
Aphrodisias (Turkey) No 1519

Official name as proposed by the State Party

Aphrodisias

Location

District of Karacasu, Province of Aydin
Turkey

Brief description

Aphrodisias is located in southwestern Turkey in the upper valley of the Morsynus River. The temple to Aphrodite dates to the 3rd century BCE; and the city was founded in the 2nd century BCE as part of an urban expansion of Hellenistic culture in southwestern Anatolia. The city's wealth came from the marble quarries and the art produced by its sculptors; and the city is elaborately decorated. A grid of city streets is set around several large civic structures including temples, a theatre, an agora, a council house and two bath complexes. A sculptor's workshop is found in the centre of the city complete with carving tools, unfinished sculptures and practice pieces. A large stadium is at the north end of the city, near a monumental gateway (the tetrapylon). A city wall surrounds the whole, made of reused marble blocks. Marble quarries are situated on a hill north of the city, two to three kilometres to the northeast. These were the source of the stone used to build the city and to carve sculptures in the workshops. The temple was made into a church around 500 CE; but the city's population declined, and it was abandoned in the 14th century.

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 2 *sites*.

1 Basic data

Included in the Tentative List

6 February 2009

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination

None

Date received by the World Heritage Centre

27 January 2016

Background

This is a new nomination.

Consultations

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

Technical Evaluation Mission

An ICOMOS technical evaluation mission visited the property from 25 to 30 September 2016.

Additional information received by ICOMOS

On 30 September 2016, a letter requesting additional information was sent by ICOMOS to the State Party to request further information regarding the boundaries of the quarries, statements of integrity, authenticity and the state of conservation of the quarries and a new map of the entire property. A reply and new map of the quarry component was received from the State Party, dated 4 November 2016.

An Interim Report was provided to the State Party in January 2017 summarising the issues identified by the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel. A reply from the State Party was received on 23 February 2017 supplying a description and history of the quarries, information about quarrying techniques and ownership, the use of marble at Aphrodisias and more comparative information about quarrying in the wider Roman context.

All additional information received from the State Party has been incorporated into the relevant sections below.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

10 March 2017

2 The property

Description of the Serial Nomination

The serial property consists of two components. The first component encompasses the archaeological site of Aphrodisias following the city walls that encircle the city; and the second component includes the marble quarries located northeast of the city.

Set in the basin of the upper Morsynus River, Aphrodisias is built in a wide valley with mountains to the northeast, south and west. It is 520 metres above sea level. Monumental buildings in the city centre are surrounded by a regular grid of city streets that extend out to the wall surrounding the city. All the constructions are made from white marble from the nearby quarries.

Some of the central monuments are not aligned to the city grid; one example is the Temple of Aphrodite, one of the earliest of the city's major constructions. Ionic columns created an 8.5 by 31 metre enclosure in the first version of the temple; and it was elaborated over time with added rows of outer columns. Cult images of the Aphrodite of Aphrodisias are characterised by an original cult statue embodying Anatolian and Hellenistic characteristics. Examples of this statue have been found here and in other centres across the Roman Empire. At the end of the

5th century CE the temple was rebuilt into an early Christian church with a nave and apse. Its roof burned c. 1200 CE and today 14 columns, parts of the outer walls and apse remain standing. East of the temple is the Tetracylon, a gateway to the sanctuary for Aphrodite. Built in the 2nd century CE, it has marble scenes of Aphrodite and Eroses hunting. It was rebuilt c. 400 CE and as 85% of the original blocks remained, was subjected to anastylosis in the 1980s.

The theatre is at the south end of the city's core, built into an artificial mound that contains evidence for earlier settlement at Aphrodisias dating to 600 BCE. The cavea (seats for the audience) was built into the hill, facing an orchestra and stage building. At its largest, it seated 7000 people. A wall on the north side of the theatre is covered with inscriptions that describe the patronage and history of construction of the city's buildings and the privileges the city was granted under different emperors.

In between the theatre and temple is the other early monument, the North Agora. This civic and commercial space was surrounded by a large colonnaded square. On its north side is the Bouleuterion. Originally roofed, its auditorium could hold 1700 people and it served as a council house. Located to one side is a sculptor's workshop, occupying two rooms and an open yard. Possibly originally used during the construction of the Bouleuterion, it stayed in production afterwards specialising in the production of portraits and statues. Finds include carving tools, unfinished sculptures and practice pieces. The South Agora is another large colonnaded square, with a large ornamental pool in the middle.

Other monuments in the city centre are public baths dedicated to the emperor Hadrian. Many fine sculptures were found here, both portraits of people and figures from mythology. Then there is the Sebasteion, a temple complex dedicated to the first emperors, the Julio-Claudians. Its two parallel porticos are 80 m long and 14 m wide. The upper storeys feature life sized relief sculptures depicting Roman emperors, peoples of the Roman empire and heroes and gods of myth. Its reconstruction was the most recent major anastylosis project at Aphrodisias.

The stadium is at the north end of the city. It has two curved ends and the sides are slightly bowed out. As a result, all of the 30,000 seats had a clear view of the entire field. Inscriptions mark reserved seats for individuals or groups. The city walls enclose the north, east and west sides of the stadium and the rest of the city grid. A new museum building is located in the east sector of the city where the old village of Geyre stood, along with some former houses that are used by administration and the excavation team.

