

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/1634-IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 29 January 2021

H. E. Mr Juan Salazar Sparks
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of Chile to France, Permanent Delegate
Maison de l'UNESCO
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World Heritage List 2021

Settlement and Artificial Mummification of the Chinchorro Culture in the Arica and Parinacota Region (Chile) – 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 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 “Settlement and Artificial Mummification of the Chinchorro Culture in the Arica and Parinacota Region” was carried out by Mr. Diego Sberna (Argentina) in December 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 24 September 2020, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding the description of the property, research, integrity, boundaries and buffer zones, legal protection, conservation and management. 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.

In mid-January 2021, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel held an extraordinary session, as per request of the World Heritage Committee, that evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2021, for which technical evaluation missions were organised in December 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 2021.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on 13 January 2021 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 the last part of the meeting, the Panel has identified areas where it considers that further information is needed.

While the ICOMOS Panel considered that the “Settlement and Artificial Mummification of the Chinchorro Culture in the Arica and Parinacota Region” 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:

Archaeological information

As expressed by the title of the nomination, and the justification proposed for criterion (v), ICOMOS understands that the nomination is focused on the adaptation of the Chinchorro people to the environment. ICOMOS acknowledges the additional information on the concept of sedentism of the marine hunter-gatherers provided by State Party in November 2020. However, ICOMOS considers that information concerning the link of the settlements and the processes of adaptation through archaeological evidence is still missing.

ICOMOS would be grateful if the State Party could provide further information on the archaeological evidence that was found at the nominated property, which gives support to the information about the settlements and the adaptation of the Chinchorro people to their environment. This information could include (but not limited to) plans and/or maps of surface finds or excavations with the exact location of, for example, middens, fireplaces, storage pits etc. It would be helpful if these could be documented with descriptions, photos, or drawings etc., which will help to understand the direct connection of the settlements to the environment. This information should be linked to the discourse on Chinchorro settlement patterns, sedentism and adaptation.

Integrity

ICOMOS notes that there are some integrity issues for Component 01 and Component 03. The nomination dossier explains that the municipal authorities of Desembocadura de Camarones are planning the removal of the illegal settlement included in Component 03. On the other hand, it is mentioned that the settlers have become "guardians" of the nominated property. ICOMOS would be pleased to understand whether other options were considered before deciding the removal of the settlement. What is the position of the inhabitants of Caleta Camarones? Where would the settlement be relocated to and what is the timeframe for the relocation?

In addition, the nomination dossier mentions that there are poultry farms located in the buffer zone of Component 03 "Facilities devoted to industrial poultry farming exist inside the property's buffer zone." (p. 219). However, from maps provided in the nomination dossier, it seems that the poultry farms are located outside the buffer zone of this component, but quite close to the property boundaries (as per map 16 p. 46-47 of the nomination dossier). Could the State Party please clarify the exact location of the poultry farms by locating it precisely on a map, showing the boundaries of the nominated property component and its buffer zone, in order for ICOMOS to better understand its potential impacts on the nominated component part 3? It would be useful if the State Party could also provide clarifications on how potential impacts of these poultry farms are addressed.

Boundaries

ICOMOS understands that the nominated property and its buffer zones have been delineated on the basis of the legal protection mechanisms and the distribution of the archaeological remains. For Component 03, it is understood that the State Party also considered the environmental and landscape aspects.

In order to better understand the rationale for the boundaries of the property and the buffer zones in terms of distribution of the archaeological remains, ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could provide clear definition of the concepts of archaeological sites, archaeological finds and areas with archaeological potential as mentioned in the nomination dossier and explain how these are distributed. It would be helpful if the State Party could explain what criteria were followed to make the distinction between what is located in the buffer zones and what is included in the nominated areas.

In the additional information, the State Party provided information on the chance and surface finds, research projects carried out and associated to the nominated property (completed and in progress), as well as research projects suggested for the property, and the field survey that was conducted in Component 01.

ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could provide clarification as regards the location of these projects and finds within the nominated property and in the surrounding area. It would be important for ICOMOS to understand how well the extension of the area with archaeological remains is known today (within the limits of the nominated property and beyond) and how well this area is represented by the nominated property and its buffer zone. For that reason, ICOMOS would be pleased to receive detailed topographic map and plan (e.g. of the excavated areas) of all of these points and areas (within the proposed property and in the surrounding area).

Conservation

Concerning the installation of fences to protect the component parts, ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could supply an exact plan of the fences that are already installed and of the stretches of fencing that are still projected. ICOMOS would also be grateful to receive information on the construction process: to what depth are the wooden posts buried in the ground? Are the excavations for the post holes archaeologically surveyed?

In the nomination dossier, the concept of an "on-site conservation model" is mentioned on several occasions, but what that entails is not developed in detail. Could the State Party provide more information on this model?

In terms of tourism activities, could the State Party provide updated information on the status of the preparation of the different property components for visitation (visitation routes with footpaths, signs, barriers, presentation of archaeological remains, information panels, parking spaces, etc.)?

Legal protection

The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could provide further information on the legal protection in place for the component parts and the buffer zones. Could the State Party clarify whether all component parts are protected at the same level under national legislation? Are there any differences of the level of protection between the components nominated for inscription and the buffer zones?

Is the protection in place applicable to sites, finds, areas of archaeological potential or to the entire polygon (nominated property and buffer zones) defined by the nomination dossier?

It would be helpful to understand as well what is the legal status of the "archaeological reserves"

In addition, ICOMOS understands that with regards to Component 03, there will be changes in the legal structure in place in relation to the Nature Sanctuary declaration and the approval of the updated Regulatory Plan Ordinance of Arica City the Sectional Plan Cospa/Guañacagua/Cuya/Caleta Camarones. Could the State Party provide further information on these changes and implications in terms of legal protection for Component 03?

On the basis of the additional information received in November 2020, ICOMOS understands that the polygons of protection / zoning of the nominated property have been updated. Could the State Party provide updated topographic maps of these polygons, showing the different legal mechanisms in the nominated component parts and their buffer zones - such as the Legal Delimitation of National Assets Plan, the Morro de Arica Historic Monument's boundaries, and the zoning of uses proposed in the current and future Municipal Regulatory Plans. It would also be important to understand how the zones of uses are defined and how the zoning corresponds to the proposed limits of the property and its buffer zone.

Finally, during the meeting with the State Party, it was mentioned that a new heritage law is being drafted. ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could indicate what would the foreseeable impacts of the new law on the protection and management of World Heritage properties.

Management

Could the State Party provide further information as regards resources available for the Chinchorro Marka Corporation and whether there are secured funds for the maintenance of the nominated property and for special projects planned for 2021 and beyond?

Could update information be provided as regards progress made in relation to the elaboration of the pending planning instruments for the nominated property, specifically the Management Plan, as well as the Tourism / Visitor Plan, the Disaster / Emergency / Risk Plan, Research Plan and the Conservation / Maintenance Plan?

Regarding the monitoring system, ICOMOS notes that there is a rather detailed description of the indicators for the part concerning the state of conservation of the property included in the nomination dossier (mainly quantitative indicators expressed in length (km) or area (ha) of factors affecting the property) but no information about the way the data will be collected, stored and evaluated. ICOMOS would be pleased to receive more detailed information on that point.

Indigenous participation and the ethics of exhibiting human remains

Indigenous participation and the ethics of exhibiting human remains were discussed during the ICOMOS Panel meeting in relation to the way they are addressed in the nomination dossier. While there is not one single approach to these issues, ICOMOS considers that it is necessary to address them in a sensitive and open-minded way. For that reason, ICOMOS invites the State Party to reflect on these issues, considering the discussions that have developed globally concerning the ethics of excavating, curating and exhibiting human remains such as those of the World Archaeological Congress, as well as the need to give a voice to indigenous communities that may have a special connection with the archaeological remains.

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 2021 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 Ministry of Cultural Heritage
 Regional Program for Protection of the Chinchorro Sites
 UNESCO World Heritage Centre