

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/1590/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 21 December 2018

H. E. Mr António Nóvoa
Ambassador, Permanent Delegate
Permanent Delegation of Portugal to UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris CEDEX 15

World Heritage List 2019

**Royal Building of Mafra – Palace, Basilica, Convent, Cerco Garden and Hunting Park (Tapada) (Portugal)
– 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 “Royal Building of Mafra – Palace, Basilica, Convent, Cerco Garden and Hunting Park” was carried out by David Jacques (United Kingdom) in October 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 17 October 2018, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding the comparative analysis, buffer zone, protection and management. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 14 and 16 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 Saturday 24 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:

Documentation on the Cerco Garden and the Tapada

The ICOMOS Panel appreciates that the size and complexity of the palatial complex of Mafra deserved much space in the descriptive part of the Nomination dossier. However, the ICOMOS Panel considers that it would

be of great assistance if an expanded and deepened description of both the Cerco Garden and the Tapada could be provided, as they appear to be directly related to the Mafra Palace as one single undertaking, conceived by King Joao V. An analysis of their origin and development would contribute to clarify the reasons why they appear so different from other contemporary royal complexes in Europe or elsewhere.

It would be also very helpful if some additional visual documentation of Cerco Garden and Tapada, including historic project drawings, maps, etc. could be provided. These would complement the expanded textual description and provide a better understanding of the initial consistence of these two elements and their subsequent modifications.

In this regard, it would also be useful to understand to what extent the Cerco Garden and Tapada elements are documented.

Comparative analysis

The ICOMOS Panel appreciates the revised approach given to the comparative analysis by the State Party; however, it would be grateful if the comparative exercise could be deepened by comparing the whole nominated property with its closest comparators, e.g. the Escorial (Spain) as well as other properties that include or included similar elements and functions so as to complete the revised comparative analysis.

Buffer Zone

The ICOMOS Panel noted that the current Buffer Zone consists of a 75m-wide strip of land surrounding the nominated property. However, no explicit rationale for this boundary delineation has been presented in relation to the choice of this specific protective extent. In parallel, the Nomination dossier reports that a Visual Impact Study was done by the Municipality of Mafra when establishing the Buffer Zone boundaries. The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could provide further information as regards the rationale for the delineation of the Buffer Zone boundaries, and how it is effectively protecting the nominated area, in relation to the Study for the protection of visual corridors. Moreover, the ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could consider the enlargement of the Buffer Zone towards the town in order to ensure that vistas are protected and maintained.

Conservation

The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could provide further information on the interventions carried out in the distant past and more recent years in the palatial complex on the Garden and the Tapada. It would be useful if this information could be presented with plans and colored captions for a better understanding of the changes that occurred through the centuries.

Some further information on what plans are being developed and action undertaken by the School of Arms to ensure the improvements of some areas in their use/ management would also be very useful for the evaluation process.

Management

The ICOMOS Panel has understood that distinct institutions are responsible for different parts of the complex, through its own management instruments. A 'Management Committee' has been established for preparing the nomination, however it is not clear whether the mandate of this Committee will be extended to ensure a common and coordinated approach to the management of the nominated property, including its presentation to the visitors. The ICOMOS Panel considers that further clarifications and updates in this regard would be highly beneficial for the evaluation process.

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 General Directorate for Cultural Heritage
 UNESCO World Heritage Centre