The marble quarries are 2 to 3 kilometres northeast of the city, spread along the side of one hill and other smaller ridges. They were from a half hour to 45 minute walk from the city, and there is no trace of a settlement near the

quarries. High quality white marble and rarer grey and white bicolour pieces were cut from the quarry faces, lowered onto sleds and where slope was less steep, transferred to wagons to be brought into the city. Seventy-eight quarries have been identified and in total, 90,000 m³ of marble has been removed from them for use in building the city and for making sculpture in its workshops.

The additional information provided in February 2017 provides more information on the quarries, describing the methods used to extract a block of marble from a quarry face. Picks and wedges were the primary tools and natural joints in the rock were used to advantage when selecting pieces for removal. Wedges were driven into holes picked into the rock to create cracks and split blocks off the quarry face. Narrow channels were picked into the rock as another way to promote cracks along desired lines. In some places, both channeling and wedge-holes were used in combination. Some channels were wide enough for a worker to stand in.

ICOMOS notes contradictions between the nomination dossier and the additional information received in February 2017. The dossier describes the quarries and sculpting as the city's source of wealth, "the prosperity of the city has been attributed to the exploitation and exportation of marble" (page 25). The additional information says that "the marble industry did little to generate wealth for the city as a whole. On the contrary, the marble industry was itself sustained by other sources of wealth" such as the fertile soils surrounding the city that allowed a workforce to be easily fed.

The additional information states that no unfinished blocks are found within the quarry, but ICOMOS notes that one portion of the quarry contains several examples of partially finished blocks.

History and development

Archaeological traces at Aphrodisias date as far back as the mid-5th millennium BCE, but the remains of the first temple to Aphrodite dates to the 3rd century BCE. The city of Aphrodisias itself was founded in the 2nd century BCE as part of an urban expansion of Hellenistic culture in southwestern Anatolia at that time.

During the first Mithraditic War 90-85 BCE, Aphrodisias supported Rome and it was awarded certain privileges. While it politically fell under the influence of Rome, the city retained a heavy Hellenistic influence. At its peak, the city had 12,000 inhabitants. A new temple to Aphrodite was begun in 30 BCE. Inscriptions state that its benefactor was Gaius Julius Zoilos, the unofficial representative of Octavian at that time. Zoilos also sponsored construction of the stage building at the theatre. These two structures were the earliest of the city's monuments along with the North Agora and the earliest version of the Bouleuterion. The Sebasteion was built soon after early in the first century CE.

The abundant marble, skills and wealth led to buildings in the city being elaborately decorated. Many inscriptions

are still visible - 2000 have been recorded to date. The early years of the empire saw the greatest use of marble in the city's buildings as measured by volume. During the high empire, the 2nd and 3rd centuries CE, the temple to Aphrodite was expanded and the Tetrapylon was erected as the entrance to its sanctuary. Bath complexes were built, as were additions to the South Agora and the Bouleuterion took its finished form. The city continued to prosper, becoming the capital of the province of Caria and then in 325 CE, the seat of a bishop. Major earthquakes struck between 350 and 360 CE and after this the city wall was erected. Inscriptions indicate that stones from tombs and other structures were repurposed to make the walls. The temple was remade into a church around 500 CE. Just after 600 CE, another major earthquake damaged much of the city and its population declined greatly. It remained under Byzantine rule until 1078 CE and was finally abandoned in the 14th century.

The village of Geyre was founded in the same location in the 15th or 16th century and existed in the eastern part of the ancient city until another earthquake in 1957 led to the decision to move the village to its present location one kilometre northwest of Aphrodisias.

Excavations were begun during the early decades of the 20th century by French and then Italian teams, but the current programme of excavations did not begin until old Geyre was abandoned. The Institute of Fine Arts at New York University led the research from 1961 to 1990. The Institute continues to sponsor the annual excavation with involvement from Oxford University. Beginning in the 1980s, large scale restoration projects commenced, rebuilding first the Tetrapylon and then the Sebasteion. The quarries were recorded in the 1990s. Today, the focus is not on the excavation of large areas, but conservation, documentation and publication of results from these efforts.

3 Justification for inscription, integrity and authenticity

Comparative analysis

The comparative analysis considers four themes and has a focus on Anatolia; few properties outside of Turkey have been considered by the State Party.

The first theme is Roman Cities in Asia Minor: Aphrodisias is compared with Ephesus, Turkey (2015, criteria (iii), (iv), and (vi)), and Pergamon, Turkey (2014, criteria (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (vi)), both of which were much larger cities. Miletus, Turkey and Perge, Turkey (included in Turkey's Tentative List) are of similar size, but Miletus has poorer preservation, and Perge does not have the record of inscriptions that Aphrodisias has.

The second theme is Urban Pattern and Development and Aphrodisias is compared with nearby Roman cities in the Maeander valley; Corinth in Greece; Pergamon (2014, criteria (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (vi)) and Ephesus (2015, criteria (iii), (iv), and (vi)); Miletus, Amorium and Antioch in

Turkey; and properties on Turkey's Tentative List: Sagalassos and Sardes; and Jerash (on Jordan's Tentative List).

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis based on these two themes is inadequate because the focus is limited to the Classical cities of Asia Minor and Greece. ICOMOS considers that Aphrodisias is not unique in Asia Minor since other cities already inscribed on the World Heritage List (such as Ephesus) possess a similar degree of preservation, not only in public buildings, but also of private ones, which are almost unknown in Aphrodisias. A specific comparison with other settlements and their public buildings and with other quarries is required.

