
Baekje Historic Areas (Republic of Korea) No 1477

Official name as proposed by the State Party

Baekje Historic Areas

Location

Gongju and Buyeo, Chungcheongnam-do
Iksan, Jeollabuk-do
Republic of Korea

Brief description

The Baekje lasted 700 years from 18 BCE to 660 CE and was one of the three earliest kingdoms on the Korean peninsula. The Baekje Historic Areas serial property comprises eight archaeological sites located in the mid-western region of the Republic of Korea. These collectively represent the later period of the kingdom during which there was a considerable interchange of values between China, Korea and Japan (475-660 CE). They are the Gongsanseong fortress and royal tombs at Songsan-ri related to the Ungjin capital Gongju; the Busosanseong Fortress and Gwanbuk-ri administrative buildings, Jeongnimsa Temple, royal tombs in Neungsan-ri and Naseong city wall related to the Sabi capital Buyeo; the royal palace at Wanggung-ri and the Mireuksa Temple in Iksan related to the secondary Sabi capital. Together these sites testify to the adoption by the Baekje of Chinese principles of city planning, construction technology, arts and religion; their refinement by the Baekje and subsequent distribution to Japan and East Asia.

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 eight *sites*.

1 Basic data

Included in the Tentative List

11 January 2010

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination

None

Date received by the World Heritage Centre

28 January 2014

Background

This is a new nomination.

Consultations

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

Technical Evaluation Mission

An ICOMOS technical evaluation mission visited the site from 15 to 20 September 2014.

Additional information received by ICOMOS

A letter was sent to the State Party on 21 August 2014 requesting a map showing the location of the 8 component sites; clarification regarding a large building near the Mireuksa Temple, clarification of ownership, protection within the buffer zone and location and of visitor facilities. A second letter was sent to the State Party following the ICOMOS Panel in December 2014 requesting information on the reconstruction of the western pagoda at the Mireuksa temple, an overall tourism strategy and the periodicity of monitoring of the murals in the tombs. A revised nomination with minor errors corrected and an expansion of the comparative analysis was received on 8 September 2014 and a response to queries was provided to the mission and received on 17 October 2014. A response to ICOMOS' first letter including the requested map was received on 15 November 2014. A response to ICOMOS' second letter was received on 16 February 2015. The information has been incorporated below.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

12 March 2015

2 The property

Description

The nominated serial property comprises eight components which are archaeological sites relating to the three capital cities of the late period of the Baekje Kingdom (475-660 CE). The Baekje was one of the three earliest kingdoms on the Korean peninsula along with the Goguryeo to the north and the Silla to the east. The nominated component properties are the Gongsanseong fortress and royal tombs at Songsan-ri related to the Ungjin capital Gongju; the Busosanseong Fortress and Gwanbuk-ri administrative buildings, Jeongnimsa Temple, royal tombs in Neungsan-ri and Naseong city wall related to the Sabi capital Buyeo; the royal palace at Wanggung-ri and the Mireuksa Temple in Iksan related to the secondary Sabi capital. The sites total 135.10ha and each is surrounded by a buffer zone.

Gongju

Gongsanseong Fortress (Component 1)

The Ungjin capital Gongju was built by the Baekje from 475-538 CE 130km south of Seoul after the capture of their earlier capital Hanseong by the Goguryeo. The fortress is located on a hill beside the Geumgang River outside the city. It enclosed the royal palace and other buildings within defensive walls built of stone and rammed earth technology first developed in China.

Royal Tombs in Songsan-ri (Component 2)

These are located further south along the Geumgang River and include the tomb of King Muryeong and his Queen (Tomb 7) which together with Tomb 6 is a brick chamber tomb with a vaulted ceiling similar to those in China of the period. Other tombs are stone chambers with a corridor and domed ceiling, the traditional type of Baekje tombs. The king's tomb was undisturbed when excavated and contained a coffin made of Japanese wood and tomb guardian beasts and pottery from China, as well as decorative jewellery that indicates connections with Thailand and India.

