

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/1666/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 20 December 2021

H. E. Mr KIM Dong Gi
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Delegate
Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Korea
to UNESCO
Tour Montparnasse
33, avenue du Maine
75015 Paris

World Heritage List 2022

Gaya Tumuli (Republic of Korea) – 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 “Gaya Tumuli” was carried out by Mr. Matthew Whincop (Australia) from 23 September to 3 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 6 October 2021, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding general questions on the Gaya Society, selection of component parts, dating of the component parts, private ownership, legal protection, planned development, monitoring, and participation of local communities. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 15 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 Thursday 25 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:

Selection of component parts

In the nomination dossier and the additional information provided in November 2021, the State Party described how the general area of the Gaya Confederacy was defined, using the distinctive elongated stone-lined chamber burials and the Gaya-style pottery as indicators. However, the property is nominated as a serial property with seven component parts, to a certain extent due to the information from the historic sources that indicate that the confederacy had between 6 to 12 parts. The information that has been submitted also mentions that the division of the Gaya culture into its confederated sub-entities is indicated archaeologically by variations of the distinctive elements, for example the footed bowl and the jar pedestal.

ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could further explain how the different sub-entities are defined, what attributes or combination of attributes are used to identify a cemetery or a grave as belonging to one or another sub-entity? This information could be supplied, for example, in the form of a map and a list of frequencies of the distinctive attributes.

For five of the polities mentioned in the historical records, a political centre is identified. The ICOMOS Panel would be grateful to understand how well do the nominated cemeteries coincide with the indicated geographical points and how were the other two cemeteries identified.

Surveys and excavations are mentioned in the additional information. However, ICOMOS would be pleased if further detailed information could be provided on the following matters: what are the characteristics that identify a cemetery of the highest elite, and how many and which of the 1,049 known cemeteries have these characteristics? How can it be shown that the seven selected cemeteries are representing confederated political entities of comparable power? This information could be supplied through a map showing the spatial distribution of the characteristics and quantitative data, for example, in frequency tables.

Excavation and exhibition of objects

ICOMOS would appreciate if the State Party could provide details about the inventories, conservation / storage and exposition of the archaeological material (including human remains) excavated at the components.

Furthermore, ICOMOS would like to know if it is planned to excavate further on the nominated property component parts? Has a Research Strategy / Framework for the property, with clearly defined objectives and methodology, been developed?

Protection

ICOMOS would be pleased to receive further information on the surveys undertaken in order to detect the limits of the cemeteries. Where there are any elements of the cemeteries affected by urban development in the past? This information can also be supplied through maps.

In addition, how will the current legal protection effectively protect the nominated property from this threat in the future?

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

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UNESCO World Heritage Centre