The third theme is Marble Quarrying and Sculpture Production. Comparisons are made with quarries at Carrara (Tentative List, Italy), Dokimeion (Turkey), Prokonnesos (Turkey), Thasos (Greece) and the schools of sculpture at Athens (Greece), Rhodes (Greece), Pergamon, Side (Turkey) and Perge (Turkey).

The additional information received in February 2017 provides more comparative context about the extent and nature of the quarries at Aphrodisias in relation to other quarries in the Roman world. Some 800 quarry locations have been recorded across the Roman empire. Among the largest quarries are those noted above, covering an area greater than 5 km² or from which over 120,000 m³ of stone was extracted. In comparison, Aphrodisias is mid-sized, covering between 1 and 2 km², and there are roughly 100 other Roman quarries of a similar size. Except for the nearby Görtepe quarry, a source of specialty stone overseen by the empire, no other quarries in the region nearest to Aphrodisias are described.

ICOMOS considers that this analysis is incomplete as it is limited to the Roman world, but also it does not consider a comparison of the attributes of the quarries and how they were used (techniques of extraction, transport and working, studies of end uses, aspects of patronage, consideration of exports). The additional information does not help set Aphrodisias apart from other Roman quarries. For Sculpture Production, the sculptor's workshop at Aphrodisias is considered to be a very rare example of its type. A significant gap is the lack of detail concerning the influence of the Sculptural School of Aphrodisias on other sculptors in the Roman world. The attributes that distinguish the Aphrodisian school of sculpture are not described clearly.

The last theme is Cultic values and the cult of Aphrodite of Aphrodisias is compared with that of Artemis of Ephesus.

ICOMOS notes that comparisons with other Anatolian cults are missing, as are examples of other cult centres dedicated to Aphrodite or Venus.

Overall, ICOMOS considers the entire comparison to be weak. In part, this is because the case for Outstanding

Universal Value for Aphrodisias is not clearly articulated by the State Party.

ICOMOS recommends that the comparative analysis be deepened by examining the influence that Aphrodisias had on sculptural design across the Roman world and its role in the dissemination of Greek culture through the export of products from its workshops as well as the works made by Aphrodisias' sculptors in different parts of the Roman Empire. The analysis needs to be more focused on the specific characteristics of Aphrodisias and its sculptural tradition, as well as being expanded to compare it more effectively beyond Turkish examples. The analysis should illustrate the differences between the sculptural school of Aphrodisias and other schools or traditions.

ICOMOS notes that there are at present a dozen other Graeco-Roman properties on the Tentative List of Turkey. A reworked nomination of Aphrodisias, or a nomination of any of these other properties, will require a detailed comparison to understand how their values differ and do not compete against each other. If requested, ICOMOS is available to assist the State Party in the reconfiguration of its Tentative List.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis does not justify consideration of this serial property for the World Heritage List at this stage.

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:

- As a cult centre for the goddess Aphrodite, its fame spread through the Greek and Roman worlds;
- The sculptors, their art and the marble quarries persisted at a high level for many centuries;
- It represents the political and urban planning systems of the Greek and Roman periods through its design, public spaces and monuments.

The relationship of the marble quarries to the sculpture industry in Aphrodisias is the justification for the serial nomination, although this argument is not well developed.

ICOMOS considers that this justification for the serial nomination could be appropriate because the marble quarries are inherently linked to the sculptural tradition represented at the property. However, this needs to be further developed and supported by a focused comparative analysis.

Integrity and authenticity

Integrity

The State Party argues that Aphrodisias has integrity because its monuments have been well studied, published and conserved. The state of preservation is remarkable and a large proportion of the city remains unexcavated. The State Party considers that the city

boundary and the quarry area contain all the attributes needed to express the proposed Outstanding Universal Value. The additional information received in November 2016 states that the quarries also contain the attributes needed to express Outstanding Universal Value.

ICOMOS considers that the integrity of the property is not well articulated, due in part to the lack of clarity in the justification for Outstanding Universal Value.

ICOMOS considers that the condition for integrity of the whole series has not been met at this stage.

Authenticity

The State Party states that the city component retains its authenticity in terms of form and design, materials and substance, and location and setting. The inscriptions support the property's authenticity as do the numerous publications describing the property. Conservation work has been undertaken according to international standards and the museum at the property houses statuary and sculpture from the nearby structures. According to the State Party, Aphrodisias also has an authentic wider setting, lacking in modern industry and mass tourism.

ICOMOS considers that the city component of the property has authenticity of materials and substance and location and setting. Authenticity of the form and design of the monuments have been respected during anastylosis. ICOMOS notes that the 2000 surviving inscriptions also contribute strongly to the authenticity of the nominated property.

Additional information received from the State Party in November 2016 states that the marble quarries retain a high level of authenticity, but does not specifically describe how this condition is met. More information about the quarries was presented in the additional information received in February 2017, but there is not enough detail to judge whether the condition of authenticity has been met.

ICOMOS considers that the condition for authenticity of the whole series has not been met at this stage.

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Criteria under which inscription is proposed

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

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 it was an important site for marble working, both for sculptures and monuments, due to the proximity of marble quarries to the settlement. The city became renowned for

its artists and stonework, famous throughout the Mediterranean world. Expressive portraits and dynamic forms are two distinctive aspects of its output. Examples of this high quality work have been found in the sculptor's workshop in Aphrodisias and signed works by Aphrodisian sculptors have been found in Rome and other cities of the Empire.