Buyeo

The capital was moved again in 538 CE to Sabi which is modern-day Buyeo, 35km south-west of Gongju. King Muryeong's successor King Seong relocated to gain more space for development at a site which had direct access to the sea at high tide. The city was located on a peninsula in the curve of the Geumgang River and defended at the rear by the Naseong City Wall. Within this area are the Archaeological Site in Gwanbuk-ri, Busosanseong Fortress and Jeongnimsa Temple site. The Royal Tombs in Neungsan-ri are outside the Naseong City Wall.

Excavations have revealed that the Archaeological Site in Gwanbuk-ri and Busosanseong Fortress (Component 3) comprise the royal palace area including a Buddhist temple site with remnants of earthen platforms edged in tiles. This technique was adopted by the Baekje from China and further developed with decorative edge facing tiles, a treatment which was then adopted by the Silla and in Japan. The Fortress served as a garden during normal times but became a place of refuge in an emergency. The rammed earth technique was used to build the Fortress and the Naseong City Wall (Component 6). A special technique using branches and plants was used for the foundation of the City Wall in swampy areas, reinforced with stone buttresses. Barracks sites, water storage facilities and wooden barricades found within the Fortress indicate its use over 1,000 years.

The Jeongnimsa Temple Site (Component 4) comprises a prayer hall and extant five-storey stone pagoda on axis with the main entrance. Excavations have shown that there was also a lecture hall on axis at the rear and the whole was surrounded by monks' dormitories and linking corridors. Excavated artefacts include clay figurines similar to archaeological findings at the Northern Wei capital in China.

The seven Royal Tombs at Neungsan-ri (Component 5) are the stone chamber with corridor type. They were robbed before they could be excavated but discoveries at the temple site to the west of the tombs indicate that the tombs were those of the Baekje during the Sabi period. The walls of Tomb 1 contain murals depicting the Four Deities and the ceiling is decorated with lotus and cloud designs.

Iksan

The second Sabi capital was built by King Mu (600-641 CE) in Iksan, 50km south of Buyeo with the aim of gaining control over the southern region of the kingdom. The location is connected to the Geumgang and Mangyeonggang Rivers and inland transport routes in an area of extensive agricultural lands. The Archaeological Site in Wanggung-ri (Component 7) was the royal place as attested by excavation and is similar to that at Gwanbuk-ri, Buyeo. It was located on raised, terraced platforms and contained a Buddhist temple with five-storey stone pagoda. It shares its layout and features with ancient royal palaces in China and Japan including a garden with miniature landscape elements and water control facility. There was also a craft workshop attested by the excavated crucibles, blast pipes and gold and silver objects. A large multiple toilet was excavated to the south of the workshop.

The Mireuksa Temple Site (Component 8) at the foot of Mireuksan Mountain is said to represent the largest temple site discovered in East Asia and comprises three parallel pagoda and prayer halls on axis with their entrances, the central being the largest and was enclosed within its own encircling corridor. The whole complex was enclosed by linking corridors with monks' dormitories and lecture hall centrally placed at the rear. The layout accords with Buddhist scriptures describing that Maitreya, the Future Buddha would come from Heaven to save all people with his three teachings. Ancient texts recount that it was built at the request of King Mu's wife following the appearance of the Maitreya triad to the royal couple at that place. The central timber pagoda is no longer extant. The eastern stone pagoda had collapsed and the one on the west was still standing but unstable when excavations began in the 20th century. The relic found in the *sarira* cavity confirmed that the west unit was built in 639 during the reign of King Mu.

History and development

The Baekje dynasty was founded by immigrants from Goguryeo along the Hangang River at Hanseong (now Seoul) which was a central position in relation to trade, building techniques and cultural exchange. Buddhism was introduced to the Baekje on the Korean peninsula in the 4th century. In the 5th-7th centuries the Baekje forged diplomatic relations with Chinese kingdoms by which time Buddhism was widely accepted in central China. In the mid-6th century the Baekje introduced Buddhism to Japan where it was adopted by the royal family. According to historical records the Baekje invited craftsmen from the Chinese southern dynasties and later sent its own craftsmen to Japan. East Asian exchanges involving the Baekje are said to have included city planning, civil engineering and architectural technology and as a result East Asia acquired a common writing system using Chinese characters, a common religion (Buddhism) and Confucian law codes during the 5th-7th centuries.

