

# 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 ДОСТОПРИМЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

Our Ref. GB/AS/1570/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 20 December 2019

H. E. Mr. Vinay Mohan Kwatra  
Ambassador, Permanent Delegate  
Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO  
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## **World Heritage List 2020**

**The Glorious Kakatiya Temples and Gateways, Rudreshwara (Ramappa)  
Temple at Palampet (Jayashankar Bhupalpally District), Telangana State (India) –  
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 2020. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation process.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to the “The Glorious Kakatiya Temples and Gateways, Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple at Palampet (Jayashankar Bhupalpally District), Telangana State, India (India)” was carried out by Vasu Poshyanandana (Thailand) in September 2019. 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 24 September 2019, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding the selection of property, the importance of historic irrigation system, the comparative analysis, the integrated management plan and other planning documents. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 24 October 2019 and for their continued cooperation in this process.

In mid-November 2019, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2020. The additional information, together with mission and desk review reports were carefully examined by the Panel members. This process will conclude in March 2020.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on Friday 22 November 2019 with representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. The exchange during this meeting was of great help for the third part of the ICOMOS evaluation meeting.

While the ICOMOS Panel considered that the “The Glorious Kakatiya Temples and Gateways, Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple at Palampet (Jayashankar Bhupalpally District), Telangana State” might have the potential to meet the requirements for Outstanding Universal Value, this has not yet been demonstrated.

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

#### **Name of the property**

ICOMOS notes that the current name of the nominated property still corresponds to the previous serial nomination project proposed on the Indian Tentative List. Could the State Party envisage changing the name of the site so that it corresponds more clearly to the property which is nominated?

#### **Wider context**

ICOMOS appreciates the information provided by the State Party on the narrative of the selected location of Ramappa Temple provided in the nomination dossier and during the World Heritage Panel meeting, including the mention of a young abducted Kakatiya King, the nearby garrison town but also the Kakatiya water reservoir and irrigation systems in the surroundings of the temple. ICOMOS would therefore appreciate to receive further information on other Kakatiya features in the wider surroundings of the site, including but not limited to the military garrison, water tanks, irrigation systems. Additional information on 7 smaller temples located in the vicinity of Ramappa Temple (three small shrines at the southeast corner of the fenced area – which are not presented in the nomination dossier, but are of the same time period as the complex – three others located in the buffer zone and called Golla Gudi, and another one located on the waterway to the north, parallel to the property boundaries) would assist as well to better understand the wider context in which the temple was situated.

#### **Artistic values**

ICOMOS appreciates the information provided in the additional information and during the World Heritage Panel meeting on the connections between the temple and the Kakatiya civilization and considers interesting the reference to an early essay in Sanskrit on Kakatiya dance customs authored by one of the commanders of the garrison. ICOMOS would like to better understand the relationship between the artistic sculptures at Ramappa Temple and the dance customs described in this historic treatise and would appreciate if further information could be provided on this topic.

#### **Special development area**

When addressing future plans for tourism infrastructure developments during the dialogue with the State Party, the representatives presented their intention to create a special development area around the temple, which would act as a conservation zone restricting any inappropriate development activities beyond the 200 metres buffer zone, and will as a result strengthen the conservation and protection of the wider surroundings of the site. ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could provide detailed information on the special development area to be created, indicating in particular the area that will be covered and the calendar for its completion.

#### **Tourism development**

ICOMOS noted that several tourism infrastructures are planned to be developed around the nominated area. Could the State Party provide plans which indicate the exact locations and, where available, designs of the tourism infrastructures, such as the visitor village, private sector lands for hotels, and developments along the seafront of Ramappa Lake, as well as the calendar for the implementation of these projects?

#### **Integrated conservation and management plan**

In the nomination dossier and during the technical evaluation mission the State Party referenced an integrated conservation and management plan, which aims to be finalized in the near future. ICOMOS appreciates the preparation of such integrated management plan and suggests that the State Party considers that this would also cover aspects on risk preparedness and disaster response strategies as well as visitor management, especially during regional festivals where overcrowding of the temple's premises can be anticipated. ICOMOS would appreciate if the State Party could provide further information on the anticipated timeline of finalization of this management plan and give information on the exact contents it will address.

In relation to the state of conservation of Ramappa Temple, the situation of Kameshwara Temple and its anticipated reestablishment by means of anastylosis was carefully considered by ICOMOS. Could the State Party explain why a complete disassembly and subsequent reconstruction by anastylosis was considered the best option for its long-term conservation?

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 2020 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 request to keep your 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            Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) - Department of Culture  
                         UNESCO World Heritage Centre