 January 2012

Background

This is a new nomination.

Consultations

ICOMOS has consulted several independent experts.

Technical Evaluation Mission

An ICOMOS technical evaluation mission visited the property from 17 to 23 September 2012.

Additional information requested and received from the State Party

A letter was sent to the State Party on 20 September 2012, requesting a map showing the buildings clearly identified, and clarification regarding Justification, Comparative analysis, Integrity/boundaries, Conservation, Protection, Ownership and Management. A response was received from the State Party on 19 October 2012 and the information has been incorporated into relevant sections below. A second letter was sent on 20 December 2012 requesting additional information on Protection and the boundary of the buffer zone. A response was received from the State Party on 27 February 2013 and the information has been incorporated into relevant sections below.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

6 March 2013

2 The property

Description

The two nominated property components of the University of Coimbra are the former college area of 6.5ha originally established in the 16th century along Sofia Street in the lower section, and the Alta area of 29ha on top of the hill where the University was originally established in the 14th century and has subsequently developed through to the present century. They are together encircled by a protection (buffer) zone of 81.5ha. This comprises the surrounding urban area including the medieval old town centre and the area where student housing (*repúblicas*) is located.

Alta

The Alta component of the nominated property includes the 12th century Cathedral of Santa Maria and the former Royal Palace of Alcáçova which was donated to accommodate the University in 1537, becoming known as the Palace of the Schools, and comprising the Chapel of St. Michael and associated Museum of Sacred Art which houses the collections from the Chapel's Treasury; the former Throne Room which is now the University's Grand Hall where all the important ceremonial events are held; the sumptuous Baroque Joanine Library with its extensive bibliographic collections; the University Tower and the Via Latina colonnade and Portico. Around the palace are colleges constructed in the 16th-17th centuries including the College of Jesus, Holy Trinity, St. Jerome, St. Benedict, St. Anthony of the Quarry and St. Rita, together with the Chemistry Laboratory, Botanical Garden and University Press representing the 18th century Enlightenment facilities, and the 1940s development of 'University City'. The latter includes the University Archives, General Library (incorporating the site of the 14th century *Studium Generale* or Old Studies building) with its ancient books collection, Faculty of Letters, Faculty of Medicine, Mathematics Department, the Chemistry and Physics buildings and the Student Union building. The scientific collections of the University are extensive and

are housed in the Science Museum installed in the College of Jesus and the Chemistry Laboratory.

Sofia

The Sofia component includes the 12th century Monastery of Santa Cruz and a number of colleges built along Sofia Street, running down the hill to the north-west, in the 16th century. These were abandoned in the 19th and 20th centuries when the University consolidated on top of the hill at Alta but are now being brought back into use by the University. They include St Michael (Inquisition - old Royal College of the Arts), Holy Spirit, Our Lady of Carmel, Our Lady of Grace, St Peter of the Third Order, St. Thomas, New St Augustine, and St Bonaventure.

History and development

Located on the site of the Roman city of Aeminium, Coimbra was the seat of a bishop before its Moorish conquest by Almansor in 987, and the subsequent building of a square walled citadel on the top of the hill. This was eventually subsumed in the palace that developed on the site following Christian reconquest in 1064, becoming the main royal palace of the King of Portugal in the 12th century. The Monastery of Santa Cruz was founded at this time. The University was founded in 1290 as a *studium generale* in Lisbon but transferred by King Dinis to Coimbra in 1308 where it occupied its own building (Old Studies building) near the Royal Palace. It was moved twice more, eventually settling in the Royal Palace at Coimbra in 1537 under the auspices of King João III, where it developed a focus on the humanities and a wide network of over 20 residential colleges following his reforms. These took the urban monastic form of enclosed, cloistered courtyards with their own chapels and were located around the Royal Palace on the hill and along the newly formed Sofia Street which cut directly through the lower section of the town extending north-west from the Monastery of Santa Cruz. The latter was also incorporated into the University at this time. The turn of the 16th-17th centuries was marked by publication of the commentaries (1592-1606) by Jesuit professors on the works of Aristotle, of which there were over 100 editions and which became known throughout Europe, along with the work of Francisco Suárez which heavily influenced the formation and development of modern international law. The construction of the grand entrance to the University Palace (known as the Iron Gate) in 1633 and the remodelling of the Grand Hall emphasised the prestige attached to the University and its links with political power.