ICOMOS notes that Aphrodisias was an important regional centre during the Roman period, and one whose artistic traditions were influential across parts of the Mediterranean.

ICOMOS considers that the justification of this criterion does not adequately address how the property exhibits an important interchange of human values. More detailed discussion is needed to demonstrate the range and extent of the influence that Aphrodisias had on cultural and sculptural design across the region. The contribution of the sculptors of Aphrodisias to the dissemination of the forms and iconography of Greek culture through the export of finished sculptures by local workshops as well as the works made by the sculptors of Aphrodisias in different areas of the Roman Empire should be examined. Additional information received in February 2017 describes the connection between the two sculptors whose inscribed names were found at Aphrodisias and also among a series of 4th century works found in Rome. The justification of Outstanding Universal Value should demonstrate the extent of this impact along these lines if this criterion is to be demonstrated.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified at this stage.

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 Aphrodisias has no equal with regard to: its state of preservation and epigraphic documentation; for its cult of Aphrodite; for the special privileges it enjoyed under the Roman Empire; as a provincial capital for a period of time; and for the quarries and sculptors' workshop which allow the entire process of quarrying through to the production of finished works to be understood.

ICOMOS notes that the State Party has established that Aphrodisias was an important regional centre during the Greek and Roman periods. However, it does not show how the property bears a unique or exceptional testimony to this specific cultural tradition or civilisation. With the ancient Greek and Roman civilisations already well-represented on the World Heritage List, it is not adequately explained why Aphrodisias is an important addition to those properties already listed: this was not adequately addressed in the Comparative Analysis as described above.

For these reasons, ICOMOS considers that the Outstanding Universal Value for Aphrodisias under

criterion (iii) cannot be justified through its characterisation as a unique regional expression of Greco-Roman culture, its role as a cult centre, its imperial privileges or its status as a provincial capital.

However, ICOMOS considers the nominated property could demonstrate this criterion based on greater emphasis of the cultural tradition of quarrying and sculpture at Aphrodisias. The quarries, the workshop, the great wall of the theatre with its inscriptions that describe the building of the city are elements that could speak to this criterion.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified at this stage.

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 attributes of the nominated property include many extraordinary and well preserved structures.

ICOMOS notes that Aphrodisias does contain important examples of building types that represent architectural developments during the Roman period.

ICOMOS considers that the buildings found at Aphrodisias are standard Roman urban types. While some specific built forms are unique (the Stadium, the Sebasteion) they did not inspire other buildings elsewhere. The justification of Outstanding Universal Value does not provide adequate evidence for these buildings as illustrating significant stages in human history, nor does the Comparative Analysis demonstrate how these types of buildings are best represented by the examples at Aphrodisias. While the State Party discusses the uniqueness and exceptional qualities of the buildings, there is little reference to the place these buildings hold in the development of architecture. For these reasons, ICOMOS does not consider that this property has the potential to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value according to this criterion.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified.

Criterion (vi): be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance;

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds of the importance of the city for the worship of Aphrodite and as a centre of intellectual and philosophical activity.

The State Party states that the philosopher Alexander of Aphrodisias lived here in the 2nd century and a neoplatonic school of philosophy flourished at Aphrodisias under a charismatic Alexandrian philosopher named Asklepiodotos who was based in the city in the

5th century AD. ICOMOS notes that these philosophers are not tied into the case for the nomination of this property; and therefore considers that the relevance of this aspect, and the potential attributes associated with their lives and work are not established.

ICOMOS considers that other sanctuaries for Aphrodite were equally or more important than Aphrodisias, such as Cyprus or Cythera. The cult of Aphrodite of Aphrodisias has not been demonstrated to be as sufficiently significant in a comparative sense to justify this criterion.

ICOMOS further notes that because the proposed justification for this criterion refers to only one of the components of the serial property, it cannot be demonstrated for the nominated property as a whole since the Operational Guidelines require that each component should contribute in a substantial way to the Outstanding Universal Value of the entire property. For these reasons, ICOMOS does not consider that the nominated property has a potential to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value according to criterion (vi).

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified.

ICOMOS considers that the serial approach is justified.

In conclusion, ICOMOS does not consider that the criteria have been justified for the serial property at this stage, and the conditions of authenticity and integrity have not been met, due to the need for a reformulation of the justification for Outstanding Universal Value.

4 Factors affecting the property

The State Party describes development pressures from ongoing agriculture near the property, illegal excavations and the Karacasu Irrigation Dam. The management plan notes pressures from the construction of a highway near the dam site.

ICOMOS notes that agriculture within the city walls ceased in 2003. Only seasonal crops are allowed to be grown in the 1st and 3rd degree conservation zones that comprise the buffer zone around the property. No new plantings of trees are allowed as tree roots can damage subsurface archaeology; although ICOMOS has observed that some new olive trees have been planted in the buffer zone near the city walls. Damage to the metal fence surrounding the city from agricultural equipment has also been observed. ICOMOS therefore considers that agriculture in the buffer zone poses an ongoing threat to the property.

