

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/1624/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 20 December 2019

H. E. Mr Victor Ricardo Luna Mendoza
Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Peru
to UNESCO
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World Heritage List 2020
Chankillo Solar Observatory and Ceremonial Center (Peru) –
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 "Chankillo Solar Observatory and Ceremonial Center" was carried out by Nelly M. Robles García (Mexico) in August 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 3 October 2019, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding archaeological sites and features the Chankillo complex is connected with, component parts, legal protection, infrastructure development, factors affecting the property, conservation projects, management, funding and research. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 26 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 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 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 in which the Panel identified areas where it considers further information is needed.

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

Clarification on heritage category

ICOMOS notices contradictions in the nomination dossier between, on the one hand, the references to landscape characteristics and the interconnectedness of the elements mentioned in the proposal, and, on the other hand, the information actually supplied on these aspects. According to § 47 of the *Operational Guidelines*, a cultural landscape is a combination of “works of nature and of man” designated in Article 1 of the Convention, which illustrates the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both external and internal. Therefore, ICOMOS would be pleased to receive clarifications on whether the State Party has nominated the property as a Cultural Landscape category or not. If it is the case, additional information on the landscape aspects of the nomination, and in particular in relation to the most important view sheds would be helpful. Please be reminded that ICOMOS does not make any suggestion on this matter by this inquiry.

Chankillo within the Casma Valley

There are numerous mentions made in the nomination dossier regarding the relationship of the nominated elements to the very long cultural history of the Casma Valley and its numerous archaeological sites. ICOMOS welcomes the inclusion of this wider context into the nomination narrative. However, the information provided is rather superficial and allows no real understanding of the geographical, historical and socio-cultural context of Chankillo. ICOMOS would be pleased if further information could be provided to relate the nominated monuments to the wider collection of archaeological sites, and to explain how Chankillo might be seen as ‘the culmination of a long and unique process of development and accumulation of astronomical knowledge during the prehistoric era’ as suggested in the nomination dossier.

Interpretation

While the archaeoastronomical information provided in the nomination dossier is impressive, ICOMOS would be interested to know if more academic discussions and peer-reviews support the interpretation of the site as an “observatory”. More information on the state of the archaeological and academic research would be useful.

Tourism and visitor control

The archaeological site has not been officially opened to the public and currently there are no visitor indications or security measures in place, apart from two guards. ICOMOS understands that this issue will be addressed in the framework of a four-year World Monuments Fund project (approval pending), as explained by the State Party during the meeting. The project document itself was supplied by the State Party with the additional information. However, information on how tourism management strategy will be put in place is very scarce. ICOMOS would be pleased to receive more details on this issue and any information on further steps planned.

Local community

In relation to the local communities, ICOMOS notes that the nomination dossier does not provide much explanation about their involvement in this nomination process. Could more details be provided of how the local communities have been involved and how their participation might be strengthened in the future?

Management system

The management system with the committee, board and the three units is an opportunity to involve the local community into the management system of the nominated property. However, the additional information supplied by the State Party mentions a management system that differs in structure and organization from the one described in the Management Plan and the nomination dossier. ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could provide explanations in relation to the implications of this change. When will the system be operational and what will be the composition of the management team?

Land use

On several occasions, the nomination dossier mentions the zoning of the property and its buffer zone. However, detailed information on the permitted and restricted land uses is only available in the Management Plan. ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could explain how the restrictions will assist to control mining activities and the extension of agriculture or urban areas.

Conservation

ICOMOS is concerned by the current state of conservation of the main elements of the nominated property, which deserve careful attention and urgent conservation measures. The project that was proposed by the Archaeological Research Institute to the World Monuments Fund, which is presented by the State Party as part of the additional information, includes a section on conservation entirely focused on the Thirteen Towers. ICOMOS would be pleased to receive further information on that project: what are the short, medium and long-term plans for conservation of this section of the property? What is planned in terms of conservation strategy for the whole nominated property?

Funding

The information provided in the nomination dossier suggests that national funding for the site still remains a project and that it is conditioned on the inscription of the site in the Public Registry, a step that is still pending. ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could clarify how funding will be secured, even if the World Monuments Fund does not approve the project on conservation and visitor infrastructure?

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 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 Ministerio de Cultura
 Dirección de Sitios del Patrimonio Mundial
 UNESCO World Heritage Centre