The building of the lavish Baroque-style Coimbra University Library (the Joanine Library 1717-1728) during the reign of King João V marked the opening up of the University to Enlightenment ideas, with the purchase of scientific books and mathematical instruments from abroad. The new clock tower of 1728 which replaced the one built in the courtyard of the Palace in 1561 combined the functions of time-keeping with astronomy. Coimbra graduates from the law courses filled positions with the Church, royal service and the courts across the country and its colonies. Later in the century following the reform

instituted in 1772 by the Marquis of Pombal on behalf of the monarch (the Pombaline reform), an emphasis on the physical and natural sciences, fuelled by new discoveries made during the 'philosophical journeys' of explorer-scientists abroad saw the creation of new facilities such as the Chemical Laboratory in classical revival style and the remodelling of existing buildings in a similar architectural form. The Botanical Garden was also created at this time. Educational and cultural institutions inspired by the Coimbra model were founded elsewhere in Portuguese colonies, increasing contacts and the flow of ideas and information, particularly with Brazil.

Closure of the colleges following the dissolution of the religious orders in 1834 led to major adaptation and alteration of the existing buildings, and to the breaking up of their libraries and collections. The reduction of student accommodation led to the increase of student communities living in rental accommodation in the old town. They became known as *repúblicas*, reflecting the fraternal nature of the accommodation and the political activism of the student body, which developed during the latter half of the century. Under the Republic of Portugal proclaimed in 1910, with the legal separation of Church and State, the University and its students maintained continuity through retaining and continuing to practise long held academic ceremonies and student traditions. Under the military regime of the Second Republic (1933-1974), the University was subordinated to political power and its space was massively reorganised. Existing buildings around the University Palace were demolished, and large new buildings in stripped classical style were arranged rectangularly across the old morphological pattern, embodying the authority and domination of the regime in a similar manner to that found in other authoritarian and totalitarian regimes across Europe.

From the 1970s, when democracy was established following the Revolution of 1974, and particularly since the beginning of this millennium, the University has dispersed beyond its original confines of Alta and Sofia. Within the original space it intends to recover existing buildings, establishing new uses in the Sofia area and in the old colleges in Alta on the hill, as well as building new facilities when needed to complement the evolving needs of the University as a recognised historic architectural property.

3 Justification for inscription, integrity and authenticity

Comparative analysis

The two nominated components of the serial nomination comprise one institution, the University of Coimbra. Their selection is justified by the comparative analysis, which compares the Coimbra institution comprising its two parts with other similar universities which have influenced university development in their nations' colonies, and which have undergone a similar process of historical development. Within Europe the nomination dossier argues that Coimbra was unique in that its foundation was accompanied by the construction of

buildings for that specific purpose in 1291 and 1309. The collegiate network, which expanded along Sofia Street in the 16th century followed the model of the University and Historic Precinct of Alcalá de Henares, Spain (1998, criteria (ii), (iv) & (iv)), a model also followed at the University of the Old City of Salamanca, Spain (1988, criteria (i), (ii) & (iv)). Within Portugal, the Jesuits established the College of Jesus at Coimbra in 1547 and taught at the University of the Holy Spirit in the Historic Centre of Évora (1986, criteria (ii) & (iv)) from 1553, contributing to its intellectual and religious influence which paralleled that of Coimbra in the north until the expulsion of the Jesuits in 1759. However it is argued that Coimbra differs from Évora and the Spanish examples in that the University was established at Coimbra in the Royal Palace, attaching royal prestige to the institution and beginning a university building type which continued in parallel with the collegiate type through the 16th and 17th centuries. In this it is argued, Coimbra differs from Toulouse, Oxford or Cambridge universities, which continued as representative of the church, based on residential colleges and tutorial teaching. However ICOMOS considers that this argument does not give an accurate assessment of these universities.

The Royal Academy as the Palace became, is distinguished by the use of the former Throne Room for formal University ceremonies. Royal support is also demonstrated in the purpose built Joanine Library, considered a masterpiece of the Baroque style. While other libraries of the period are mentioned in the nomination dossier as having similar Baroque splendour, it is argued that they did not have an equivalent function in terms of public use.

Regarding 18th century comparisons of the Enlightenment reformation period, the nomination dossier argues that the Chemical Laboratory stands out as the first one purpose built for that programme. At the same time the Botanical Garden was built to contain plants to be used in the Natural Sciences and Medicine studies. This was predated by the Botanical Garden (Orto Botanico), Padua (1997, criteria (ii) & (iii)).

The 20th century buildings and layout of the 'university city' (1941-42) are closely related to that of the University of Lisbon, which was planned almost simultaneously with a common ideology, and followed similar authoritarian models at the University City of Madrid, Moncloa Campus (1928) or the University of the City of Rome – University La Sapienza (1932-35).

