

# 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/1557/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 22 December 2017

H. E. Mr Klavs Arnoldi Holm  
Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of  
Denmark to UNESCO  
Maison de l'UNESCO  
1, rue Miollis  
75732 Paris CEDEX 15

World Heritage List 2018

**Aasivissuit – Nipisat. Inuit Hunting Ground between Ice and Sea (Denmark) –  
Interim report and additional information request**

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

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to "Aasivissuit – Nipisat. Inuit Hunting Ground between Ice and Sea" was carried out by Marrit Myrvoll (Norway) from 02 to 07 September 2017. The mission expert highly appreciated the availabilities and support provided by the experts in your country for the organization and implementation of the mission.

On 18 October 2017, a letter requesting additional information was sent by ICOMOS on the legal protection, the mining explorations, the new ATV-road project, the involvement of indigenous peoples, the proposed new regional visitor centre, intangible cultural heritage programmes, and tourism and interpretation plans. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided 13 November 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 additional information provided by the State Party, together with mission and desk review reports were carefully examined by the Panel members. This process will conclude in March 2018.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on Friday 24 November 2017 with representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. The exchanges during this meeting were of great help for the third part of the ICOMOS Panel meeting. During the last part of its meeting, the Panel has identified areas where it considers that further information is needed. Therefore, we would be pleased if the State Party could consider the following points:

**Nomination Approach**

As discussed with the representatives of the State Party, the ICOMOS Panel has found the approach taken to this nomination - providing a 'transect' from the sea to the ice cap - very interesting. The ICOMOS Panel especially appreciated the additional explanation provided at the meeting on 24 November 2017. In that exchange, there was mention that while most of the historically seasonal movements between the coast and the ice cap occurred in a west-east direction encompassed by the property boundaries, there could have been some instances of Inuit groups travelling into the area from beyond this 'slice' of landscape. While the ICOMOS Panel does not consider that this new information adversely impacts on the proposed Outstanding Universal Value, or on the proposed boundaries of the nominated property, it would be beneficial for the completeness of the file to receive further information on this point. In other words, what is known about the

wider system of movements into the nominated area throughout the long time depth of Palaeo-Inuit and Inuit uses of these area?

### **Extend the Comparative Analysis**

The ICOMOS Panel considers that the comparative analysis provided by the State Party is well-developed, and provides a useful framing for the evaluation of this property for the World Heritage List. However, there are several omissions that should be addressed. It would be appreciated if the State Party could augment the existing comparative material in Table 3.3 (and associated text) to include the following: other areas of fisher-hunter-gatherer cultural landscapes in Greenland (including the Inuit sites in the recently inscribed property of 'Kujataa Greenland'); Canada (including the World Heritage listed 'Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump', sites in the Strait of Belle Isle region of southern Labrador, and in the Saglek Bay area and Torngat Mountains National Park in northern Labrador); and any known sites in northern Siberia. This information is requested in order to assist the ICOMOS Panel to more clearly specify the basis for the inclusion of the nominated property in the World Heritage List.

### **Legal Protection**

The ICOMOS Panel appreciated the additional information provided. On the basis of the written information and the discussions held on 24 November 2017, the ICOMOS Panel understands that the Executive Order that will secure the specific legal protection for the proposed World Heritage property is expected to be signed and in place in January 2018. The ICOMOS Panel considers this measure to be essential for fully securing the legal protection for the nominated area, and would appreciate further updated information once the Executive Order is signed.

### **Buffer Zone**

The ICOMOS Panel welcomed the opportunity to further discuss this matter with the representatives attending the meeting on 24 November 2017, where the reasons why a buffer zone has not been provided were clearly explained. The ICOMOS Panel appreciates that the current designation is the outcome of the decision to nominate a large landscape transect rather than a smaller series of sites, and that a 'visual catchment' approach has been utilized in determining the property boundary. As a consequence, the ICOMOS Panel understands that direct visual impacts on the nominated property are relatively unlikely due to the topographic basis of the delineation of the property boundaries to the north and south. However, there are continuing concerns for the ICOMOS Panel about the potential for off-site impacts on the nominated area, particularly in relation to future mining activities. It would therefore be very helpful to the ICOMOS Panel if the State Party could provide additional information about how impacts from mining, urban development and tourism will be identified, assessed and avoided, including visual impacts, and also hydrological and/or geological impacts.

### **Monitoring**

As discussed in the meeting on 24 November 2017, the ICOMOS Panel considered that a more proactive monitoring system should be warranted for the nominated property than what has been proposed. This relates to the entire property and its attributes, but in particular, there are concerns about the ability to promptly monitor and react to the exposure of archaeological sites due to changing climatic conditions and the possible future retreat of the ice cap. The ICOMOS Panel therefore requests further information about how the State Party and local authorities could enhance its efforts in this aspect of the management and protection of the nominated property. This should also include the possibilities for implementing regular and cyclical maintenance planning.

### **Tourism Planning**

While current tourism levels to Greenland, and to the nominated area are modest, the ICOMOS Panel considers that this situation could change more rapidly than seems anticipated by the nomination dossier. The ICOMOS Panel appreciated the additional information provided, and understands that implementation of tourism initiatives outlined in the Management Plan will commence in 2018. However, as discussed with representatives of the State Party at the meeting held on 24 November 2017, the ICOMOS Panel is concerned to ensure that strategic planning for tourism is identified as a pressing priority. This should be more than a list of planned works (which has been provided), and should consider a pro-active engagement with the cruise ship tourism sector and other tourism industry organisations. It would be appreciated if the State Party could provide additional information on this point, including the timeline and the availability of needed expertise and financial resources to develop the tourism and interpretation plans for the nominated property.

### **Past and Present Inuit Cultural Practices**

The ICOMOS Panel appreciates the additional information provided concerning intangible cultural heritage documentation activities. Further related questions concern the contemporary aspects of the continuing

cultural landscape, and how traditional Inuit practices such as the re-use of materials have been taken account of in the development of the management system for the nominated property. How have Inuit societies organized themselves within this landscape over time? Can the contemporary seasonal movements within this landscape be explained in greater detail?

### **Indigenous Community Benefits**

Based on the nomination materials and the additional information already provided, the ICOMOS Panel appreciates that the population of the Qeqqata Municipality (which includes the nominated landscape and adjacent areas) is predominantly comprised of Indigenous Inuit communities. Given that this is the case, the ICOMOS Panel is interested to better understand how the processes of nomination and inscription in the World Heritage List will proactively acknowledge and benefit Inuit people, including through support for local small businesses arising from World Heritage management and tourism/interpretation. How are the needs and rights of the Inuit communities met by this nomination? Could further information be provided on this point, including the means by which Inuit governance arrangements have been incorporated into the management system?

### **Wind Turbine Developments**

The ICOMOS Panel notes that the first Greenlandic wind turbine connected to the public power supply was installed at Sarfannguit in 2010 as an experiment in providing renewable energy to the area. The need for renewable energy approaches is understood, however, the ICOMOS Panel would appreciate additional information about future wind energy plans, and the means by which the visual and other impacts of the turbines on the nominated cultural landscape can be assessed and minimized.

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 2018 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,



Gwenaëlle Bourdin  
Director  
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

Copy to Qeqqata Municipality  
Agency for Culture and Palaces  
UNESCO World Heritage Centre