

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/1528 Rev/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 20 December 2021

H. E. Mr José Manuel Rodríguez Uribe
Ambassador, Permanent Delegate
(designate)
Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of
Spain to UNESCO
Maison de l'UNESCO
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World Heritage List 2022

Talayotic Menorca - A cyclopean island odyssey (Spain) – 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 “Talayotic Menorca - A cyclopean island odyssey” was carried out by Ms. Goreti Sousa (Portugal) from 4 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 30 September 2021, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding the summary of revisions to the nomination dossier, rationale of the selection of components in the comparative analysis, description of the component parts, protection and management plan. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 10 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 Friday 26 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:

Protection

The ICOMOS Panel observed that among 280 archaeological sites located within the component parts, the State Party has selected 23 key archaeological sites. In the nomination dossier, however, maps describing the delimitation of these specific archaeological sites are not included. ICOMOS would be pleased to receive maps showing the boundaries of these 23 archaeological sites to better understand whether they extend beyond the boundaries of the component parts.

The ICOMOS Panel noted that the nomination dossier states that “[a]ll the monumental structures and archaeological sites with attributes that clearly express the Outstanding Universal Value of the property have been declared Heritage of Cultural Interest (BIC)” (p.317). It also notes that 231 out of the 280 archaeological sites located within the component parts are protected as Heritage of Cultural Interest (BIC) (p.501). The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased to receive further information on the protection of the 49 archaeological sites that are not designated as BIC and to know whether these sites are going to be designated and if so, in which timeframe.

The ICOMOS Panel considers that the Land Use Plan of Menorca – PTIMe (2020) is comprehensive and grants protection to the nine component parts through the designation of Areas of Landscape Interest. However, it remains unclear whether Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) are part of the spatial planning system of Menorca. ICOMOS would be therefore interested in better understanding the spatial planning system and whether HIA processes are already part of the mechanisms in place or would be established in the future.

Conservation and research

The State Party has indicated the importance of research and excavations being undertaken in the nominated property, including new discoveries. The ICOMOS Panel considers that a Research Strategy/Framework for the property as a whole is necessary to guide excavations, interventions, and curation in the frame of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the property. Therefore, ICOMOS would be interested in understanding whether the State Party could consider the development of such Research Strategy/Framework for the property as a whole that could guide future archaeological policy in alignment with the conservation strategy of the nominated property.

Management

The ICOMOS Panel considers that the Owners and Managers Forum and the Heritage Stewardship and Enhancement Contract, proposed by the State Party as an agreement between landowners and the Talayotic Menorca Agency and the Island Council of Menorca, are sound examples of cooperation in private ownership contexts. ICOMOS would appreciate to know more about these instruments, and understand whether they are legally binding. Furthermore, ICOMOS would be pleased to receive a sample of the Heritage Stewardship and Enhancement Contract in order to understand better the content of this agreement.

ICOMOS appreciates the additional information provided by the State Party regarding the approval of the management plan, the Talayotic Menorca Agency and the Owners and Managers Forum. However, ICOMOS notes that information about governance and decision-making processes is in Catalan. Could the State Party please provide a translation of these important documents? This would allow ICOMOS to have a clearer understanding of the proposed management system. Furthermore, it would be useful for ICOMOS to receive information about the number of landowners owning plots in the component parts and, from these, how many of them are part of the Owners and Managers Forum and how many have signed the Heritage Stewardship and Enhancement Contract.

The State Party has mentioned in the nomination dossier that the property is covered by the Special Plan for Emergencies of Risk of Forest Fires in the Balearic Islands and the Climate Change Mitigation

Plan for the Balearic Islands (2013-2020). The ICOMOS Panel would appreciate to understand whether the State Party is planning to develop specific plans on risk management and climate change adaptation for the property, based on the proposed Outstanding Universal Value and the impacts of climate change on it.

ICOMOS understood that master plans for 2 of the 23 archaeological sites have been developed (Son Catlar and Torre d'en Galmés), and 4 are still under development. The additional information provided by the State Party stated that these 4 master plans will be finished within 5 years. ICOMOS would be pleased to receive a timetable for the finalization of the master plans under elaboration.

ICOMOS noted that Menorca counts with a Tourism development plan (2018-2025) where the nominated property is mentioned. ICOMOS wishes to understand better how the nominated serial property would be included in this plan in the event of an inscription on the World Heritage List. Furthermore, ICOMOS would appreciate if the State Party could indicate whether it considers developing a specific sustainable tourism strategy for the nominated serial 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 and Sport
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 UNESCO World Heritage Centre