In the Ungjin period (475-538) the capital city Gongju made use of the natural defensive topography but later in the Sabi period at the Buyeo capital the Baekje adopted

Chinese principles of city planning while at the same time continuing to use natural topography for defensive purposes. In the later Saba period the royal palace at Wanggung-ri illustrates the rectangular planned layout of the East Asian royal palace of the 6th-7th century, similar to Luoyang, capital of the Northern Wei Dynasty.

From the 7th century the Baekje stone pagoda technology spread to Silla, Goryeo and Japan as attested by the similarities at the Silla Bulguksa Temple and in Shiga Prefecture Japan.

Archaeological investigation was first undertaken during the Japanese colonial period in the early 20th century. In 1971 the undisturbed tomb of King Muryeong was discovered and systematic archaeological excavations began in the former Baekje capitals in the 1980s.

3 Justification for inscription, integrity and authenticity

Comparative analysis

The nominated component properties were selected from remnants of the Baekje kingdom's historic capitals at Gongju, Buyeo and Iksan to represent the later period of the Baekje (475-660 CE), providing information on capital planning, the life of the royal family, funeral traditions and religious beliefs of the kingdom at the time and illustrating different aspects testifying to the interchange that evolved between Korea, China and Japan during this period.

An extensive table is provided in the revised nomination dossier comparing the nominated property with others already on the World Heritage List, most of which are not particularly appropriate in terms of the values and period claimed. The most relevant comparison is with Gyeongju Historic Areas, Republic of Korea inscribed in 2000 (criteria (ii) & (iii)). This was the capital of the Silla kingdom whose culture flourished there particularly between the 7th-10th centuries, producing outstanding examples of Korean Buddhist art. It can be seen to follow on from the Baekje kingdom in that techniques were adopted from the Baekje structures and while it has remnants of similar features such as a city wall, royal palaces, fortresses, royal tombs and temples, more than half of these are a few centuries later in date.

The nominated property has been compared with The Historic Monuments and Sites in Kaesong, Democratic People's Republic of Korea inscribed in 2013 (criteria (ii) & (iii)), an ensemble representing the ruling base of the Koryo dynasty (918-1392) with its associated tombs. The ensemble embodies the political, cultural, philosophical and spiritual values of the capital of the unified Koryo state as it transitioned from Buddhist to Confucian philosophy, through the geomantic layout of the city, palace and tomb complexes, the urban defence system of walls and gates, and educational institutions. It can be seen that the Baekje city plan exhibits an earlier stage of development than Kaesong.

In China, the nominated property has been compared with Capital Cities and Tombs of the Ancient Koguryo Kingdom (2004, criteria (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) & (v)) which reigned from 277 BCE to 668 CE. This represents the beginnings of the defensive system later developed by successive dynasties on the Korean peninsula, but not a developed system as evidenced at the Baekje sites. The State Party notes that the directly comparable period of Northern and Southern dynasty capitals in China is not represented on the World Heritage List. What particularly distinguishes Baekje in relation to these is King Muryeong's tomb, discovered intact, whereas royal tombs of the Northern and Southern Wei had been looted and destroyed in the past.

In Japan the nominated property has been compared with Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara (1998, criteria (ii), (iii), (iv) & (vi)), the Japanese capital from 710-784 CE. The city originated from a later period and is said to be modelled on Tang dynasty cities in China and those of the Silla in Korea.