It is argued in the nomination dossier that while there are similarities between the Coimbra University buildings and others of similar period at other European universities, not all periods and types are represented in the way they are at Coimbra, and Coimbra therefore stands out in demonstrating the evolution of European universities by exhibiting four periods of architecture and art relating to the four historical phases of the University's

development in terms of ideological, pedagogical and cultural reformations.

In terms of disseminating knowledge and influence to the colonies, Coimbra is compared again with the University of Alcalá de Henares, Spain, which had a similar role in relation to Spanish colonies as Coimbra had for Portuguese colonies. The nomination dossier records the influence of Coimbra's architecture on universities in Brazil, in the central portico of São Luis do Maranhão, the towers at the main hall of São Paulo and in the centre of the campus of the Federal University of São Carlos. It is argued that Coimbra's role is emphasised by the fact of the establishment of the Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities, and its overall influential role in Europe is emphasised by the establishment of Coimbra Group of Ancient European Universities which acknowledges Coimbra as the archetype of an institution that blends with the city "a university city par excellence".

ICOMOS recognises the important role Coimbra University played as a centre of knowledge distribution for the Portuguese world. ICOMOS also notes that the historical values of Coimbra University as an evolving institution have been well described, and it seems that it is an exceptional example in terms of its influence on the institutional and architectural development of universities in the Lusophone world. In addition the comparative analysis has illustrated that the Coimbra University is a noteworthy example of an integrated university city, which reflects a specific urban typology that cannot be found in other comparative examples.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this property for the World Heritage List.

Justification of Outstanding Universal Value

The nominated property is considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- The University of Coimbra received and disseminated knowledge and influence in the fields of arts, sciences, law, architecture, town planning and landscape throughout the Portuguese world.
- The University maintains and perpetuates its formal and informal traditions and ceremonies which have been recreated by other universities.
- The university illustrates through the ensemble of buildings the purposes and evolution of a European university from the medieval period to the present.
- The University is associated with the spread of Portuguese language, literature and ideas.

The serial approach has been adopted because both nominated property components are necessary to fully demonstrate the evolution of the architectural and urban components of the university.

ICOMOS considers that the University of Coimbra played an important role in the institutional and architectural development of universities in the Lusophone world by providing inspiration and reference for the establishment of universities in the Portuguese colonies. As such it also featured prominently in the distribution of knowledge, tradition and Portuguese language, although these aspects can only be recognized where they become evident in the material manifestation of the property.

The nomination dossier puts some reliance on the recognition by the Coimbra Group of Ancient European Universities of the nominated property as the archetype of an institution that blends with the city. ICOMOS considers that Coimbra University presents an exceptional example of a university city, which illustrates the interdependence between city and university and in which the city's architectural language reflects the university's institutional functions. To underline this aspect, it is important that the functional and visual links of the two components with the old city are integrated in the property's protection and management.

Integrity and authenticity

Integrity

The nominated property components were chosen because they comprise the historical University of Coimbra and demonstrate its evolution over time, thus demonstrating its value as an example of a type of architectural ensemble. Sofia includes the Monastery of Santa Cruz, which was part of the scholastic period of the University in the 14th century, and 16th – 17th century colleges including the Former College of the Arts representing the period of Renaissance Humanism. Alta includes the partly excavated site of the 14th century general studies building; the University Palace with its former Throne Room and the Joanine Library; the College of Jesus, famous for the commentaries on the principal works of Aristotle, the *Conimbricenses*, other 16th – 17th century colleges representing the period of Renaissance Humanism; the Chemistry Laboratory, Botanical Garden and University Press representing the period of Enlightenment Rationalism; and the Faculty of Medicine, Physics and Chemistry building and General Library among others representing Modernism.

Summary tables showing the chronology and the state of conservation and inconsistencies provided by the State Party in response to ICOMOS' request for clarification indicate that few buildings have remained intact over the life of the University but those named above are considered to most clearly represent the chronological periods relating to the specific stages of the University's development and be relatively intact. Discrete parts of other buildings within the property also testify to the various stages of the university's development. In response to ICOMOS's request for clarification regarding other buildings outside the property boundary that were part of the University, the State Party explained that the

former College of São José dos Marianos, now the Military Hospital, has been altered irreversibly; the Royal College of Nossa Senhora da Conceição da Ordem de Cristo (Tomar) was demolished in the 19th century and replaced by the present prison, and regarding the 'repúblicas', that the physical location of the students' traditions is not relevant. ICOMOS notes that the nominated property boundaries tightly enclose the buildings owned by the University in Alta, and in Sofia, tightly enclose the former colleges and Santa Cruz monastery.

