

# 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/EG/1665/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 21 December 2022

H. E. Mr Jin YANG  
Ambassador, Permanent Delegate  
Permanent Delegation of the People's  
Republic of China to UNESCO  
Maison de l'UNESCO  
1, rue Miollis  
75732 PARIS Cedex 15

## World Heritage List 2023

### Cultural Landscape of Old Tea Forests of the Jingmai Mountain in Pu'er (China) – Interim report and additional information request

Dear Ambassador,

As prescribed by the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* and its Annex 6, the Advisory Bodies have to submit a short interim report for each nomination by 31 January 2023. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation procedure.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to the “Cultural Landscape of Old Tea Forests of the Jingmai Mountain in Pu'er” was carried out by Mr. Marlon Martin (Philippines) in September 2022. The mission expert highly appreciated the availabilities and support provided by the experts in your country for the organisation and implementation of the mission.

On 3 October 2022, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding the organically evolved cultural landscape, the justification for inscription, the state of conservation, the protection, the factors affecting the property, the free prior and informed consent, and the management. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 6 November 2022 and for their continued cooperation in this process.

At the end of November 2022, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2023. 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 2023.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation for attending the meeting held on 25 November 2022 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 its 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:

### **Conservation measures**

The ICOMOS Panel appreciated the additional information provided by the State Party regarding the baseline and processes undertaken for the restoration of the traditional villages and residences, and the clarification regarding restorations in tea plantations. The State Party refers in the nomination dossier and Conservation Management Plan to documents such as the *Regulations on the Protection of Traditional Villages* and the *Guidelines for Construction Activities in Jingmai Mountain Heritage Site*. ICOMOS would be interested in knowing more about the content of these instruments, and would appreciate receiving summaries in English of the key regulations and guidelines contained in each of these documents.

### **Planning and potential tourism development in traditional villages**

The ICOMOS Panel notes the efforts of the State Party to control the growth and plan the sustainable development of the fifteen traditional villages located within the nominated property and buffer zone, particularly by combining a tourism strategy limiting the access to the nominated property and guiding urban development. ICOMOS would be pleased to receive summaries in English of the key measures in place from the documents regulating urban development in the nominated property, particularly the village plans for the Jingmai and Mangjing Administrative Villages in the Jingmai Mountain and the *Plan for Villages in the Jingmai Mountain*, as well as the tourism strategy.

### **Ownership**

The State Party informs in the nomination dossier that the nominated property is under state or collective ownership. ICOMOS would appreciate receiving more information about the ownership system in the nominated property. In relation to this, the ICOMOS Panel would be interested in understanding better the content of the Protection Convention for Pu'er Jigmai Mountain Ancient Tea Forest Cultural Landscape signed by relevant villages and the letters of responsibility for protection (Nomination Dossier, p. 294) or commitment letters (Conservation Management Plan, p.120), as well as the process and current status of obtaining these signed agreements. In particular, ICOMOS would be grateful to receive information on the number of traditional residences' owners who have already signed these letters.

### **Waste management**

The State Party mentions in the Conservation Management Plan that "there is no garbage collection and cleaning system in the villages, and some garbage is dumped in the tea forests" (p.23). ICOMOS would appreciate receiving more information about the measures that are or will be put in place to address this issue.

We look forward to your responses to these points, which will be of great help in our evaluation procedure.

We would be grateful if you could provide **ICOMOS** and the **World Heritage Centre** with the above information by **28 February 2023 at the latest**, the deadline set out in paragraph 148 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* for additional 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 additional 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 procedure.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gwenaëlle Bourdin', with a stylized, flowing script.

Gwenaëlle Bourdin  
Director  
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

Copy to            China National Cultural Heritage Administration  
                         Yunnan Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism  
                         UNESCO World Heritage Centre

Our Ref. GB/TA/1665/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 31 January 2022

H. E. Mr Yang Jin  
Ambassador, Permanent Delegate  
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1, rue Miollis  
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## World Heritage List 2022

### Cultural Landscape of Old Tea Forests of the Jingmai Mountain in Pu'er (China) – Interim Report

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 providing you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation process.

Further to exchanges by email with your Delegation, including the State Party's information dated 10 November 2021 regarding the COVID-19 situation and the lack of improvement of regulations and policies on sanitary situation and travel restrictions for travelers who enter China with a 14-day quarantine as a minimum requirement, a technical evaluation mission has not been undertaken to "Cultural Landscape of Old Tea Forests of the Jingmai Mountain in Pu'er" before ICOMOS November Panel meeting.

ICOMOS sincerely regrets that the conditions of safety and security regarding the COVID-19 pandemic prevent us from organizing the mission to the nominated property in 2021. We sincerely hope that the conditions shall improve in the near future in order to allow the undertaking of a field mission.

In the meantime, it should be noted that the delay in the implementation of the technical evaluation mission, which is due to circumstances beyond our control, shall inevitably impact the timeframe of the examination of the nomination by the World Heritage Committee. Therefore, an evaluation of the nominated property cannot be prepared nor presented at the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee in June 2022.

If sanitary conditions allow the mission to be carried out before October 2022, the World Heritage Panel of ICOMOS will examine the nomination at its next session in November 2022, with the evaluation report issued to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in 2023. We thus do have time to consider alternative dates for the mission as required.

We thank you for your support of the World Heritage Convention and for your cooperation in regards the evaluation process.

Yours faithfully,



Gwenaëlle Bourdin  
Director  
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

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                 Yunnan Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism  
                 UNESCO World Heritage Centre