

ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

Our Ref. GB/AS/1527/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 19 December 2016

H. E. Mr Stefan Krawielicki
Permanent Delegation of Germany to
UNESCO
Maison de l'UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15

World Heritage List 2017

Cave with the oldest Ice Age art (Germany) – Interim report

Dear Sir,

As prescribed by the revised Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention and its Annex 6, the Advisory Bodies have been requested to submit a short interim report for each nomination by 31 January 2017. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation process.

On 22 August 2016, the State Party sent a letter to ICOMOS describing potential development projects in the area surrounding the proposed property.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to “Caves with the oldest Ice Age art” was carried out by Mr Marcel Otte (Belgium) from 30 August to 2 September 2016. The mission expert highly appreciated the availabilities and support provided by the experts in your country for the organization and implementation of the mission.

On 27 September 2016, a letter requesting additional information was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding the proposed developments, their potential effects and approval process. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 25 October 2016 and for their continued cooperation in this process.

At the end of November 2016, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2017. The additional information, together with mission and desk review reports were carefully examined by the Panel members. This process will conclude in March 2017.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on 24 November 2016 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. During its last part meeting, the ICOMOS Panel has identified areas where it considers that further information is needed. Therefore, we would be pleased if the State Party could consider the following points:

Documentation

The ICOMOS Panel notes that the summary language in the statement of significance is at times overly poetic and departs from the nature of the arguments that had been proposed in the body of the nomination dossier. In particular, there were discussions on the wording that describes the links between the places and the finds, such as the characterization that the caves were workshops. We would be pleased if the State Party could provide evidence which points to the caves themselves as the locations of manufacture of the figurines or objects of adornment from ivory.

Development projects

ICOMOS would be grateful as well to receive a further update information on the state of nearby wind power proposals.

Tourism management

In addition, could the State Party describe the plans which would respond to increased visitation to the property? Is there a maximum tourist capacity that is predicted, and what measures would be taken if that capacity is reached?

Title of the property

Finally the ICOMOS Panel invites the State Party to choose a different name for the property that does not have the superlative "oldest," because as the dossier notes, it is probable that other older finds of art will be made elsewhere.

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

We would be grateful if you could provide ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre with the above information by **28 February 2017 at the latest**, the deadline set out in paragraph 148 of the Operational Guidelines for supplementary information on nominations to be received. Please note that any information submitted after this date will not be considered by ICOMOS in its evaluation for the World Heritage Committee. It should be noted, however, that while ICOMOS will carefully consider any supplementary information submitted, it cannot properly evaluate a completely revised nomination or large amounts of new information submitted at the last minute. So we request to keep your response concise and respond only to the above requests.

We thank you for your support of the World Heritage Convention and the evaluation process.

Yours faithfully,



Gwenaëlle Bourdin
Director
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

Copy to Ministry of Finance and Economics Baden-Württemberg
UNESCO World Heritage Centre