ICOMOS considers that the integrity of the nominated property will be impacted by proposed future development including new building associated with the planned Linha Hospital Metro Mondego transport corridor from the riverside across Sofia Street just north of Santa Cruz Monastery and around the northern edge of the central part of the buffer zone; a new building housing an interpretation and documentation centre near the College of St Jerome; rebuilding near the cathedral cloister to house a new Law Library; infill of two courtyards of the College of Jesus to house collections and an underground car park at the Marquês de Pombal Square and/or D. Dinis Square. ICOMOS recommends that comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) according to the ICOMOS Guidance on heritage impact assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties are conducted for these proposed developments to prevent any negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

The University's program of repairs and rehabilitation means that overall deterioration is controlled, with projects aimed at keeping the buildings in use and maintained. The integrity of the property setting is partly compromised by development outside the proposed buffer zone which impacts on views of and from within the property.

Authenticity

The nomination dossier emphasises authenticity of use, institutional influence and cultural traditions as the primary factors in relation to the University. It is stated that in formal, architectural and material terms, each of the buildings is representative of the historical, artistic and ideological periods in which it was constructed, and that conservation, restoration and rehabilitation interventions have been made in accordance with the prevailing theories in each period. Some interventions used new materials that were incompatible and have been corrected in later conservation campaigns. The topographical setting of a hilltop town in the landscape remains clearly defined, but its authenticity has been compromised by the development of large scale buildings in the surrounding landscape. The cultural traditions of the university continue to be maintained. However, not all components of the university complex remain in authentic use and function due to adaptive re-use as well as abandonment.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property is authentic in terms of form and design, materials and substance, location, and spirit and feeling, while vacant

buildings and changes in ownership affect the authenticity of use and function and well as traditional management.

ICOMOS considers that the condition of integrity is partly met but is vulnerable to future urban development and that the condition of authenticity is met for some information sources and could be strengthened through continued use and management by the University of the vacant components.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (ii), (iii), (iv) and (vi).

Criterion (ii): exhibit an 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 the University based on the cultural, artistic and ideological influences of the former Portuguese empire received and disseminated knowledge in the fields of arts, sciences, law, architecture, town planning and landscape design within the regions formerly colonised by Portugal.

ICOMOS considers that this justification is correct in that Coimbra University played a decisive role in the development of institutional and architectural design of universities in the Lusophone world and can be seen as a reference site in this context.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

Criterion (iii): bear a unique or at least an 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 University's ceremonial and cultural traditions are extensive and have been kept alive including songs and festivities, and that these have been recreated by other university communities.

ICOMOS considers that there are yet other universities that have independently created and maintained these kinds of traditions, and that the comparative analysis did not succeed to justify the exceptionality of the traditions of Coimbra. In addition, ICOMOS notes that these could only be recognized in their manifestation in the architectural and urban substance of the university and that the exact attributes illustrating these traditions have not been identified.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified.

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 Coimbra University – Alta and Sofia illustrates through its architectural ensemble the several periods of university development relating to ideological, pedagogical and cultural reformations. These periods are represented by the corresponding periods of Portuguese architecture and art.

ICOMOS considers that while the justification provided by the State Party cannot be recognized under this criterion, the nominated property is an outstanding example of an integrated university city demonstrating a specific urban typology, which illustrates the far-ranging integration of a city and its university. In Coimbra the city's architectural and urban language reflects the institutional functions of the university and thereby presents the close interaction between the two elements. This feature has also been reinterpreted in several later universities in the Portuguese world.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

Criterion (vi): be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance;

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the University has had a unique role in disseminating Portuguese literature and ideas through hosting writers and educating elites in the former colonies, and that the exchange continues.

ICOMOS considers that a direct or tangible association to the physical properties of the site which could illustrate the dissemination of these ideas and works has not been demonstrated.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified.

ICOMOS considers that the serial approach is justified.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that conditions of integrity and authenticity have been partly met and criteria (ii) and (iv) have been demonstrated.

Description of the attributes

The attributes carrying Outstanding Universal Value are the location and interrelation of the Coimbra university in the city, including the functional and visual relationships that this generates in the architectural and institutional design, which was referenced in later university developments in the Portuguese worlds as well as the buildings and associated artworks that demonstrate the

characteristic artistic, architectural and urban features of the university.

4 Factors affecting the property

Development pressure arises from the ongoing need for the University to continue to evolve. New buildings that are inappropriate in design or location have the potential to impact negatively on the scale and spatial relationships of the existing buildings. ICOMOS considers that some of the proposals referred to in the nomination dossier fall into that category. Development pressure within the buffer zone relating to rehabilitation of the historic town centre is controlled by the local authority. Development pressure outside the proposed buffer zone has the potential to result in projects that further compromise views of and from within the nominated property. Conversely, the property is vulnerable to lack of funds for ongoing repair and rehabilitation; Sofia currently has no university occupation, which reduces the property's authenticity in use and function.

