

# 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/1558 Rev/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 20 December 2021

H. E. Mr Michal Fleischmann  
Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic to  
France, Permanent Delegate  
Permanent Delegation of the Czech Republic  
to UNESCO  
Ambassade de la République Tchèque  
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## **World Heritage List 2022**

### **Žatec and the Landscape of Saaz Hops (Czech Republic) – 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 “Žatec and the Landscape of Saaz Hops” was carried out by Mr. Helmuth Albrecht (Germany) from 30 August to 5 September 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 summary of revisions, concept and presentation of the nominated property, legal protection, factors affecting the property, development projects and conservation works, management, and intangible heritage expressions related to the cultivation and processing of hops. 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:

### **Justification for inscription**

The nomination dossier, including the proposed statement of Outstanding Universal Value, has given some importance to the hop wire trellis called "žatecká drátěnka" by suggesting that this trellis system was first developed in the Saaz region and was then copied by other hop growing regions where it is used to date.

ICOMOS would appreciate if the State Party could provide further evidence to support this claim and elaborate on the local empirical knowledge which the nomination dossier refers to that the wire trellis structure called "žatecká drátěnka" was developed in the Saaz region and from there spread to other hop growing regions.

### **Protection**

The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could provide further assurance that the heritage assets of the nominated settlement areas, including those of private non-registered buildings within them, will be preserved on the long run. Further details on how the urban heritage protection takes effect on the basis of the Land Use Plans would be appreciated, as well as information on the role existing and planned inventories of urban areas and individual buildings play as baseline data for monitoring and decision making.

ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could kindly describe how and on which basis the heritage authorities take case-by-case decisions and how these take effect in maintaining heritage assets of the nominated urban and village areas and of historic buildings within them.

### **Conservation framework for urban areas and historic hop-processing buildings**

As discussed during the meeting with Panel members, ICOMOS would welcome the development of a conservation framework which would guide the future conservation and development of the nominated urban areas and historic buildings within them in a coherent manner.

ICOMOS would be grateful if the State Party could elaborate on the potential of developing such conservation framework including guiding principles for the development of the nominated urban areas and for the adaptive re-use and conservation of historic hop processing buildings.

### **Conservation of landscape features of component part 1**

ICOMOS appreciates the recent national designation of component part 1 as Saaz Hop Landscape Heritage Zone as well as the additional information provided on the nature of the legal protection. ICOMOS also recognizes that both the natural conditions as well as ownership and management by the Hop Research Institute support continuous cultivation of the nominated hop fields in the future.

Nevertheless, ICOMOS considers it necessary to put in place additional means to ensure that the characteristic landscape features are kept in the future, particularly as cultivation methods might keep developing.

ICOMOS hence invites the State Party to elaborate on possibilities to define limits of change for the rural landscape to ensure that the character of the landscape will be preserved in the future.

### **Residential development north of Stekník**

ICOMOS appreciates the additional information provided on the potential development of detached family houses along the entrance road to Stekník. ICOMOS recognizes the legal obligation to allocate

new land for residential developments and that the plans were incorporated in the Zálužice Land Use Plan prior to the recent designation as Landscape Heritage Zone. The ICOMOS Panel however considers that the development would negatively impact both the integrity of the cultural landscape and of the village of Stekník despite being located in a less exposed location.

ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could further detail how this development will be controlled and consider possibilities of relocating the development plots outside the nominated property.

### **Hop Lighthouse**

ICOMOS acknowledges the benefits of the so-called Hop Lighthouse as a visitor and promotion facility. Nevertheless, the Panel stressed the importance of protecting the urban landscape and would be pleased to receive further assurance that no second facility of comparable visual impact will be constructed within the boundaries of the nominated property or in its vicinity.

ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could provide comments on this item, particularly with regard to applicable height restrictions of new construction projects.

### **Mid- and long-term financial resources**

ICOMOS thanks the State Party for the additional budgetary information provided for the years 2021 and 2022. As discussed during the meeting with members of the Panel, ICOMOS would be grateful to receive further information on the funds that will also be available for the mid- and long-term conservation and development of the nominated property.

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            Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic  
                         National Heritage Institute – Directorate General, Unit of Heritage with International Status  
                         UNESCO World Heritage Centre