

# 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/1536/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 19 December 2016

H. E. Mr Klavs Arnoldi Holm  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,  
Permanent Representative of Denmark to  
OECD, Permanent Delegate  
Maison de l'UNESCO  
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World Heritage List 2017

## **Kujataa: a subarctic farming landscape in Greenland (Denmark) – 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.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to "Kujataa: a subarctic farming landscape in Greenland" was carried out by Mr Christoph Rivet (Canada) from 12 to 18 September 2016. The mission expert highly appreciated the availabilities and support provided by the experts in your country for the organisation and implementation of the mission.

On 17 October 2016, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding the environmental context of subarctic farming, the selection of the components, the operation and status of the Steering Group and Management Group, mining, the energy and infrastructure developments, the planning for tourism and interpretation, and the status of the Executive Order on Cultural Heritage Protection. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information provided on 14 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 24 November 2016 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. During the final part of the Panel meeting that followed, the Panel has identified areas where it considers that further information is needed.

While the ICOMOS Panel considered that "Kujataa: a subarctic farming landscape in Greenland" might have the potential to meet the requirements for Outstanding Universal Value, this has not yet been clearly demonstrated.

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

### **Cultural Landscape**

ICOMOS understands that the two historical periods of farming are the focus of the justification for Outstanding Universal Value in this nomination. However, to better appreciate these within the larger geographic, cultural and historical contexts, it would be appreciated if the State Party can provide concise text (with a series of overlay maps, if available) that show the sequencing of human uses of the larger landscape of southern Greenland – including:

- Locations of all Norse farming sites in Greenland.
- Locations, sites and processes in the hunting of marine mammals and fishing by Norse and Inuit farmers in southern Greenland.
- Locations, sites and chronologies of Thule Inuit occupation of southern Greenland.

### **Selection of Components**

ICOMOS appreciates the additional information provided in November 2016 concerning the rationale for the selection of the five components. The ICOMOS Panel considers that the contents of each component have been clarified. However, what is still under consideration is the specific and necessary contribution of each component to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property as a whole. Perhaps this could be asked from the perspective of understanding whether and how the proposed Outstanding Universal Value would be detrimentally affected if each of the five components was not included?

### **Attributes of Inuit Farming (1780s to current period)**

ICOMOS would like to more precisely understand the attributes of the Inuit farming that contribute to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value. While continuing cultural landscapes are by definition dynamic, the ICOMOS Panel is concerned to better understand whether the attributes associated with this period of farming could be adversely affected by future agricultural intensification or industrialization (or change in existing or additional residential or tourism developments, etc). To understand the dynamics of change in such cultural landscapes, it is critically important to define the attributes in more detail than is currently the case.

### **Comparative Analysis**

While the comparative analysis provided includes useful information and perspectives, a fully analysis needs to also include the Danish Tentative List property Aasivissuit-Nipisat: Inuit Hunting Ground between Ice and Sea; the transnational Tentative List property of Viking Monuments and Sites (Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Norway); and the Canadian Tentative List property of Quttinirpaaq.

### **Potential Impacts of Future Mining Development**

Information and maps about possible future mining projects in southern Greenland were provided in the Additional Information dated 14 November 2016. ICOMOS notes that the nominated components do not include mining proposals, and that a ban on mining has been established for these areas. However, future mining activities might involve infrastructure developments and roads that extend beyond the mining activity itself. The ICOMOS Panel is concerned to fully appreciate all the impacts on these areas that might occur in the future should these mining projects proceed. While future developments might be difficult to foresee in detail, further information on these potential impacts would be appreciated.

### **Buffer Zones**

While the Operational Guidelines do not require buffer zones in all cases, the ICOMOS Panel is concerned that they have not been provided for the five components, particularly given the close proximity of potential mining activity (and associated industrial/infrastructure works) to each of them. Could the State Party consider creating buffer zones for the five components to ensure that they are sufficiently protected from these potential impacts?

### **Tourism Planning**

While ICOMOS appreciates that this is a continuing process, it would be appreciated if further information confirming that the needed expertise and financial resources are available for this work.

### **Name of the Property**

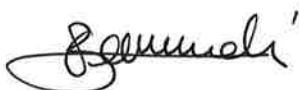
The ICOMOS Panel has questioned whether a slight change to the name of the property might be possible in order to more clearly communicate that farming has occurred over more than one cultural/historical period. The State Party's views about this possibility would be useful.

We look forward to your responses to these points, which will be of great help in our continuing 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 Education, Culture, Research and Church  
UNESCO World Heritage Centre