

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/1578/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 21 December 2018

H. E. Mr Juan Andrés Perello Rodriguez
Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of Spain
to UNESCO
Maison de l'UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris CEDEX 15

World Heritage List 2019

Risco Caído and the Sacred Mountains of Gran Canaria Cultural Landscape (Spain) – 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 “Risco Caído and the Sacred Mountains of Gran Canaria Cultural Landscape” was carried out by Liana Müller (South Africa) 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 8 October 2018, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding the description of the property, the factors affecting the property, the boundaries and Buffer Zone, protection, conservation, management and involvement of the local communities. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 9 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:

Interpretation

The ICOMOS Panel understands that the Nomination dossier develops a demonstration of the relationship between landscape and skyscape and its sacred nature. However, the ICOMOS Panel has some concerns regarding the possible interpretation of the astronomical use of the nominated property sites and of its associated rock images which include triangular motifs. The ICOMOS Panel considers that specific reference to possible function and meaning could label the site with definitions and information that are not yet confirmed by extensive research. The ICOMOS Panel considers that the unequivocal manner in which these interpretations are discussed in the Nomination dossier are somewhat out of place with the broader spirit of engagement, multivocality and openness to understanding the complexity of the cultural landscape.

Documentation

The ICOMOS Panel considers that the presence of human remains offers opportunities to deepen data and documentation of the early population of Gran Canaria. It would be appreciated if the State Party could provide additional information on this point, including DNA analysis, dating as well as respectful treatment of the dead.

The ICOMOS Panel notes that troglodyte as a term in English has a negative and backward connotation. The ICOMOS Panel would suggest that consideration should be given to changing this term to "cave-dwelling" for instance.

Boundaries

On the basis of the additional information provided on 9 November 2018 and the discussions held on 24 November 2018, the ICOMOS Panel understands that the majority of the nominated area and Buffer Zone falls within the geographical boundaries of the Caldera de Tejada.

The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could provide a map showing the overlap between the boundaries of the nominated property and its Buffer Zone and the different protective measures in order to better understand how the boundaries of the nominated property and the Buffer Zone coincide or are different from protective designations.

The ICOMOS Panel notes the archaeological importance of the Tirma archaeological site as a Property of Cultural Interest (BIC) in the northwest of the Buffer Zone, and the term "Tirma" as the sacred mountain territory of the ancient Canarians. The ICOMOS Panel would be grateful if the State Party could clarify why the Tirma archaeological site is not included in the nominated area.

Management

The ICOMOS Panel would be grateful if the State Party could provide additional information regarding the intended function of the proposed Cultural Landscape Management, Co-ordination and Guard Centre, as well as information on when it will be operational.

Name of the property

As discussed in the meeting of 24 November 2018, the ICOMOS Panel considers that the Sacred Mountains of the Gran Canaria include a much larger area than Risco Caído. The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could consider changing the name of the nominated property in order to be more clearly related to this larger landscape.

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

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Gobierno de Canarias
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