Alta is occupied by about 16,000 students and a few hundred teachers and staff members. Sofia will have around 750 users and 12,000 occasional users when the College of Graça rehabilitation is complete. The buffer zone has a resident population of 4,311. 164 of the 1,587 buildings are empty. Alta is visited by about 500,000 tourists annually and this number is expected to rise. ICOMOS considers that the present visitor numbers as well as future medium-term increases can be managed adequately.

Environmental pressures relate to humidity and consequent biological growth and are mitigated by regular maintenance. The property is not generally subject to natural disasters. The buildings did not suffer in the 1969 earthquake, which was the most severe in the past 50 years but remain in a zone of seismic activity. Buildings in the proposed buffer zone have a higher vulnerability to potential earthquakes due to their poorer construction. The risk of floods in the Mondego River is controlled by dams. Alta is considered non-floodable due to its high location. Sofia is lower but above the flood limit. Fire protection measures in the Botanical Garden and associated woods include fire fighting infrastructure and access. Evacuation plans and early detection and attack systems are provided in the buildings.

ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are development pressures within the nominated property, its buffer zone and wider setting, the lack of maintenance as well as earthquakes and fires.

5 Protection, conservation and management

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

The boundaries of the two components of the nominated property and its buffer zone are clearly described and delineated on plans in the nomination dossier.

The buffer zone surrounds the two property components and includes their immediate settings. Additional information provided by the State Party in response to ICOMOS' request indicates that the wider surroundings of the properties and buffer zone including views to and from the properties will be protected under the revised Coimbra Municipal Master Plan to be completed in November 2013.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property are adequate and that the boundaries of the buffer zone will be adequate once the revision to the Coimbra Municipal Master Plan is officially approved and implemented.

Ownership

Alta is almost entirely owned by the University of Coimbra. In Sofia private ownership prevails. Most buildings in the buffer zone are privately owned. Ownership is clearly designated on the plan appended as Annex 4 to the additional information provided by the State Party.

Protection

At present, not all buildings of the university complexes enjoy legal protection at the highest national level. However, the nominated property components are in the process of being recognised as protected areas through the administrative mechanisms of Portuguese national legislation. In response to ICOMOS' request for a timeframe for this, the State Party advised that once inscribed on the World Heritage List the properties will be automatically protected as national monuments in accordance with Law 107/2001, no. 7 article 15. Of the 31 buildings selected as the expression of the exceptional value of the nominated property, nine buildings are National Monuments (partially or totally), and accordingly protected by decree with surrounding protection areas. Further seven are designated as Public Interest Buildings, and therefore under the responsibility of the State entities responsible for the National Cultural Heritage. The remaining 15 buildings are located in the Protection Zones or Special Zones of Protection of the former buildings or of other classified buildings or buildings in process of classification also under the responsibility of the State. At present, these enjoy no explicit protective status.

According to the additional information provided by the State party, the buffer zone will be fully covered by a Special Protection Zone to be integrated in the revised Coimbra Municipal Master Plan and protected according to Decree-Law 309/2009, article 72. The official adoption of this revised plan is anticipated for November 2013. The State Party has further advised in its additional information provided in response to ICOMOS's query that the revised Plan will also ensure the protection of views to and from the properties.

ICOMOS considers that the legal protection and protective measures in place will be adequate once the revised Coimbra Municipal Master Plan is officially adopted and implemented.

Conservation

Not all buildings within the nominated property components have been inventoried. Inventories are complete for 29 of the most important building complexes as documented in L5, Master Plans accompanying the nomination dossier. Of the list in Annex 2 of the additional information provided by the State Party, it covers all except the Old Cathedral and Santa Cruz Monastery. Annex 2 indicates that most complexes are in a good or satisfactory state of conservation, with three being unsatisfactory and two being partly unsatisfactory. The College of St Agostinho is shown as requiring in-depth rehabilitation.

ICOMOS considers that Alta is generally well-conserved and that works carried out to date have been adequately documented and recorded. In Sofia a Visual Arts Centre has been successfully created in the former College of the Arts/ Inquisition by the Municipality. The College of Nossa Senhora da Graça is currently undergoing conservation and rehabilitation by the University as a research centre. ICOMOS noted that conservation works are being carried out at the Old Cathedral, and considers that the church of Santa Cruz Monastery also requires conservation. ICOMOS considers that the state of conservation of the non-inventoried buildings in the property ranges from fair to good. According to the nomination dossier, conservation works in accordance with the individual master plans and ongoing maintenance depend on the acquisition of funds. ICOMOS recommends that adequate financial resources are made available to respond to the most immediate conservation needs.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the overall state of conservation is adequate but inventories need to be completed.