The State Party also compared the nominated property with properties on the Tentative Lists including Historical Relics in Pyongyang covering the period from Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age, Goguryeo, Goryeo and Joseon periods in the north-west of the Korean peninsula, and Asuka-Fujiwara, an ensemble of archaeological sites in the Nara Basin region of Japan. The latter comprise remains of royal palaces, temples and tombs of the period (592-710 CE) which indicate strong influences from China and Korea, testifying to cultural and technical exchanges in East Asia at a slightly later period than the nominated property. There is no evidence of a city wall for defensive purposes.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis shows that the Baekje kingdom occupied a specific chronological period as East Asian cities evolved under the influence of Buddhism. The nomination dossier acknowledges that the specific features of the city type were initiated in the capital cities of the Northern Wei Dynasty of China (386-534 CE) such as Luoyang, but states that the archaeological resources representing the walled city there are insufficient compared with the Baekje sites. ICOMOS notes that the question of Luoyang's influence on the development of Japanese cities has been discussed by scholars. While acknowledging that pre-Tang art forms travelled from China to Japan, often by way of Korea, the possibility of the Baekje capitals being the connecting link for the city plans is not investigated.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies the selection of sites, which together show the evolution of the Baekje capital city within an East Asian context.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this serial 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:

- Evidence of important cultural, religious and technological exchanges between China, Korea and Japan during the Baekje dynasty;
- Exceptional testimony to the Baekje kingdom;
- Demonstrates development of the East Asian capital city.

The serial approach is justified as providing eight components which collectively represent the most significant and influential periods of the Baekje Kingdom. They each contribute different but complementary aspects of the Baekje royal capitals to provide an overall picture which no single component can provide.

ICOMOS considers that the justification is appropriate.

Integrity and authenticity

Integrity

The eight nominated sites were selected from the known and excavated remains of the three Baekje capitals to build up an overall picture of the middle and late history of the Baekje Kingdom as it reached its peak in terms of cultural development involving frequent communication with neighbouring regions. They include sites of royal palaces, royal tombs, fortresses and temples of the Baekje Kingdom during the Ungjin and Sabi periods and present information on capital planning, the life of the royal family, funeral traditions and religious beliefs of the kingdom at the time.

The nominated property components together contain all the elements necessary to embody the values of the property as a whole. The component parts are of sufficient scale to present the historic function of the capital cities and their relationship to their settings.

The boundaries also include elements which illustrate the evolution of the capital cities through subsequent dynasties, including reconstruction and utilization of the pond at the Jeongnimsa Temple Site in the Goguryeo period and utilization of the Gongsanseong and Busosanseong Fortresses and reinforcement and reconstruction of facilities by the Joseon Dynasty. However the Baekje period of the sites is still paramount.

A number of tombs had been looted prior to archaeological excavation. A pumping station in the vicinity of the northern gate of Busosanseong Fortress has impacted visually on the landscape and four families still reside within the Archaeological Site of Gwanbuk-ri. These are subject to planning controls. Otherwise the sites have not been impacted adversely by development.

ICOMOS considers that the integrity of the whole series has been justified; and that the integrity of the individual sites that comprise the series has been demonstrated.

Authenticity

Most elements of the eight component parts of the nominated serial property have suffered human intervention including repairs and restoration to different degrees. At the Gongsanseong Fortress, Joseon period wall sections have been capped with a waterproof material containing cement. After archaeological excavation, the sites of royal palaces and tombs have been properly reburied to preserve their authenticity. Burial mounds have been reconstructed and grassed over after excavation. At the Jeongnimsa Temple Buddhist statues of the Baekje period unearthed during excavation have been placed in a protective building in traditional style on the Lecture Hall site which is not consistent with the form of the Baekje era. The eastern stone pagoda at the Mireuksa Temple Site was reconstructed in its original form with traditional building materials but only a few original parts remain. The western stone pagoda is being repaired using traditional stone masonry techniques. In terms of location and setting, the views from the east of the Five-storey pagoda at the Jeongnimsa Temple Site have been interrupted by new construction to the west. Overall however, ICOMOS considers authenticity to be high.

ICOMOS considers that the authenticity of the whole series has been justified; and that the authenticity of the individual sites that comprise the series has been demonstrated.

ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity of the whole series have been justified; and for individual sites, the conditions of integrity and authenticity have been met.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

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

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 archaeological sites and architecture of the Baekje Historic Areas exhibit the interchange between the ancient East Asian kingdoms in Korea, China and Japan in the development of construction techniques and the spread of Buddhism.

ICOMOS considers that the interchange on developments in architecture and building technology is evident in the fortress wall construction, royal tombs, stone pagodas and building platforms.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been demonstrated.

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 setting of the capital cities, Buddhist temples and tombs, architectural features and stone pagodas contribute in forming the exceptional testimony to the unique culture, religion and artistry of the kingdom of Baekje.

ICOMOS considers that the extent and type of remains demonstrating layout and topographical setting, architecture and technology combine to provide exceptional testimony to the unique culture, history, religion and artistry of the kingdom of Baekje.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been demonstrated.

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 the sites that comprise the Baekje Historic Areas are among the earliest examples clearly expressing the innovative city design marking the start of outer walls encircling the entire city in East Asia, together with the vast influences of Buddhism in the central city layout attesting to the functions of the religion as the ruling ideology. The advanced development of architectural technology is also explicitly presented in the monumental buildings adorned with roof tiles and stone pagodas.

ICOMOS notes that the justification is based on the evidence taken from remains at three former Baekje capital cities of evolution of the Baekje city plan to comprise the spatial layout of royal palace and temples influenced by Buddhism and enclosed by outer walls, with the royal tombs being located outside the walls. However ICOMOS considers that the property is a combination of elements, which although pointing to the development of a type of city plan is in fact a combination of the remains of three separate city plans rather than a single city plan and does not justify the property as an outstanding example of a type in the sense intended in the criterion.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been demonstrated.

ICOMOS considers that the serial approach is justified and that the selection of sites is appropriate.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets criteria (ii) and (iii) and the conditions of authenticity and integrity.

Description of the attributes

The attributes are the sites of royal palaces, royal tombs, fortresses and temples of the Baekje Kingdom during the Ungjin and Sabi periods; the relationship between the selected sites at each capital city (Gongju, Buyeo and Iksan) and topographical features of the settings.

4 Factors affecting the property

According to the nomination dossier the component properties are not subject to development pressure. There are 13 inhabitants of Gwanbuk-ri and Busosanseong Fortress but the other property components have no inhabitants. The number of inhabitants within the buffer zones is less than 100 except in Gwanbuk-ri and Busosanseong Fortress where there are 1,335. ICOMOS notes that the water pump plant at the northern gate of Busosanseong Fortress will not be expanded, and future development in the vicinity of the sites is subject to Urban Construction Control. The intrusive building at Jeongnimsa Temple site will be removed when the opportunity arises.

The Jeongnimsa and Mireuksa Temple Sites and the Archaeological Sites of Gwanbuk-ri and Wanggung-ri are close to residential areas and roads and subject to dust and motor vehicle emission pollution. Studies are underway to investigate treatments to remove pollutants from stone. The other sites are in mountainous areas and while not subject to environmental pollution are more susceptible to natural disaster such as forest fire, storms and floods. These are countered by national risk-preparedness legislation and the Cultural Heritage Administration's safety course run annually on 'Disaster Prevention Day'. In particular, ICOMOS notes that emergency fire plans mean that a response can be made to all component parts within 5 minutes.

Visitor numbers are said to be well within the carrying capacities of the sites and are calculated to still be so in the event of inscription. Current visitor numbers range from 80,877 annually at the Royal Tombs in Neungsan-ri and Naseong City Wall to 680,499 annually at the Mireuksa Temple Site. ICOMOS considers that tourism is a significant factor likely to impact adversely on the property and notes that mitigating measures have already been taken including closure of Tomb 1 of the Royal Tombs of Songsan-ri, which had formerly been open to the public.

ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are tourism and forest fire.

