

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/1610/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 21 December 2018

H. E. Mr Hotmangaradja Pandjaitan
Permanent Delegation of the Republic of
Indonesia to UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris CEDEX 15

World Heritage List 2019
**Ombilin Coal Mining Heritage of Sawahlunto (Indonesia) –
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 "Ombilin Coal Mining Heritage of Sawahlunto" was carried out by Sarah Jane Brazil (Australia) 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.

On 1 October 2018, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding the Comparative Analysis, the nominated property boundary (Area A), the continuing mining activity, the Trans-Sumatra Railway, the legal protection, the sustainable tourism strategy and the history of the forced and Indigenous labour. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 5 November 2018 and for their continued cooperation in this process.

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 Monday 26 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:

Mining machinery

The degree to which the machinery associated with mining and coal processing is still *in situ* or installed within attribute buildings/museums in Sawahlunto is not currently clear to the ICOMOS Panel. As discussed on 26 November 2018, ICOMOS would appreciate additional information concerning the existence of historic mining and other industrial machinery/plant within the nominated property. To be concise, this could be presented in the form of a table that lists these according to the present-day location/building and an indication of whether the machinery is found in its original location or has been re-located/moved.

Justification for criterion (ii)

The characteristic of 'fusion' between local and European knowledge is argued as part of the justification for criterion (ii). This is potentially interesting, but the ICOMOS Panel does not currently feel that the specific contribution of local knowledge is well articulated. Additional documentation on this specific aspect would be appreciated.

Boundary to Component B2

Based on the observations of the ICOMOS mission, it is suggested that a minor adjustment should be made to the boundary of component B2 (Babu Tabal Station) to incorporate the water tower. The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could confirm whether this could be possible, and the approximate timeframe if this cannot be immediately achieved.

Social History of the Mining System and Company Town

The Additional Information and discussions on 26 November 2018 provided more information about the involvement of local people, convicts and contract labour during the colonial period. The ICOMOS Panel is aware that the social dimensions of industrial labour within colonial contexts can be a sensitive issue; yet understanding of the social dimensions of this complex system seems central to its potential World Heritage recognition and future interpretation. Additional information would be appreciated concerning the possibilities for adding depth to this aspect in the future, including relevant documentary sources/archives and future research plans about the social dimension of the nominated property's histories.

Buffer Zone Protection

While the Additional Information has assisted the ICOMOS Panel to better understand the arrangements for Buffer Zone protection, these seem complex, relying on various designations for land uses that have different purposes. ICOMOS appreciates that there are different factors that could apply over such a large area, but at this stage, the intended purposes of the Buffer Zone are not clearly understood. It would be appreciated if a consolidated map of all the Buffer Zone protection mechanisms could be provided together with a concise summary table that explains how each designation (i.e. for natural reserves or transport) provides additional protection to the nominated property and prioritises the protection of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value in future decision-making processes according to the different laws that apply. In addition, ICOMOS is interested to know if there is an available mechanism within national and/or provincial legal frameworks that could be more uniformly applied in the future for the Buffer Zone (such as the possible future designation as a 'National Strategic Area').

Legal Protection

The Additional Information and discussions on 26 November 2018 provided a useful update about the progress of providing legal protection for all components of the nominated property, and the ICOMOS Panel understands that the process for providing provincial and national levels of protection should be concluded early in 2019. We would be pleased if the State Party could provide a further update once this process is finalised. In addition, the Nomination dossier suggests that there are plans to create a National Strategic Area for the nominated property by the end of 2019. Confirmation of an intention to proceed in this direction, and an update about the timeframe would be appreciated.

Future Mining Plans

A map showing several current mining operations to the north of the Buffer Zone for Component A was provided to the ICOMOS Mission expert, and it is understood that the companies and authorities for mining are closely involved in the proposed nomination. However, as discussed on 26 November 2018, the ICOMOS Panel needs to clearly understand whether there are any future possibilities for mining in the nominated property or Buffer Zones, including areas underground within the boundary or Buffer Zones. A concise and direct answer to this question would be greatly appreciated.

Zoning for the Sawahlunto Company Town

A map showing the zoning process for the Company Town was shared with the ICOMOS Mission expert. The ICOMOS Panel is interested to know the timeframe for the completion of this important process, since it will assist local decision making for the proposed attributes within the town.

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 Education and Cultural Office of Sumatra Barat Province
 Office of Historical Property and Museums in Sawahlunto
 Conservation Office of Heritage in Sumatra Barat
 Preservation Office of Cultural Values in Sumatra Barat
 UNESCO World Heritage Centre