Management

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes

As advised by the State Party in response to ICOMOS' request for clarification, management of the nominated property components is the responsibility of the

Association RUAS (Recreate the Univers(c)ity – Uptown and Sofia) set up for the purpose whose foundation members are the University of Coimbra (UC), the City Hall of Coimbra (CMC), the Regional Delegation of the Ministry of Culture (DRCC), and Coimbra Viva (SRU - Society for Urban Rehabilitation). The Association RUAS is headed by a presidency (held alternately by the University of Coimbra and the City Hall of Coimbra) and by an Executive Board which is responsible for carrying out the management plan with the assistance of three Technical Offices staffed by architects, engineers, archaeologists and administrative personnel from each institution. The participation of the owners is articulated through these offices, in place of an Advisory Board. Funds for rehabilitation works until 2013 have been provided through national programs and ongoing funding is provided through the State's annual budget allocation to the University. Risk preparedness is covered by the Municipal Emergency Plan approved in 2009.

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

The Coimbra Municipality is governed by the Municipal Master Plan of 1994 which is currently under revision. According to information from the State Party in response to ICOMOS' request it is expected that the revision process will be completed in November 2013 and will incorporate the nominated property and buffer zone as Special Protected Zones. The detailed University Alta Master Plan of 2001 is under evaluation. The main goal of that is to improve public space in the area by reducing surface parking, and improving vehicular traffic control. A detailed Master Plan has been prepared for the historic town outside and to the west of the nominated property aimed at rehabilitation of the urban area and improvement of open space, and Municipal Regulations control works in this area.

The main goal of the Management Plan as described in the nomination dossier is to sustain the University as the *raison d'être* of the city; preserving the heritage and at the same time reinforcing the functions of education and research in the nominated property. It includes principles and policies, strategies and responsibilities, and action plans for the period 2009-2016 with completion dates and funding requirements. No information is given on when or whether it has been approved. Visitor management will concentrate on Colleges Square, around which are located St. Jerome's College and the Royal College of Arts with their important collections. Just north of this is the College of Jesus and the Chemistry Laboratory which hold the consolidated scientific collections. It is proposed to construct a stone and glass-clad Interpretation and Dissemination Centre to house visitor facilities including a catering unit along the west side of Colleges Square. An underground car park is proposed at D. Dinis Square, which will be the main visitor entry point. Visitors will be guided around specified routes through Alta. Visitors currently have access via guided tours with an entry fee to the University Palace including the Throne Room, Joanine

Library, St. Michael's Chapel and Sacred Art Museum, and the University Tower. In Sofia visitor attractions include the church of Santa Cruz with associated cloister and the nearby Visual Arts centre. Posters giving the history and architectural evolution of the buildings are located in entrance lobbies and other semi-public spaces. Involvement of the local communities

The primary focus within the property to date has been on property in the University's ownership and control, with some projects being carried out by the Municipality; however a stakeholders' meeting held during the visit of the ICOMOS mission indicated the community's desire to be further involved. ICOMOS considers that this consultative involvement would be advantageous to the future of the property and recommends that a stakeholder forum be set up as a means of consultation with RUAS.

ICOMOS considers that current management is adequate but notes that the integration of the buildings not owned by the university could be improved and that several development projects described in the nomination dossier are likely to have a strong impact on the character of the nominated property. Not all are anticipated to have a negative impact, but ICOMOS considers that these projects need to be the subject of Heritage Impact Assessments in accordance with the requirements of *Operational Guidelines* paragraph 110 and the ICOMOS 2011 Guidance, before any of these projects is implemented. ICOMOS also considers that there is a need to address the role that minor buildings within the nominated property should play in sustaining and communicating the values of the significant buildings.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the management system should be extended to include a consultative forum for community and non-government organisation involvement, and the management plan should be extended to include provision for impact assessments for all development projects and policies for minor buildings within the nominated property.

6 Monitoring

The monitoring system relates to a database based on the assessment of the buildings within the nominated property made between 2007 and 2009 and covers indicators including the state of conservation, adaptation and numbers of visitors. According to the nomination dossier it will be carried out by various institutions and it is not stated how they will be co-ordinated. ICOMOS considers that the monitoring system should be augmented through development of detailed monitoring indicators linked to specific responsibilities and timeframes.

ICOMOS considers that the monitoring system is not yet adequate.

7 Conclusions

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property justified Outstanding Universal Value as an outstanding example of an integrated university city, a university which became reference in the Portuguese world through the reproduction of its institutional, architectural and urban organisation.