ICOMOS has noted evidence of a recent looting pit in the quarry component; and that many architectural elements and pieces of tombs are exposed in the fields surrounding the city component. If left in the open, the architectural pieces could be subject to vandalism or looting. ICOMOS considers that the risk of looting and vandalism in the

proposed buffer zone pose an ongoing threat to the property.

ICOMOS considers that the Karacasu Dam does not pose an ongoing threat to the property as its base is 200 metres lower in elevation and dam is only 60 metres high. ICOMOS notes that there is evidence of spoil and rubble having been taken from the quarry component during the construction of the dam.

ICOMOS considers that the construction of a highway near the dam does not pose a threat to the property, although care will be needed to avoid impacts during construction. Another section of the same highway (a two-lane paved road) has already been built and passes through the buffer zone north of the city.

The State Party has identified pressures from flooding and fires; and risk from earthquakes. ICOMOS notes that flooding in the rainy season (winter) causes water to pool in low lying areas within the city walls. Algae grow seasonally in several pools, including the orchestra of the Bouleuterion. Salt and mineral crusts have been deposited on some flooded surfaces. ICOMOS considers that flooding is a recurring source of potential damage to the property.

ICOMOS notes that fires can occur in the dry season (summer) when vegetation has dried. There is an annual program of weed control but ICOMOS has observed that weed and tree growth often outpace removal efforts. This poses not only a risk for fire but also for tree roots to cause damage to building stones.

ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are nearby agricultural development, illegal excavation and vandalism, fire, flood, and earthquakes.

5 Protection, conservation and management

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

The State Party has provided additional information in November 2016 containing updated figures describing the extent of the nominated property. It comprises the archaeological site of Aphrodisias as one component of 70.33 ha; and the ancient marble quarries as a second component of 81.92 ha. Both components are surrounded by a single buffer zone of 1040.57 ha. A revised map depicting the boundary of the quarry component was provided by the State Party in November 2016. The revised boundary mapping incorporates all the rock faces that were quarried in antiquity within the property boundary; however, a written description of the boundary and its rationale has not been provided.

ICOMOS considers that the buffer zone, despite being clearly depicted in the revised map, has not been sufficiently described, including the reasoning for its size

and location in relation to the nominated components of the property.

ICOMOS considers that there is insufficient description of where the boundary of the city component lies in relation to the city walls. A new metal fence has been erected surrounding the city. It is not clear whether the fence marks the boundary of the city component or falls within the buffer zone. The nomination dossier contains one mention of the tombs that are found outside the city walls. ICOMOS does not consider that the State Party has sufficiently justified why these have not been proposed as attributes that contribute to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed boundaries are possibly adequate to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property's significance, although they should be better documented and reviewed in light of the future reformulation of the justification for Outstanding Universal Value. A rationale for the size and location of the quarry component is needed; and the relationship of the boundary of the city component to the fence that surrounds that part of the property should be clarified. The rationale for the buffer zone should be explained and the attributes of the buffer zone should be documented.

ICOMOS considers that while the boundaries of the serial nominated property and of its buffer zone are potentially adequate, more documentation is required.

Ownership

The nomination dossier states that the city component is owned by the State. The management plan describes an action to acquire 36 remaining parcels of private land in the 1st degree conservation zone totaling 1.26 ha, some of which are in the excavation area. The additional information provided by the State Party notes that the quarry component is fully owned by the State.

Protection

The property is registered on the National Inventory and is protected by national law, the Act on the Conservation of Cultural and Natural Property No. 2863. Under this law, the city component was registered a 1st degree archaeological conservation zone on 15 February 1978. The archaeological site is protected, and no settlement is permitted; only scientific excavations can be conducted.

The additional information letter received in November 2016 describes the new measures for legal protection of the quarries. The quarry component was registered as a 1st degree archaeological conservation zone by the decision of Aydin Regional Conservation Council dated 27th October 2016, numbered 5580. The map of the boundaries of the property should be updated to reflect this.

The buffer zone is divided between 1st degree and 3rd degree conservation areas, although some portions of the revised buffer zone surrounding the quarries have

neither protection and is therefore incomplete. ICOMOS recommends that the unprotected portions of the buffer zone be declared a 3rd degree conservation zone. In a 3rd degree conservation zone, no building higher than two storeys is allowed.

ICOMOS notes that the legal protection of the property is satisfactory; although there is a pressing need for a better enforcement processes.

ICOMOS considers that the legal protection in place for the two components that comprise the nominated property is adequate, but the protection for the buffer zone is incomplete.

Conservation

ICOMOS notes that the city component is in a good state of conservation, except that only the northern part of the city wall has been conserved. The western and southern parts of the city wall require conservation. The major monuments inside the walled city are in a good state and their structural stability is acceptable. The Stadium, the Bouleuterion and the Theatre have their material preserved in their original form and place with little damage. Some old restoration treatments are now deteriorating and need to be redone, for example the columns in the theatre.

In the walled city, intensive conservation and restoration works have been conducted in recent years in the Temple of Aphrodite, the Bouleuterion, the Theatre, the North Agora, and the Baths of Hadrian; and anastylosis has occurred at the Sebasteion, the Sebasteion Propylea and the Tetrapylon. Restoration has been done with mortar and other reversible materials. Some load bearing elements such as columns are reinforced with steel rebar prior to the addition of mortar. Anastylosis has taken place through test fitting the pieces together before mortaring them in place, a process that can take years of study. On the Sebasteion, marble casts are mounted in place of the originals. The originals are on display in the site museum.

