

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/1539/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 20 December 2016

H. E. Ms Krystyna Zurek
Permanent Delegation of the Republic of
Poland to UNESCO
Maison de l'UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15

World Heritage List 2017

**Tarnowskie Góry Lead-Silver-Zinc Mine and its Underground Water Management System (Poland) –
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 "Tarnowskie Góry Lead-Silver-Zinc Mine and its Underground Water Management System" was carried out by Mr Michel Cotte (France) from 29 August to 4 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 14 October 2016, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information on the following issues: rationale for the definition of the boundaries of the nominated property, strategies to counteract the factors affecting the properties and on planned projects mentioned in the nomination dossier. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you 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 25 November 2016 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. The exchanges during this meeting were of great help for the third part of the ICOMOS Panel meeting. During its last part of the meeting, the ICOMOS Panel has identified areas which would require the need to review, augment and possibly reconfigure the nomination dossier.

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

Justification for inscription

The ICOMOS Panel understood that the focus of this nomination is the underground mining and water management systems and refer to two major periods of mining exploitation – from the late 15th to the early 17th century and later from the late 18th to the early 20th century. ICOMOS would like to have a more precise understanding of what survives from the two periods in terms of tangible attributes supporting the justification for inscription and how both below and above ground structures have been selected among the surviving ones. This extends also to those features related to the water management system.

The ICOMOS Panel found interesting the use and adaptation of the dewatering system of the mines to supply water to the town and the emerging industrialisation of Upper Silesia and would like to receive more information on how the system was adapted to such purpose, how the system was set up, what steam machinery was used – either imported from the United Kingdom or then produce in Upper Silesia – what infrastructures were created from the origin to the delivery points, what survives of this system from the epoch of their realisation, either in place or in museums in the area, in order to better understand how this narrative could be supported by actual surviving attributes.

Comparative analysis

The ICOMOS Panel has found that the comparative analysis would need to be expanded to consider also the aspect of water supply, as it now focuses mainly on mining sites. Also, the aspect of the use and adaptation of the steam engine system needs to be addressed in the comparative analysis in order to support the justification for inscription.

Documentation

The ICOMOS Panel found useful the tridimensional sketches depicting the underground system and its relation to the above ground structures provided in the November additional information. However, it also found that the technical documentation on the current configuration of the nominated property and particularly on the below ground system appears still at its preliminary stages and would require to be fully developed in order to, on one side, allow the understanding of how the mining, dewatering and later supply systems worked and, on the other side, develop the type and quality of documentation of the features supporting the values of the nominated property that is needed to ensure their proper protection and management.

Protection

The ICOMOS Panel noted that not all the features included in the nominated property are legally protected: the additional information provided by the State Party in November mentioned a time frame only for some of them. In this regard, it would be useful to receive detailed information on this point for all the features that still await legal protection.

With regard to the buffer zone, the November additional information clarifies that the boundaries of the buffer zone do not coincide exactly with the Natura 2000 site. In this regard, it would be useful if a map reporting all layers of protection for the nominated property and the buffer zone can be provided and if the State Party could explain how the parts of the buffer zone not covered by the Natura 2000 declaration will be protected. The ICOMOS Panel noted that the Natura 2000 provisions aims at the protection of specific habitats of fauna and flora and not at protecting the attributes of the nominated property. Therefore, these provisions may not necessarily suffice as an added layer of protection as required by the Operational Guidelines. It has been understood that other 'special layers of protection' are being prepared and it would be important to receive more detailed information on the type of protection measures being developed and on the timeframe for their finalisation and implementation.

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 would be grateful if the State Party could keep its 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gwenaëlle Bourdin', written in a cursive style.

Gwenaëlle Bourdin
Director
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

Copy to Tarnowskie Góry Lovers' Association
 UNESCO World Heritage Centre