

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/1551/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 19 December 2016

H. E. Ms Ruchira Kamboj
Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO Maison
de l'UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15

World Heritage List 2017

Historic City of Ahmadabad (India) – Interim report

Dear Madam,

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.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to the "Historic City of Ahmadabad" was carried out by Mr Adel Farhangi Shabestari (Iran) from 27 September to 1 October 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 19 October 2016, a letter requesting additional information was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding the boundaries, the Outstanding Universal Value, the integrity and authenticity, the comparative analysis, factors affecting the property, protection and management. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 15 November 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 25 November 2016 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. During the final part of the ICOMOS Panel meeting that followed, the ICOMOS Panel has identified areas where it considers that further information is needed.

While the ICOMOS Panel considered that the "Historic City of Ahmadabad" might have the potential to meet the requirements for Outstanding Universal Value, this has not yet been demonstrated.

Therefore, we would be pleased if the State Party could consider the following points:

Documentation

Could the State Party provide ICOMOS with photographic documentation of the central area of the nominated property, around the Bhadra Fort and Jamie Mosque from different directions and also photographic survey of the boundaries of the nominated property? This photographic documentation is required to enable ICOMOS Panel to assess the integrity of the nominated property with regards to development pressures inside and outside the proposed boundaries.

Could the State Party provide ICOMOS with full documentation of the historic buildings of the nominated property (plans, sections, elevations and technical information for each building), including private houses and less grand valuable buildings? The required documentation is necessary for effective monitoring, management and conservation of the historic city, as concerns regarding the effectiveness of the management system were raised by ICOMOS Panel members during its November meeting.

Boundaries

Could the State Party extend the western boundaries of the nominated property so that to re-establish the historic connection of the Historic City of Ahmedabad with the river, and expand the western boundaries of the buffer zone to include the width of the river and the two bridges in order to secure the visual integrity of the property as well as to secure its protection from development pressures of the modern city of Ahmadabad?

Conservation

While the availability of traditional craftsmen is a great asset to the conservation of the historic houses, the State Party is required to explain how the conditions for integrity and authenticity would be observed during interventions made by traditional craftsmen, particularly with regards to private houses and buildings. Could the State Party consider the establishment of a conservation plan for the wooden historic houses of the nominated property and provide a timetable for its implementation?

Management

Could the State Party provide ICOMOS with the status of the Heritage Management Plan for the nominated property, which is identified in DP2012, AUDA, Chapter 10, and the dates of its approval by the authorities as the legal document for site management, and the dates of its actual implementation?

Could the State Party provide ICOMOS with the modifications and additions to the development control regulations (DCR) and the dates by which they are finalized, ratified and implemented?

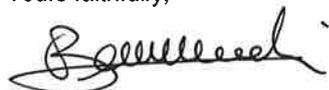
Could the State Party provide ICOMOS with the Local Area Plan for the nominated property, and the relevant maps identifying the Heritage Areas, and outlining the detailed measures for their management and the dates by which they will be finalized, ratified and implemented?

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 Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation
UNESCO World Heritage Centre