Active conservation takes place according to a long term multi-year plan. Funding for conservation is monument and action specific, and cannot be reallocated to other needs. An ongoing conservation measure is a repointing program of all structures, walls and facades. Some 30-40% of all structures have been repointed since the 1990s.

ICOMOS notes that the quarry component is in a relatively good state of conservation given its size. There is no active conservation occurring in this component, and no conservation interventions have taken place. There are some past and current uses and intrusions that need attention. For example, some unauthorized construction of residences has been observed, and there is a trash dump along the road through the quarries. A modern quarry has been in use until a few years ago and an abandoned crane and other extraction equipment remain in place. A water distribution building has been erected in the buffer zone near a quarry face. There are recently built

residential buildings in the southern part of the quarry component. ICOMOS recommends that a full 3D inventory of the quarry faces be carried out to provide a baseline record of their condition.

ICOMOS notes that the nomination dossier does not contain specific information concerning the documentation of the 31 sculpted figures of Aphrodite found outside Aphrodisias and the 9 figures found within the property. The same is true of the 2,000 inscriptions that have been found within the city, exposed pieces of architectural stone and sarcophagi lying in fields outside the city walls, and the tombs located outside the city walls. Because their state of conservation is vulnerable and they are exposed to looting, further documentation of all elements (and information about how the documentation is stored and accessed) is needed. The additional information received in February 2017 includes a list of the Aphrodite sculptures found elsewhere and descriptions of some of the major inscribed texts found within the city.

The tombs require active stabilization and protection works; and open tombs in the buffer zone should be backfilled to deter vandals and prevent further deterioration.

ICOMOS considers that given the extensive and apparently on-going programme of anastylosis, more details should be provided on precisely what has been reconstructed, how it has been documented, and what ancillary associated interventions have been undertaken. It is also necessary to understand what further work is planned.

ICOMOS notes that risk prevention and disaster response plans are in place. To strengthen the state of conservation of the property, ICOMOS recommends that the drainage rehabilitation plan within the walled city be implemented as a priority; and that weed monitoring and removal efforts are increased.

ICOMOS notes that fire suppression systems are limited within the city walls, and recommends that mobile water tanks be placed on the property in the summer as an interim measure until a permanent fire suppression system is installed. A fire response plan and training in fire suppression should be provided.

ICOMOS considers that the conservation programme at the city is adequate, while the quarries have not seen any real conservation activity to date. Remedial measures should be undertaken at the quarries and gaps in the city's conservation should be addressed.

Management

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism is the government authority with general responsibility for the property. Branches of the ministry with specific responsibilities are

the Aphrodisias Museum Directorate, which runs the museum at the property; the Aydin Regional Council for Conservation of Cultural Heritage which approves development, excavation and conservation activities in the 1st and 3rd degree conservation zones; and the Izmir Directorate of Surveying and Monuments which monitors projects that are undertaken on the property.

A Conservation Plan for the city component was prepared and approved by the Regional Conservation Council in 2002. The Aphrodisias Management Plan, which was prepared under the guidance of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, was approved on 17 September 2013. The copy of the management plan included in the nomination dossier did not include the quarry component. Additional information received in February 2017 indicates that the boundary of the management plan will be increased to include all of the quarry component and the portion of the buffer zone surrounding it.

The nomination dossier lists 23 people working at the museum on site (including a full-time site manager), and several dozen on the excavation and conservation team that is present for several months each year. There are gendarmes who are stationed at the parking lot entrance to the property; and 13 security guards who work in the museum and within the city walls. Twelve agricultural field patrollers work in the fields surrounding the city component. Their main task is to stop trespassing and prevent the illegal use of water and land, but they also serve to detect and deter illegal excavations and vandalism. ICOMOS recommends that the agricultural guards expand the scope of their regular patrol to include the quarry component and the whole of the buffer zone. It is not clear from the nomination dossier how the site manager relates to the museum director nor whether the museum staff have responsibilities outside the museum building.

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

The annual budget contributed by the national government is 1,603,000 Turkish lira, or about 524,000 US dollars. The New York University excavation project contributes US \$650,000 annually. Local resources and other private contributions are also described.

The management plan includes an action to investigate and rehabilitate the ancient drainage system between the Tetracylon and the South Agora to alleviate the threats of flooding and annual water ponding on the property. These efforts should be encouraged and prioritised.

ICOMOS considers that the Management Plan addresses the issues and threats on the property. It also addresses possible solutions through action programs with a reasonable timing of one to five years.

However, ICOMOS also notes that several of the tasks outlined in the management plan are behind schedule, e.g. tasks related to the flood response plan and preparedness, earthquake preparedness and fire suppression measures.

ICOMOS notes that the Management Plan for the property included an earlier reconsideration of the criteria and proposed a statement of Outstanding Universal Value, referring only to criteria (ii) and (iv). ICOMOS considers that when the justification for Outstanding Universal Value is further revised, it will be essential for the Management Plan to be aligned to the proposed values in order to be effective in its implementation. The State Party has advised that the boundaries indicated in the management plan have been revised to reflect the recent changes provided during the evaluation of the nomination. The management plan should be updated to reflect the revised boundaries and buffer zone.

Involvement of the local communities

The nomination dossier notes that there is a limited economic benefit for the village of Geyre from the property. A project in the management plan aims to create more tourist activities in Geyre to widen its economic base. It does not describe the degree of support among the local population for the inscription of the property.

