

# 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/1647/IR

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H. E. Mr Ahmad Jalali  
Permanent Delegation of the Islamic Republic of  
Iran to UNESCO  
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## **World Heritage List 2021– Interim report and additional information request Cultural Landscape of Hawraman/Uramanat (Iran)**

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 2021. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation process.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to “Cultural Landscape of Hawraman/Uramanat” was carried out by Mr. Hossam Mahdy (Egypt) from 21 September to 2 October 2020. 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 29 September 2020, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding the issues related to the property boundaries, management, legal protection as well as comparative analysis. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 13 November 2020 and for their continued cooperation in this process.

At the end of November 2020, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2021. 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 2021.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on 26 November 2020 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:

The ICOMOS World Heritage Panel has carefully considered all different aspects of the nomination and the additional information provided by the State Party. The documents illustrate the values of the cultural landscape of Hawraman/Uramanat, related to the diversity and richness of tangible and intangible features,

particularly, the degree of preservation of the semi-nomadic and agropastoral way of life of Hawrami people, which is a cornerstone of the nomination. It is noted that the territory is a “treasure trove” of Hawrami culture, which is distinct from other Kurdish cultures present in the region. The ICOMOS panel also acknowledged that the geomorphology of the mountainous, and secluded landscape character of the area, has resulted in the high degree of preservation of ancient way of agropastoral life, with its rich tangible and intangible attributes.

Several issues were raised during the Panel discussion, which would benefit from further clarification and elaboration by the State Party.

### **Agropastoral system**

The ancient agropastoral social system of the Hawrami people has been the key driver for shaping the landscape over the millennia, therefore, it would be important to describe more accurately the way this system functions, particularly with regards to the traditional social structures and collaboration practices. The nomination makes clear that the local migration patterns are well-researched scientifically, the specificities of migration and dwelling patterns and their localization in different areas of the property are described at length. However, ICOMOS would be pleased to receive more detailed identification of the existing transhumance and agricultural practices. In particular, information is needed on the specific transhumance routes, where they are and how they are connected; Havars and orchards for each of the 13 villages which are presented as the key attributes of the nomination, and, how they are related to each other. In addition, it would be useful to receive a detailed map clearly showing the location of the different types of historical places, routes, etc. which would help in better understanding the nominated property in terms of the relationship of these features with the landscape, especially between transhumance routes and villages.

In addition, it was noted that the built fabric of the villages varies considerably in terms of the concentration of historical buildings. To strengthen the rationale for selection of the villages, it would be helpful to confirm whether the newer buildings which in some cases constitute more than half of the built fabric, are built with traditional materials, complying with the traditional planning and architectural practices.

### **Boundaries**

Regarding the delineation of the nominated property boundaries, the additional information received from the State Party was appreciated. ICOMOS considers that it would be helpful if the State Party could further clarify the spatial relationship of other features presented in the nomination to these boundaries: ancient settlements, cave shelters, castles, historic routes, mounds, cemeteries, inscriptions with the surrounding landscape and their connection to the Hawrami people. The rationale of having some of these features in the proposed buffer zone would need to be explained in the context of their contribution to the proposed outstanding universal value of the cultural landscape.

### **Management**

As it is evident from other parts of the world, transhumance communities prove to be fragile given the pressures of modernization. Therefore, it would be helpful to clarify in which way the State Party supports the continuity of existing authentic economic systems. What long-term management arrangements are in place to prevent or mitigate any possible negative aspects of tourism and other forces of modernization, which may have irreversible impact on local way of life?

More specifically, it would be important to understand which are the strategies in place to foster local traditional economy and to support young people to continue the traditional way of life. Further, in which way would these strategies allow harmonization with modern needs.

The large-scale infrastructure projects, although creating jobs and reversing depopulation, may not always be compatible with authentic agropastoral systems. Therefore, it would be helpful if the State Party could provide information on how the management authorities will support young people to continue the traditional way of life, while meeting the needs and aspirations of this generation.