5 Protection, conservation and management

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

The boundaries of the nominated property components follow the exterior of fortress walls and topographical lines where relevant; the exterior of the external boundary walls of the Jeongnimsa and Mireuksa Temple Sites; enclose the width of Naseong City Wall and enclose excavated areas at Gwanbuk-ri and Wanggung-ri. ICOMOS notes that the boundaries either coincide with or enclose a lesser area than the areas protected under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act.

Buffer zone boundaries follow topographical lines and streets and roads and are clearly identifiable. In the case of the fortresses and tombs they enclose landforms and landscapes related to them. They enclose up to 500 metres surrounding the nominated property component as protected under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act and where extending further than that enclose areas protected under the Construction Control Zones of the relevant Historic Cities.

ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property and of its buffer zone are adequate.

Ownership

Most of the nominated property is State-owned. The remaining privately-owned land is less than 10% of the total area and is being continuously purchased.

Protection

The nominated property components are all designated as Historic Sites under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act 1962 amended 2012; the Special Act on the Preservation and Promotion of Ancient Cities 2004, amended 2013 and under local government Cultural Heritage Protection Ordinances: Chungcheongnam-do 2002 and Jeollabuk-do 1999.

The buffer zones are protected under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act up to 500m from the boundaries of the property components. The State Party advised in response to ICOMOS' first letter that where they extend further than 500 metres they are protected under Article 13(3) of that Act. The buffer zones are also protected under the Urban Construction Controls of the Historic Cities legislation which limits the height of new buildings to 8 metres.

ICOMOS notes that it is proposed to improve the street landscape in the buffer zone at Buyeo and that this is funded in the 2015-2020 budget.

ICOMOS considers that the legal protection in place is adequate.

Conservation

The nominated property components have been inventoried for the purposes of assessing their state of conservation and ongoing monitoring. Archaeological investigation and research are continuing at Wanggung-ri.

The property components are considered by the State Party to have been well-maintained since the dates of their designations as Historic Sites. Previous conservation works and archaeological investigations are listed in Tables 4.1-9. Excavations have been back-filled and covered with a protective layer of soil with building layouts outlined on top.

Active conservation works include monitoring of temperature and humidity in royal tombs. At the Songsan-ri and Neungsan-ri royal tomb sites, tombs have been closed to the public to prevent damage to murals and tomb exhibition halls have been created in lieu. The stone pagoda at Jeongnimsa Temple Site has been stabilised and conserved and a movement monitoring system has been installed. At the Mireuksa Temple Site the eastern stone pagoda was reconstructed based on the extant but unstable western pagoda. The latter is currently enclosed within a temporary building while being dismantled and restored. In response to ICOMOS' second letter, the State Party provided detailed information on the restoration process being undertaken. ICOMOS considers the process to be satisfactory.

ICOMOS considers that conservation is adequate and that no emergency measures are currently required.

Management

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes

The property components are currently managed by the central government's Cultural Heritage Administration and the relevant local governments. Gongju Municipality which manages Gongsanseong Fortress and the Royal tombs in Songsan-ri has 58 personnel engaged in various aspects of cultural heritage management. Buyeo, which is responsible for the Archaeological Site in Gwanbuk-ri and Busosanseong Fortress; the Royal Tombs in Neungsan-ri, the Jeongnimsa Temple Site and Naseong City Wall has over 54; and Iksan which is responsible for the Archaeological Site in Wanggung-ri and the Mireuksa Temple Site has more than 68. The latter also look after the Wanggung-ri and Mireuksaji Relics Museums. Staff training is available at the Korea National University of Cultural Heritage. Expertise and training are also available from the Association of Korean Cultural Heritage Repairmen, the Association of Cultural Heritage Technicians and the Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation. Funding is derived from State allocations (70%), provincial government sources (15%) and from local government (15%). The budget for expenditure in line with the Management Plan for 2015-2019 is US \$63,258,000.

