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20 December 2017

H. E. Mr Federico Alonso Renjifo Velez
Permanent Delegation of Colombia to UNESCO
Maison de l'UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris CCEDEX 15

World Heritage List 2018

**Chiribiquete National Park – “The Maloca of the jaguar” (Colombia) –
ICOMOS and IUCN joint Interim report and additional information request**

Dear Ambassador,

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 2018. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining the status of and any issues related to the evaluation process.

The joint ICOMOS and IUCN technical evaluation mission to the “Chiribiquete National Park – “The Maloca of the jaguar”” was carried out by Maria Ifigenia Quintanilla for ICOMOS and Mr Charles Besancon for IUCN from 08 to 16 October 2017. The evaluators greatly appreciated the excellent support and co-operation provided by your colleagues in the preparation and implementation of the mission, and the kind welcome of the State Party throughout the mission. Please convey our sincere thanks to all of the officials, scientists and contributors that assisted the evaluators in undertaking the mission.

On 22 September 2017, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding the maps, the description of the property, the authenticity and the comparative analysis. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 31 October 2017 and for their continued cooperation in this process.

At the end of November 2017, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2018. The IUCN World Heritage Panel was held from 4 to 8 December 2017 and evaluated the natural and mixed properties. Both Advisory Bodies processes will conclude in March/April 2018, following which the evaluation reports will be issued to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

The nomination dossier, additional information, together with missions and desk review reports as well as other references regarding the nominated property were carefully examined by the ICOMOS and IUCN's Panel members to formulate their recommendations and considerations.

ICOMOS thanks you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on Friday 24 November 2017 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 "Chiribiquete National Park – "The Maloca of the jaguar"" might have the potential to meet the requirements for Outstanding Universal Value in relation to cultural criteria, this has not yet been demonstrated.

The IUCN Panel greatly appreciated the efforts that have been made in relation to this nomination, and will be discussing the nomination again at the second meeting of the IUCN World Heritage Panel, to be held in March 2018. At this stage, the Panel noted a number of points where additional information is required.

Therefore, ICOMOS and IUCN would be pleased if the State Party could consider the following points:

Justification of Outstanding Universal Value

The nomination dossier uses many phrases such as unique, oldest, only one in the world, etc. in relation to the justification of the cultural criteria, that are rather general and do not help to clarify the proposed justification of Outstanding Universal Value. Given the nature of the property, ICOMOS considers that the understanding of the site still remains at an early stage and in great need of further research.

The ICOMOS Panel considers that the proposed statement of Outstanding Universal Value and justification of cultural criterion would risk to label the property with definitions and information that still have to be researched. Therefore, the ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could redraft the proposed justification of Outstanding Universal Value and the cultural criterion to justify some of the claims made on the basis of scientific evidence, and to setting out the attributes, both tangible and intangible, that convey the proposed Outstanding Universal Value, within the nominated property.

In this regards, it would be helpful if the State Party could provide further details on the issue of dates. If there is a claim that something is the oldest, then this does need to be backed up with robust scientific justification. The claim that a fragment of painting found in sediments has been dated to 20,000 years BP is crucial to an understanding of settlement in the Americas.

The ICOMOS Panel would like to receive further information concerning the dating and the hypothesis of an uninterrupted sequence of paintings. Could the State Party clarify if the latest archaeological missions have investigated fragments in sediments or have used other methods of dating such as dating of calcite concretions covering rock images using Uranium/ Thorium?

The ICOMOS Panel would appreciate if the State Party could provide further details to support the idea that the preeminence of the jaguar in Chiribiquete paintings reflects specific local cultural tradition. As in the first nomination (of 2005) it is suggested that the wider landscapes of Serranía of Chiribiquete as a geological form, are considered sacred, and associated with the jaguar cult and myths of origin not only by people who live nearby but from the wider area.

The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could provide further information on if this idea is based on recent ethnographic surveys.

The ICOMOS Panel considers that the significance of the rock art in this nomination dossier is somewhat different from what was included in the first nomination dossier dated 2005. Could the State Party provide further details of the rationale for the new justification?

In the additional information provided by the State Party on 31 October 2017, it seems that the extension area of the traditional knowledge of the jaguar shamans of Yuruparí, which have been recognized as intangible heritage, would extend to the eastern boundaries of the nominated property. The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased to receive further information concerning this point. How does the area encompassed by the jaguar shamans of Yuruparí relate to the overall area of the Park?

Comparative Analysis

Although additional information has been provided by the State Party on 31 October 2017, the ICOMOS Panel has found that a synthesis for the articles provided showing the importance of the rock art of Chiribiquete in its regional context was missing on the above cited additional information. Therefore, further analysis regarding the links with neighboring regions (Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela) would be needed in order to locate the rock art of the nominated property in its regional context. Indeed, the ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could deepen and complete the comparative analysis to explore sites linked to what has been described as the Nordeste Tradition of rock art in order to clearly demonstrate the exceptionality of the nominated property.

Documentation and Maps

The additional information provided by the State Party on 31 October 2017 indicates that high-resolution photographs have been used to document rock art sites, and that a georeferenced database of Colombian archaeological sites is available online. While welcoming these new initiatives, the ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could clarify if a more detailed inventory has been prepared as a basis for monitoring and conservation activities.

On the map showing the location of sites and areas of cultural interest, it should be noted that two archaeological sites are located in the buffer zone (sector 2). Several areas, potentially interesting from a rock art point of view, are also located in the buffer zone (sectors 3, 4-5). Could the State Party provide further information on the choice of integrating these sites into the buffer zone and not within the boundaries of the property itself?