ICOMOS notes that the connections between the inhabitants of the village of Geyre and the property are decreasing, but that the Geyre Foundation proposes annually to bring 200 residents of the village to tour the property. ICOMOS considers that more effort should be placed into integrating the local community with the property.

ICOMOS considers that the management system for the overall serial property is adequate but will need to be revised following the further work on the justification for Outstanding Universal Value. It will also need to be updated to reflect the revised boundaries and protections for the property; and should include active conservation measures for the quarries.

6 Monitoring

The State Party has implemented 11 indicators for the city component, but no indicators are provided for the quarry component. Most indicators concern the physical state of the resources in the open air and relate to the deterioration of the stone work, e.g. stability of walls, identification of cracks in marble elements, salt crystallisation, insect and rodent damage, vegetation growth and the depth of the water table below ground. Many indicators are noted daily by site guards (vegetation, presence of water, insect and rodent damage) as well as yearly. The other indicators are monitored annually.

ICOMOS considers that the monitoring system is adequate for the city component of the property, but that indicators are needed for the quarry component.

7 Conclusions

While there is some potential for Aphrodisias to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value due to the proximity of the quarries to the city, and the potential importance and influence of the associated artistic traditions, this is not yet certain and needs significant review and reformulation. ICOMOS has taken into account that Graeco-Roman cities are already relatively well represented in the World Heritage List, both within Turkey and within the larger historical/cultural context. ICOMOS has therefore looked for greater precision in the justification for Outstanding Universal Value, and arguments that could clearly distinguish the historical and architectural characteristics of Aphrodisias in an exceptional way.

At this stage and despite the additional information submitted in February 2017, the comparative analysis does not justify consideration of this property for the World Heritage List; and needs to be more focused on the specific characteristics of Aphrodisias, as well as being expanded to compare it more effectively beyond Turkish examples. The conditions of integrity and authenticity of the serial property have not been fully met; and none of the criteria for inclusion of properties in the World Heritage List have been demonstrated at this stage. Of the criteria proposed by the State Party, only criteria (ii) and (iii) seem to have potential. Further development according to criterion (iii) will need to examine the contribution of the quarries to the development of the school of sculpture based in the city as a cultural tradition; and further development according to criterion (ii) will need to explore the influence that Aphrodisias had on sculptural design across the Roman world and its role in the dissemination of the forms and iconography of Greek culture through the export of products by local workshops as well as the works made by Aphrodisias' sculptors in different parts of the Roman Empire.

ICOMOS considers that the serial approach is appropriate given the historical and functional relationships between the two components; and that a revised justification around fewer of the proposed criteria could be developed, possibly through a focus on quarrying and its contributions to the development and influence of the school of sculpture at Aphrodisias.

The main threats to the property are nearby agriculture, illegal excavation and vandalism, fire, flood, and earthquakes. The boundaries of the nominated property and of its buffer zone are possibly adequate, but more documentation of their rationale is required.

In general, there is insufficient attention given to the quarries component, in terms of the legal protection, documentation, conservation, management and

monitoring. ICOMOS considers this to be a substantial lapse in the overall consideration of this serial property.

The legal protection in place for the two components is adequate; however, protection of the buffer zone is incomplete. The conservation program for the city component is good; however, there is no conservation program for the quarries. Remedial measures should be undertaken at the quarries.

The management system for the serial property is adequate; although the management plan will need to be updated to reflect the revised boundaries proposed for the property. The monitoring system is adequate for the city component of the property; but is yet to be formulated for the quarry component.

8 Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the examination of the nomination of Aphrodisias, Turkey, to the World Heritage List be **deferred** in order to allow the State Party, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, if requested, to:

- a) Reformulate the nomination according to a revised justification for Outstanding Universal Value that can more precisely demonstrate the significance of Aphrodisias, focusing on the quarries and the development and influence of the school of sculpture at Aphrodisias,
- b) Deepen the comparative analysis to examine the influence that Aphrodisias had on sculptural design across the Roman world and its role in the dissemination of Greek culture through the export of products from its workshops as well as the works made by Aphrodisias' sculptors in different parts of the Roman Empire. The analysis needs to be more focused on the specific characteristics of Aphrodisias, as well as being expanded to compare it more effectively beyond Turkish examples. The analysis should illustrate the differences between the sculptural school of Aphrodisias and other schools or traditions of sculpture,
- c) Clarify the relationship of the boundary of the city component to the fence that surrounds that part of the property,
- d) Provide a rationale and written description for the boundary of the quarry component,
- e) Provide legal protection for the entirety of the revised buffer zone by declaring all unprotected portions a 3rd degree conservation zone;

Any revised nomination should be visited by a mission to the site.

