

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/1552/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 22 December 2017

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Permanent Delegation of Romania to UNESCO
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World Heritage List 2018

Roşia Montană Mining Landscape (Romania) – Interim report and additional information request

Dear Sir,

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 2018. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation process.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to "Roşia Montană Mining Landscape" was carried out by Helmut Albrecht (Germany) from 25 to 30 September 2017.

On 22 September 2017, a letter requesting additional information was sent by ICOMOS on the following issues: identification of key attributes, Outstanding Universal Value and criteria, ownership and demolition and restoration of some village houses. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided 31 October 2017 and for their continued cooperation in this process.

At the end of November 2017, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2018. 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 2018.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on Friday 24 November 2017 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. The exchanges during this meeting were of great help for the third part of the ICOMOS Panel meeting. During its last part meeting, the Panel has identified areas where it considers that further information is needed.

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

Justification for Outstanding Universal Value

The nomination dossier states that: "*Roşia Montană Mining Landscape*" contains the world's pre-eminent example of an underground Roman gold mine and, further, demonstrates over 2,000 years of subsequent exploitation and continuous settlement'.

Although the proposed justification for Outstanding Universal Value emphasises a long continuity of mining, the evidence for this continuity between Roman times and the 13th – 20th centuries appears to be slim at the current time. Moreover, the later periods of mining were not particularly distinctive, whereas the remains of Roman exploitation, in terms of scale and technical details, have no parallel.

The nomination dossier clearly sets out details of the underground Roman remains of gold mining with Roman galleries forming a dense network excavated into the following massifs: Orlea, Carpeni, Cetate, Cârnic and Letea. As well as the below ground remains, it is indicated that a wealth of above ground features have also

survived such as "ore-processing areas, living quarters, administrative buildings, sacred areas and necropolises, some with funerary buildings with complex architecture."

If the nomination were to be more restricted in its scope than is currently proposed, there would need to be a detailed assessment of the above ground Roman remains in order to understand their precise extent, together with an indication of other areas that might have high potential for further discoveries.

Given that the Roman remains are the best documented remains from Roşia Montană, would the State Party be open to restricting the proposed Outstanding Universal Value to the remains from the Roman era? If so, could the State Party kindly submit a new proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value that concentrates on attributes that date to the Roman era.

Since discussion so far has focussed on the Roman period, the ICOMOS Panel invites the State Party to submit a revised boundary that excludes later features, for example the 19th century ore railway. The State Party is also invited to make any other changes necessary that would align the boundary with the extent of Roman remains.

Protection and management

The ICOMOS Panel noted that a management plan or management system will need to be in place in order to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value. Therefore, ICOMOS would be pleased to receive further information on the current status of the management planning. ICOMOS would also be pleased to receive the draft management plan if available.

Related to this issue is the protection of the property. A key element of protection is the zoning plan and planning regulation for the entire municipality, called the *Plan Urbanistic General (PUG)*, and the *Plan Urbanistic Zonal (PUZ)*. ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could provide an update on the progress of these plans.

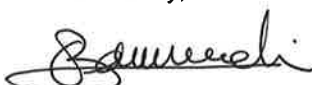
Finally, a moratorium on future mining from the State Party, especially mining at the scale that has been proposed, will be required as another part of the additional information.

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 2018 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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