In the intangible and primitive areas management and classification plan (p. 134-136), part of the identified rock art sites and one of the potentially promising rock art zones are located in the intangible area 3 and in the primitive area 1. The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased to receive further information about the number of sites in the intangible area 3 and in the primitive area 1, as well as the reasons for this classification.

The ICOMOS Panel has noted that in the nomination dossier and additional information provided by the State Party the methods and techniques for the documentation of the rock art are poorly explained. Therefore, the ICOMOS Panel would be pleased to receive more details on the methods and techniques used for the documentation of the rock art sites, if available.

Taking into account that only a part of the existing rock art sites within the territory of the National Park have been actually inventoried and investigated, the ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could provide additional information on future programs of investigation, inventorying and conservation works.

In addition to the archaeological team, could the State Party provide further information on future international collaborations in the field of anthropology, archaeology and rock art studies?

Involvement of Local Communities / Rights of Indigenous peoples

It appears that the local communities in the buffer zone (inside and outside of the indigenous reserves) were not involved in the nomination process although they have been involved in other consultations such as the expansion of the Park.

ICOMOS and IUCN would be pleased if the State Party could provide further information on how communities in the buffer zone might be engaged with the management of the property. How customary practices might be protected so that the access by the public will not impact adversely on the sanctity of the property? This is related to management scenarios for the protected areas of the National Natural Parks as defined by the Amazon Area Directorate (DTAM, 2011).

We would be pleased to receive further information on the reasons it was not possible to reach a formal agreement with all of the 21 indigenous reserves in the buffer zone, in particular the circumstances regarding the failure to reach an agreement with two of the indigenous reserves.

The ICOMOS and IUCN Panels are concerned to ensure broad support for the nomination and that the rights of those indigenous people residing within the buffer zone are fully respected.

We would be pleased if the State Party could provide detailed information on these aspects as well as progress with the development of a tourism strategy. It has been understood that communities living on the buffer zone would like to benefit from eco-tourism.

We would also be grateful for details on how the rights of indigenous peoples and in particular of voluntarily isolated communities will be respected and enhanced from potential threats resulting from development activities in the buffer zone as well as from any proposed plans for tourism development.

Financial Resources

Archaeological investigations require sufficient economic resources to maintain a permanent program, especially for an area that is difficult to access, such as Chiribiquete. The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could provide further information on the financial resources proposed in the Chiribiquete's management plan and its sustainability, especially for the archaeological program. The IUCN Panel formed the impression that a large part of the available financial resources are being directed to the management of the buffer zone.

Please therefore elaborate on the level of funding that will be dedicated to the conservation and management of the nominated property, both from the national budget as well as from international cooperation. We would be grateful for clarity on funding quantities, sources and projections into the future to assure the property's long term protection management.

Security measures for the site

Please confirm for how long the nominated property will continue to benefit from the valuable cooperative support provided by the army to protection.

We would appreciate your response to the above points as soon as possible, in order to facilitate the evaluation process, but **no later than the 28 February 2018**, as per paragraph 148 of the Operational Guidelines. Please note that any information submitted after this date will not be considered by ICOMOS and IUCN in its evaluation for the World Heritage Committee. It should be noted, however, that while ICOMOS and IUCN 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.

Supplementary information should be submitted officially in three copies to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in order for it to be registered as part of the nomination. An electronic copy of any supplementary information to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (a.balsamo@unesco.org) and IUCN Headquarters (christelle.perruchoud@iucn.org) and ICOMOS Headquarters (apsara.sanchez@icomos.org) would also be helpful.

Taking into account your response, ICOMOS and IUCN will formulate their final recommendation to the World Heritage Committee which will meet from 24 June to 4 July 2018 in Bahrain.

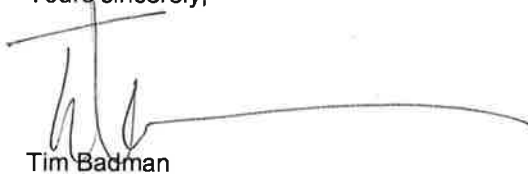
In the interest of ensuring dialogue with the States Parties, ICOMOS and IUCN would be ready for a Skype call to clarify any of the above points, or other matters related to the nomination dossier, if that might be considered to be helpful.

ICOMOS and IUCN are available to meet you in Paris if this would be helpful. You or your representatives are also most welcome to visit IUCN's headquarters in Switzerland to meet in person if you wish, on this nomination, or on any other matter of interest.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms Christelle Perruchoud, World Heritage Evaluations and Operations Officer (Tel: +41 22 999 0358; Fax: +41 22 999 0002; email: christelle.perruchoud@iucn.org) or Mrs Gwenaëlle Bourdin, Director of the ICOMOS Evaluation Unit (Tel: +33 (0)1 41 94 17 59, email: gwenaelle.bourdin@icomos.org) if you have any questions regarding this request, or if you would wish to arrange a meeting or phone call to discuss this request.

Please allow us to reiterate our thanks for your support of the World Heritage Convention and for the conduct of ICOMOS/IUCN joint mission. We look forward to your kind cooperation in furnishing responses to the abovementioned points.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Badman
Director
IUCN World Heritage Programme



Gwenaëlle Bourdin
Director
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

cc. Instituto colombiano de Antropología e Historia – ICANH
National Natural Parks System of Colombia
Comisión Colombiana de Cooperación con la UNESCO, Sra. Da. María Ángela Holguin Cuellar, Presidente
UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Mr Mauro Rosi and Mr Alessandro Balsamo
IUCN Regional Office for South America, Mr. Alvaro Vallejo Rendon, Regional Director