

# 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/AA/1592/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 21 December 2018

H. E. Mr Yang Shen  
Permanent Delegation of China to UNESCO  
Maison de l'UNESCO  
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75732 Paris CEDEX 15

World Heritage List 2019

## **Archaeological Ruins of Liangzhu City (China) – 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 2019. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation process.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to “Archaeological Ruins of Liangzhu City” was carried out by Rima Hooja (India) in September 2018. The mission expert highly appreciated the availabilities and support provided by the experts in your country for the organization and implementation of the mission.

At the end of November 2018, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2019. 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 2019.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on Friday 23 November 2018 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. The exchanges during this meeting were of great help for the discussions at the ICOMOS Panel meeting. Following the completion of their deliberations, the ICOMOS Panel has identified areas where it considers further information is needed.

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

### **Integrity**

The ICOMOS Panel recognizes the efforts made by the People's Government of Hangzhou City to control and prevent damage to the nominated property from development pressures. However, it is not clear what will be the impact of increasing urbanization, particularly infrastructure projects. In particular, there is concern about impact of the 104 National Highway, the 201 Provincial Highway and the railway projects on the nominated property and its integrity. The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased to receive further information regarding these projects and their potential impact on the visual integrity of the nominated property.

The ICOMOS Panel further recognizes that the presentation plan includes visitors' facilities and management for the nominated property. However, the ICOMOS Panel is not yet clear on how the potential future increase in the number of tourists visiting the property may affect its integrity. Further, what would be the strategy to deal with the expected growth of numbers of visitors? The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased to receive further information on this aspect.

### **Boundaries of the Buffer Zone**

The ICOMOS Panel notes a discrepancy between the Buffer Zone boundaries and the protection zones boundaries (the Construction Control Zone and the Environment Control Zone). The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party would consider adjusting and extending the boundaries of the protection zones in order to match with the boundaries of the Buffer Zone to avoid any impact of development projects on the Buffer Zone.

### **Legal Protection**

The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could provide the tentative dates of the designation of component part 02 (Area of High-dam at the Mouth of the Valley) and the component part 03-1 (Area of Low-dam on the Plain) as "National Protection Priority Sites". It would also be pleased to receive further information on whether they will be also designated as "Key Protection Zones".

### **Conservation**

The ICOMOS Panel would like to request further information on how the documentation of the nominated property is managed and updated for all restoration and conservation actions on the components and sites, such as archaeological reports, conservation intervention reports, maps, photographs, and other forms of documentation pertaining to the state of conservation and all previous interventions of all elements and aspects of the nominated property.

The ICOMOS Panel notes the methodological treatment of the unearthed finds from the nominated property and would be pleased to receive more information on how does the Zhejiang Liangzhu Archaeological Site Administration deal with human remains, given the nature and scale of excavated cemeteries.

### **Management**

The ICOMOS Panel takes note of *the Conservation and Management Plan for Archaeological Ruins of Liangzhu City (2017-2035)*. However, the ICOMOS Panel would be pleased to receive further information on whether there is a plan for risk management and disaster preparedness for the nominated property.

### **Research**

The ICOMOS Panel would like to receive additional information from the State Party on the integration of conservation planning into archaeological research for the nominated property, given its great potential for further archaeological research and the importance of linking this research to conservation planning in order to ensure the safeguarding of the nominated property.

Finally, the ICOMOS Panel would like to request more information, if available, on the state of research pertaining to rice cultivation and rice typologies in relation to the relevant components of the nominated property, given its significance as a representative of an ancient rice-cultivating civilization.

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 2019 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            State Administration of Cultural Heritage  
                         UNESCO World Heritage Centre