

# 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/EG/1667/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 20 December 2021

H. E. Mr Sovath Bong  
Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Delegate  
Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of  
Cambodia to UNESCO  
Maison de l'UNESCO  
1, rue Miollis  
75015 PARIS Cedex 15

## World Heritage List 2022

### **Koh Ker: Archaeological Site of Ancient Lingapura or Chok Gargyar (Cambodia) – 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 2022. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation process.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to “Koh Ker: Archaeological Site of Ancient Lingapura or Chok Gargyar” was carried out by Mr. Till Sonnemann (Germany) from 27 September to 10 October 2021. 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 27 September 2021, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding the identification and mapping of the attributes of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value, rationale of the boundary in relation to attributes, research, conservation, interpretation and visitor management. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 12 November 2021 and for their continued cooperation in this process.

At the end of November 2021, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2022. 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 2022.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on 27 November 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.

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

### **Tourism management**

As mentioned earlier, ICOMOS notes that the State Party anticipates strong growth in tourism development and visitation if the property is inscribed on the World Heritage List, and shares the concerns expressed about the added pressures of uncontrolled development. The Tourism Management Plan has been developed as a sectoral plan of the Comprehensive Cultural Management Plan (CCMP), in which sustainable tourism is one of the main principles. However, ICOMOS would appreciate to know when the carrying capacity of the individual monuments will be established, and what measures is undertaken or envisaged to address the seasonality of tourism activities.

### **Heritage Impact Assessment**

ICOMOS noticed that the main information and visitor centre, several parking lots, and tour routes will be built in the nominated property and its buffer zone. As indicated in the additional information provided in November 2021, Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Initial Environmental Impact Assessment (IEIA) will be undertaken for these planned initiatives. ICOMOS would be pleased to know when these HIA and IEIA reports will be available for review.

### **Future research**

ICOMOS considers that research had been an important part of the past conservation, management, and interpretation of the nominated property. ICOMOS also notices that in recent years, academic research on the history, the urban planning, artistic and architectural styles, hydraulic engineering, and sacred and secular lives of the Koh Ker people has been progressing. ICOMOS considers, however, there is a lack of an overall strategy for future research to guide the conduct of all research in the context of the CCMP, and to expand the understanding of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. ICOMOS would be interested to know whether the State Party envisages such a strategy, and when it could be developed.

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 2022 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            National Authority for Preah Vihear  
                         Cambodian National Commission for UNESCO  
                         UNESCO World Heritage Centre