A Baekje Historic Areas nomination office was set up in May 2012 to manage the nomination process. This is being replaced by the Baekje Historic Areas Conservation and Management Foundation as the integrated management body from the middle of 2014. This will have input from central, provincial and local authorities as well as community associations through the Community Council, which in turn co-ordinates three Local Community Councils set up under each municipality involving 50-60 staff. A Disaster Management Plan is included in the Management Plan.

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

A number of Provincial and Municipal Plans relate to the areas in which the nominated property components are located. There are also National and Provincial Tourism Plans. The preservation of Baekje Historic Areas is a key focus of these plans aimed at tourism. In addition there is the Plan for the Establishment of a Baekje History and Culture City (Chungcheongnam-do provincial government) and individual Ancient City Preservation Plans 2009-17 (Gongju, Buyeo and Iksan municipal governments). There are also individual conservation plans for the various sites within the nominated property components. With the nomination of the property to the World Heritage List, a Conservation and Management Plan was developed to integrate all the agencies responsible for the three components with the aim of ensuring maintenance of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value. This was agreed via a Memorandum of Understanding between the Korean central government and the local governments on 22 December 2011 for the period 2015-2019. It includes a Visitors Management Plan, which covers the development of visitor programs, information materials and web sites, but ICOMOS considered that given the focus of provincial and local governments on tourism this needed to be extended to cover visitor management including restrictions on numbers at particular sites. In response to ICOMOS' second letter, the State Party has provided outlines for the development of an overall tourism management strategy and visitor management plans for each component part under the auspices of the Baekje Historic Areas Conservation and Management Foundation set up in September 2014 to oversee management of the total property. The integrated Tourism Management Plan will be completed in May 2015.

As detailed in the additional information provided by the State Party, small on-site museums are provided at the Royal Tombs in Songsan-ri, Busosanseong Fortress, Jeongnimsa Temple Site, Royal Tombs at Neungsan-ri, Archaeological Site in Wanggung-ri and Mireuksa Temple Site. National museums in Gongju and Buyeo display important collections of cultural relics dating from the Baekje period found in the region. Sites open to the public have uniformly designed signs and some also carry a code which can be read by visitors with a mobile

phone or other portable reading device to obtain three-dimensional presentations and other interpretative material. Government and research institute web sites carry sections on the Baekje culture and sites, and a series of lectures and educational projects has been organized for the public, especially students.

Involvement of the local communities

The Local Community Councils for World Heritage Management set up under each municipality are responsible for conservation and management, utilization and publicity, and coordinating community participation.

ICOMOS notes that local residents participate in daily cleaning of the sites and their settings; patrolling and monitoring the sites; guiding in museums and at sites and in educational activities.

ICOMOS considers that the current management is effective.

ICOMOS considers that the management system for the overall serial property is adequate, and notes the State Party's programme for development of an overall tourism management strategy for the nominated property as well as a visitor management plan for each component part.

6 Monitoring

A monitoring system is set out in the nomination dossier covering indicators, periodicity and records location for all property components. Table 6.10 also sets out the responsible monitoring authorities for each component. ICOMOS noted that the periodicity of monitoring the conservation status of the murals and internal environmental changes in the tombs is set at once every five years and considered that this may be inadequate. In response to ICOMOS' query, the State Party has advised that legislation is currently underway to provide for full study monitoring every three years, and clarified that temperature and humidity are monitored daily.

ICOMOS considers that the monitoring system is adequate.

7 Conclusions

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this serial property for the World Heritage List; that the serial approach is justified and the selection of sites is appropriate. ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets criteria (ii) and (iii) and conditions of authenticity and integrity. The attributes are the sites of royal palaces, royal tombs, fortresses and temples of the Baekje Kingdom during the Ungjin and Sabi periods; the relationship between the selected sites

at each capital city (Gongju, Buyeo and Iksan) and topographical features of the settings.

ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are tourism and forest fire. ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property and of its buffer zone are adequate; legal protection in place is adequate, and the protective measures for the property are adequate. Conservation is adequate and no emergency measures are currently required. ICOMOS considers that the management system for the overall serial property is adequate but in noting that the focus of provincial and local plans is on tourism, welcomes the State Party's advice that the management system and plans will be extended to include an overall tourism management strategy for the nominated property as well as a visitor management plan for each component part.