According to additional information provided by the State Party the component buildings shall be fully protected on the highest national level once the inscription on the World Heritage List will have taken place and the buffer zone protection will be supplemented by controls to be introduced in the revised Coimbra Municipal Master Plan which shall also protect views to and from the property components. ICOMOS considers that legal protection and protective measures for the property will be adequate once the revision of the Coimbra Municipal Master Plan is completed, officially adopted and implemented, which is expected for November 2013.

The overall state of conservation is adequate but inventories need to be completed. Current management is in principle adequate but ICOMOS notes that several development projects proposed will have significant impact on the property and the character of its setting as well as key view connections. Not all of these projects are anticipated to have a negative impact, but ICOMOS recommends that these projects would need to be the subject of Heritage Impact Assessments in accordance with the requirements of *Operational Guidelines* paragraph 110 and the ICOMOS 2011 Guidance, before any of the proposed developments is commenced. There is also a need to address the role that minor buildings within the nominated property should play in sustaining and communicating the values of the significant buildings. ICOMOS considers that stakeholder consultative involvement in management of the property would be beneficial to the future of the property. ICOMOS also considers that the monitoring system would benefit from further augmentation.

8 Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the nomination of University of Coimbra – Alta and Sofia, Portugal, be **referred back** to the State Party in order to allow it to:

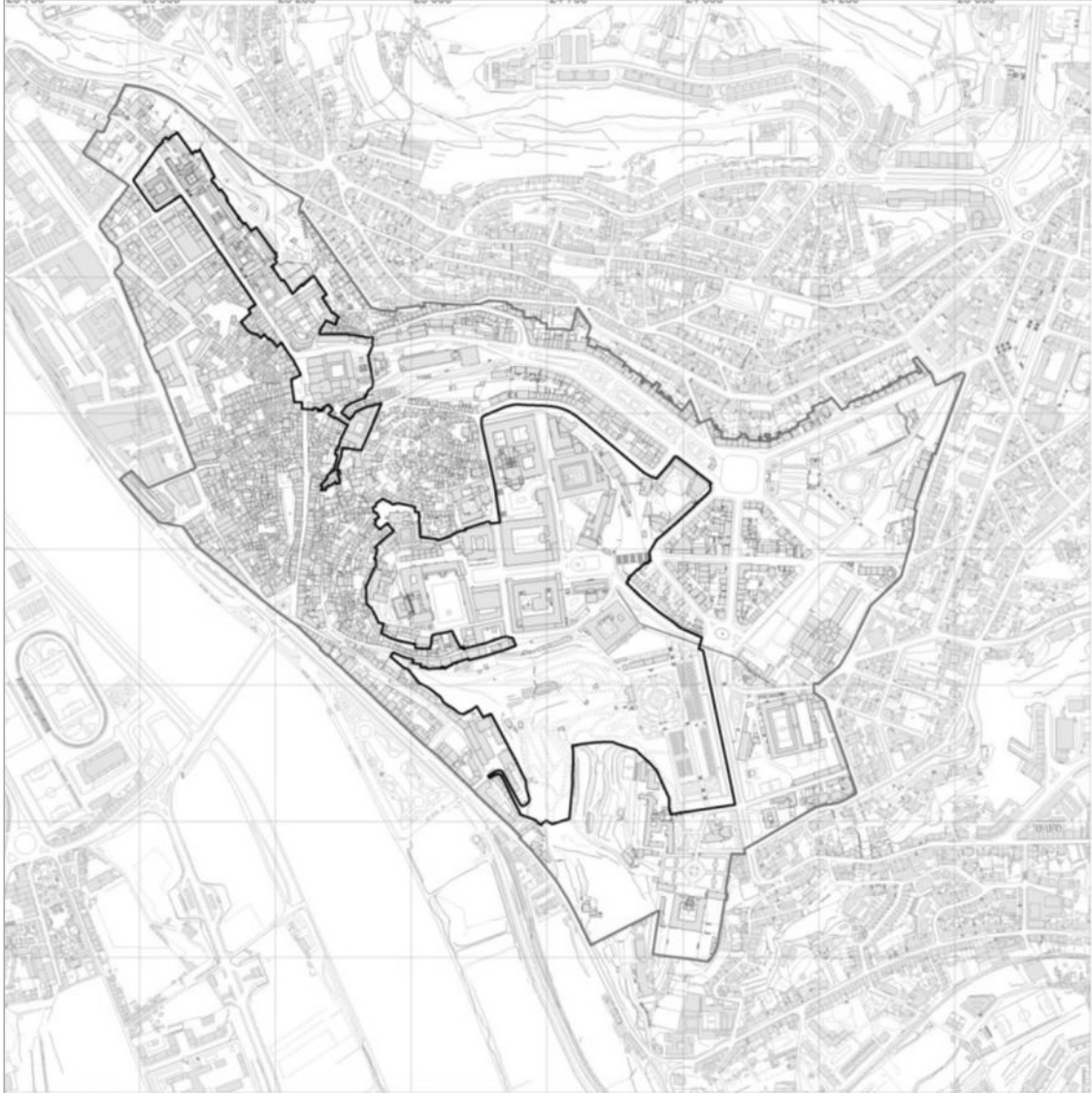
- Strengthen the protection of the wider setting to ensure adequate development regulations for all areas which are visually related to the property and in which developments could have a significant visual impact;
- Complete the process of protecting all components of the property as National Monuments;

