

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

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Charenton-le-Pont, 23 January 2017

H. E. Mr Stefan Krawielicki
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World Heritage List 2017

**Naumburg Cathedral and the High Medieval Cultural Landscape
of the Rivers Saale and Unstrut (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.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to "Naumburg Cathedral and the High Medieval Cultural Landscape of the Rivers Saale and Unstrut" (Germany) was carried out by Mr Sergiu Musteata (Moldova) from 14 to 16 August 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.

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 mission and desk review reports were carefully examined by the Panel members.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on 24 November 2016 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel.

Following that meeting ICOMOS received correspondence on the evening of 28 November 2016, advising that the components of the serial property would be reduced. Taking account of the dialogue with ICOMOS, the Ministry for Culture in the State of Saxony-Anhalt, advised that all but three components were withdrawn from the serial nomination, leaving only components 1 (Naumburg Cathedral and Old Town), 4 (Neuenburg Castle) and 9 (Schulpforte Monastery). The correspondence also proposed that criteria (i), (ii) and (iv) would be retained in the State Party's argument for the Outstanding Universal Value of the serial property comprised of these three components, which together are proposed as representing the wider cultural landscape. Despite this reduction in the components, the buffer zone has remained unchanged from the originally submitted nomination.

The letter received on 28 November 2016 proposes to revise the name of the nominated property to 'Naumburg Cathedral and Related Sites in the Cultural Landscape of the Rivers Saale and Unstrut'; and a revised map was provided. It was also mentioned that work was continuing to improve the comparative

analysis and to better explain the use of criterion (iv); and to clarify the ways in which each of the remaining three components meets each of the proposed criteria.

In relation to the procedural requirements, ICOMOS notes that for the additional information and changes of 28 November 2016 to be officially included in the nomination dossier and the evaluation processes, it must be sent via the usual channels to the World Heritage Centre. Nevertheless, in an effort to continue the openness of the dialogue, this Interim Report includes responses of the ICOMOS Panel to the revisions that were indicated in the additional information dated 28 November 2016.

During its last part meeting, the Panel discussed this nomination in its original conceptualisation and came to the conclusion that the property does not fulfil the requirements set out in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention. Therefore, ICOMOS will recommend to the World Heritage Committee that the property should not be inscribed on the World Heritage List.

ICOMOS has opted for a new policy to notify States Parties of these decisions as early as possible. While all Panel decisions regarding non-inscriptions are final, ICOMOS would nevertheless like to share a summary of the considerations that led the Panel to adopt such a recommendation.

ICOMOS acknowledges the work done by the State Party following the decision taken by the World Heritage Committee (39 COM 8B.26). This has expanded the comparative analysis; moved from a single large property to a serial nomination of eleven components (now three); and proposed different criteria to justify the potential Outstanding Universal Value of this property.

ICOMOS recalls the advisory discussions following the decision taken by the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2015. In those discussions, suggestions were made concerning the selection of specific components to more closely focus on the tangible expressions of the history of the High Middle Ages, and the possibilities for further consideration of the historical settlement processes known as 'Landesausbau' in the reconfiguration of the nomination. ICOMOS also indicated that criterion (i) was unlikely to be applicable to this nomination; and there were some issues raised concerning the management system (as outlined in the ICOMOS evaluation presented to the World Heritage Committee in 2015). ICOMOS notes that some aspects of this advice have been incorporated into the revised nomination, but that others – such as the conceptual reorientation around historical settlements processes and the improvements to the management plan – have not yet been explicitly developed.

The comparative analysis is central to the reformulation of this nomination, especially given that this period of history is relatively well represented in the World Heritage List.

ICOMOS considers that the work by the State Party to research and document this landscape is thorough and commendable. Despite these efforts, ICOMOS does not consider that any of the criteria have been demonstrated. In particular, ICOMOS finds that criterion (i) cannot be demonstrated – this applies to the cultural landscape nomination evaluated in 2015, and to the serial property of eleven or three elements. ICOMOS understands that this differs with the confident views expressed by the State Party (particularly in relation to the Naumburg Cathedral), but based on the expert reviews of the comparative analysis, the ICOMOS Panel has concluded that criterion (i) cannot be justified.

Furthermore, the ICOMOS Panel finds that the three components are unable to satisfactorily convey in an outstanding or exceptional way the necessary testimony to interchange of human values (criterion (ii)) or a type of building/landscape that can illustrate a significant stage in human history (criterion (iv)).

The ICOMOS Panel considers that the nominated components are too disparate, fragmented and reduced in size to be considered a cultural landscape, and there are concerns about the very large size of the buffer zone (particularly for the reduced series proposed). For these reasons, the ICOMOS Panel also considered the nomination as a serial property (that is, without the claims to being a cultural landscape), but unfortunately

concluded that, in each scenario, the attributes of the nominated serial property are not sufficient to be eligible for inscription in the World Heritage List.

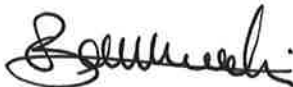
Despite the well-articulated local/regional significance of these sites, and their good documentation and state of conservation, ICOMOS concludes that there is insufficient basis for their inclusion in the World Heritage List because Outstanding Universal Value cannot be demonstrated.

Please note that ICOMOS does not consider that the reduction of the serial property from eleven components to three significantly alters the key issues on which this evaluation rests. Indeed, it raises additional issues that have not been addressed. Therefore, the proposed revisions do not substantively influence or improve its prospects, or the decision of the ICOMOS Panel to recommend to the World Heritage Committee that this property should not be inscribed in the World Heritage List.

In the spirit of fostering dialogue, should the State Party consider that further explanations are required, we kindly request you to contact the ICOMOS Evaluation Unit to arrange a meeting. We do, however, respectfully remind you that the recommendation of the ICOMOS Panel cannot now be changed.

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 Förderverein Welterbe an Saale und Unstrut e.V. (FWE)
 UNESCO World Heritage Centre