8 Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that Baekje Historic Areas, Republic of Korea, be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iii)**.

Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

Located in the mountainous mid-western region of the Republic of Korea, the remains of three capital cities collectively represent the later period of the Baekje Kingdom as it reached its peak in terms of cultural development involving frequent communication with neighbouring regions. The Baekje lasted 700 years from 18 BCE to 660 CE and was one of the three earliest kingdoms on the Korean peninsula. The Baekje Historic Areas serial property comprises eight archaeological sites dating from 475-660 CE including the Gongsanseong fortress and royal tombs at Songsan-ri related to the Ungjin capital Gongju; the Busosanseong Fortress and Gwanbuk-ri administrative buildings, Jeongnimsa Temple, royal tombs in Neungsan-ri and Naseong city wall related to the Sabi capital Buyeo; the royal palace at Wanggung-ri and the Mireuksa Temple in Iksan related to the secondary Sabi capital. Together these sites testify to the adoption by the Baekje of Chinese principles of city planning, construction technology, arts and religion; their refinement by the Baekje and subsequent distribution to Japan and East Asia.

Criterion (ii): The archaeological sites and architecture of the Baekje Historic Areas exhibit the interchange between the ancient East Asian kingdoms in Korea, China and Japan in the development of construction techniques and the spread of Buddhism.

Criterion (iii): The setting of the capital cities, Buddhist temples and tombs, architectural features and stone pagodas of the Baekje Historic Areas contribute in forming exceptional testimony to the unique culture, religion and artistry of the kingdom of Baekje.

Integrity

The nominated property components together contain all the elements necessary to embody the values of the property as a whole. The component parts are of sufficient scale to present the historic function of the capital cities and their relationship to their settings. Apart from the pumping station in the vicinity of the northern gate of Busosanseong Fortress and the remaining residential accommodation within the Archaeological Site of Gwanbuk-ri, the sites have not been impacted adversely by development or neglect.

Authenticity

Most elements of the eight component parts of the nominated serial property have suffered human intervention including reparation and restoration to different degrees. Materials and techniques used have largely been traditional. The forms of tombs and temples have been retained. The temple sites are now to some extent islands amongst low scale urban development but the settings of the fortresses and tombs largely retain their forested setting in a mountain landscape.

Management and protection requirements

The nominated property components are all designated as Historic Sites under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act 1962 amended 2012; the Special Act on the Preservation and Promotion of Ancient Cities 2004, amended 2013 and under local government Cultural Heritage Protection Ordinances: Chungcheongnam-do 2002 and Jeollabuk-do 1999. The buffer zones are protected under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act up to 500m from the boundaries of the property components and under the Urban Construction Controls of the Historic Cities legislation which limits the height of new buildings to 8 metres.

The property is managed by the Baekje Historic Areas Conservation and Management Foundation with input from central, provincial and local authorities as well as community associations through the Community Council, which in turn co-ordinates three Local Community Councils. The Community Councils set up under the three municipalities of Gongju, Buyeo and Iksan are responsible for conservation and management, utilization and publicity, and coordinating community participation. An overall Conservation and Management Plan for 2015-2019 was developed to integrate all the agencies responsible for the three components with the aim of ensuring maintenance of Outstanding Universal Value. This is currently being extended to include an overall tourism management strategy for the property as well as a visitor management plan for each component part.

Additional recommendations

ICOMOS recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- Completing the management system and plans as proposed to include an overall tourism management strategy for the nominated property as well as visitor management plans for each component part directed at retention of Outstanding Universal Value;
- Adjusting as proposed the periodicity of monitoring of the conservation status of the murals and internal environmental changes in the tombs.



Map showing the location of the nominated properties



Gongsanseong Fortress



Royal Tombs in Neungsan-ri



Jeongnimsa Temple Site



Royal Palace at Wanggung-ri