

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/TA/1680/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 21 December 2022

H.E. Mr Henry Ravindredath Ori
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Delegate
Permanent Delegation of Suriname to
UNESCO
94, rue du Ranelagh
75016 Paris

World Heritage List 2023

Jodensavanne Archaeological Site: Jodensavanne Settlement and Cassipora Creek Cemetery (Suriname) – 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 “Jodensavanne Archaeological Site: Jodensavanne Settlement and Cassipora Creek Cemetery” was carried out by Ms. Maria Eugenia Bacci (Venezuela) 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 authenticity, documentation, boundaries, buffer zones, factors affecting the property and monitoring, research and archaeological investigation, ownership, and funding. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 3 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:

Management

The nomination dossier mentions that "besides the legal protection system, there is also a traditional protection system reflected by the local Indigenous population being the traditional custodians of the site. Both systems are however not mutually exclusive, but supplement each other" (page 148 of the nomination dossier). However, no further information is provided on the functioning of this traditional protection system. The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if additional information could be provided on how the traditional protection system works. This information could include who is involved in the traditional protection system, what type of work is done and how it complements the protection of the nominated property.

Budget

The ICOMOS Panel was concerned by the lack of an adequate and regular budget for maintenance, conservation and research for the nominated property. In its response to ICOMOS' letter requesting additional information, the State Party already outlined several ways to improve the situation in the future. The ICOMOS Panel would be most grateful if information could be given on any advances or updates in this matter.

Development pressure and property boundaries

In its response to ICOMOS' letter requesting additional information, the State Party indicated that the land on which the River Resort is located is part of the Redi Doti village, and that the resort operators cannot act on their own. Nevertheless, the ICOMOS Panel considers that a written agreement with the operators of the River Resort might be needed to avoid future problems linked to site encroachment.

The ICOMOS Panel welcomed the information on the approval of the revised buffer zone of the Cassipora Creek component part as well as explanations on the integration of Nassy's Landing in the boundaries of the Jodensavanne component part. ICOMOS would be grateful to receive a topographical map showing the revised area of the buffer zone, as well as a map showing the revised property boundary of the Jodensavanne settlement component part that includes Nassy's Landing.

Furthermore, the ICOMOS Panel would be pleased to receive a topographical map of the entire nominated property with the types of land use permitted and prohibited in the area surrounding the property component parts (including the newly proposed "special protected forest" zone). The cartographic presentation of the zoning should be accompanied by a text explaining the land use restrictions and naming the legal basis for these restrictions.

Carrying capacity and tourism

The ICOMOS Panel notes that the number of visitors at the two component parts of the nominated property and their impact on the nominated property is being monitored. At present, the visitors do not seem to represent a threat. However, in order to address this issue in the future, the ICOMOS Panel recommends to conduct a study on the carrying capacity of the sites. The outcome of such a study should provide some guidance for the type and amount of tourism promotion that could be developed at the property. ICOMOS would like to know if such a study has already been conducted or if it is planned in the future.

A National Strategic Tourism Plan 2018-2020, mentioned page 201 of the nomination dossier, identifies several potential tourism zones that include Jodensavanne within the District of Para. ICOMOS would be pleased to receive information on the status of this plan, whether it is being revised and how it will be related to the nominated property.

Visitor infrastructure

The Jodensavanne settlement component part is equipped with visitor installations, some of which are located near the plaza and the synagogue grounds. The ICOMOS Panel would be most grateful to receive information on whether considerations have been given to relocate these elements.

Additional information would also be helpful on the potential existing visitor installations or planned to be implemented in the future at the Cassipora Cemetery component part.

Community participation

The ICOMOS Panel commends the State Party for the collaboration with the Redi Doti Village Council. It would also be helpful to know if any other groups of stakeholders might have an interest in being more closely involved in the management of the nominated property. ICOMOS would appreciate receiving information on any action undertaken or planned in the future to identify and include other interested groups of stakeholders (for example, communities in the vicinity of the nominated property, as well as Jewish Surinamese and Afro-Surinamese groups) in the management of the property.

Climate change and risk preparedness

Global climate change, which the nomination dossier mentions in connection with a higher number of tree falls, has increased extreme weather events all over the world. ICOMOS would appreciate receiving information on how the nominated property is being prepared against disaster risks, including - but not limited to - flooding, fires, strong winds and rain, etc. ICOMOS would also be pleased to receive information on whether a risk preparedness plan exists or if one is foreseen for the nominated property.

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,



Gwenaëlle Bourdin
Director
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

Copy to Jodensavanne Foundation
 Suriname Built Heritage Foundation
 Suriname National Commission for UNESCO
 UNESCO World Heritage Centre