- Complete and officially adopt the revised Coimbra Municipal Master Plan to incorporate the nominated property and buffer zone as Special Protection Zones, and integrated height controls for the site's wider setting and important view sheds;
- Extend the management system to integrate the requirement of heritage impact assessments for developments proposed within the property, the buffer zone or the wider setting;
- Augment the monitoring system to include specific indicators, responsibilities and timeframes for monitoring exercises in the different property components.

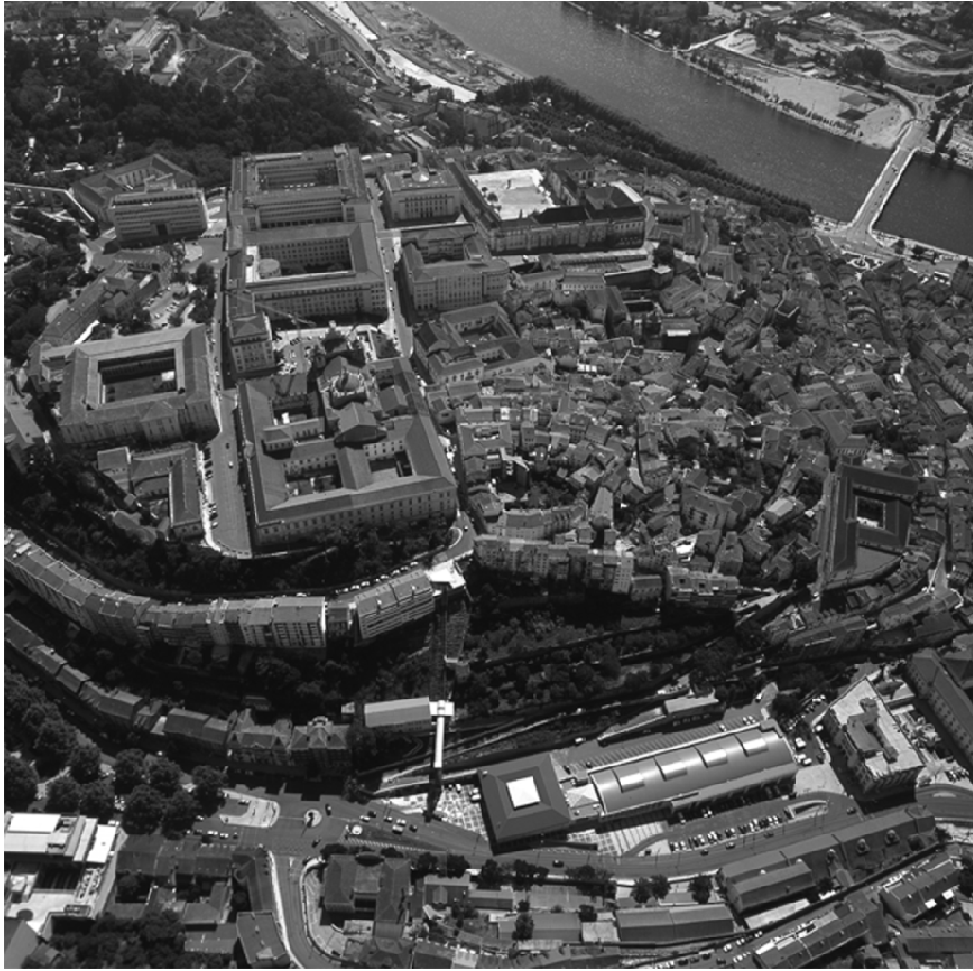
Additional recommendations

ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party give consideration to:

- creating a consultative forum for community and NGO involvement.



Map showing the boundaries of the nominated property



Aerial view of the Alta area



The Via Latina after conservation works



View of Sofia Street towards Alta



Sofia – Former College of the Arts