Additional recommendations

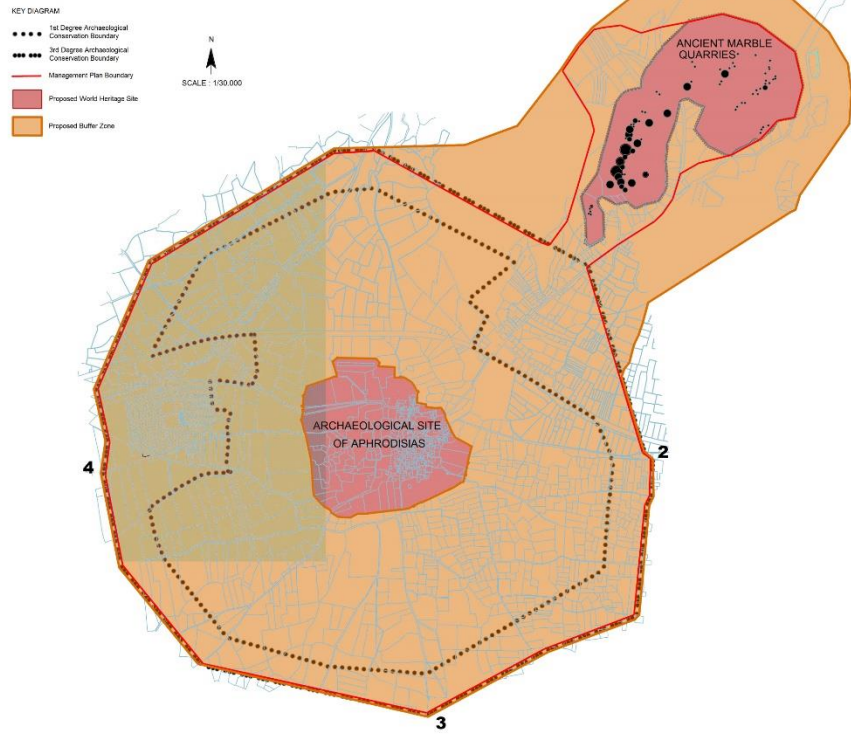
ICOMOS recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) Updating the Management Plan to reflect the revised boundaries and protections for the property;
- b) Updating the map of the property boundaries to show the quarry component as a 1st degree conservation zone,
- c) Increasing efforts to integrate the local community into the management system for the property,
- d) Formulating and implementing monitoring indicators for the quarry component,
- e) Implementing the drainage rehabilitation plan within the walled city at a quicker pace,
- f) Developing a fire response plan and providing training in fire suppression, as well as mobile water tanks in the summer as an interim measure until a permanent fire suppression system is installed,
- g) Expanding the patrols by the agricultural guards to include the quarry component and the whole of the buffer zone,
- h) Providing a programme of past and planned anastylosis actions, including what has been reconstructed, and how it has been documented, and what ancillary associated interventions have been undertaken,
- i) Inventorying the sculptures and inscriptions that have been found within the city,
- j) Conducting a full 3D inventory of the quarry faces in order to provide a baseline record of their condition,
- k) Implementing remedial conservation measures within the quarry component,
- l) Inventorying the architectural elements and sarcophagi pieces found on the ground surface in the buffer zone,
- m) Documenting and stabilizing of the tombs located outside the city walls. Open tombs in the buffer zone should be backfilled to deter vandals and prevent further deterioration;

If requested and in the framework of the upstream processes, ICOMOS is available to assist the State Party in the reconfiguration of its Tentative List.

APHRODISIAS

Map.1.e Proposed World Heritage and Buffer Zone Boundary

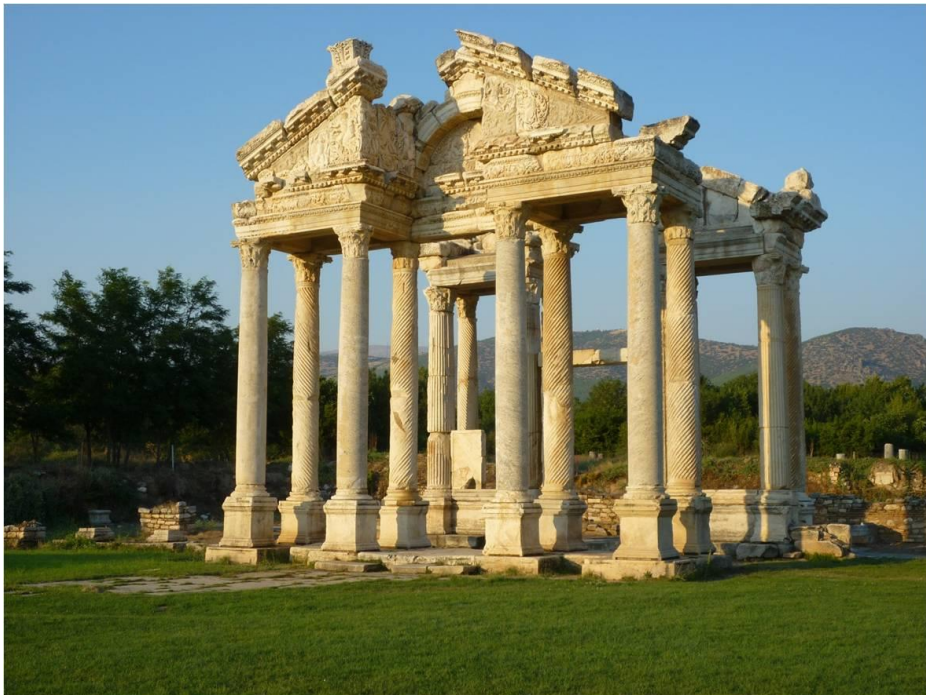


Points	Y	X
1	389299,657	4178985,637
2	389162,774	4175975,000
3	387797,140	4174409,743
4	385810,873	4175888,372

Map showing the revised boundaries of the nominated properties



Aerial view of Central Aphrodisias



Tetrapylon



Sculptor's workshop



Bust of Aphrodite