
Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group (Japan) No 1593

1 Basic information

State Party

Japan

Name of property

Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group: Mounded Tombs of Ancient Japan

Location

Habikino City
Osaka Prefecture

Inscription

2019

Brief description

Located on a plateau above the Osaka Plain, the Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group is a serial property of forty-five component parts containing forty-nine kofun ('old mound'), a large and distinctive type of burial mound. The inscribed kofun are found in two major clusters, and are the richest tangible representation of the culture of the Kofun period in Japan from the 3rd to 6th centuries, a period before Japanese society entered into a new phase with an established centralised state under the influence of the Chinese system of law. The inscribed kofun have been selected from a total of 160,000 from around Japan, and represent the 'middle kofun' period (late 4th to late 5th centuries). The kofun are found in different scales and shapes, and contain a range of grave goods. Understood as tombs for kings' clans and affiliates during this period, some of the kofun are designated as Ryobo (imperial mausolea).

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

10 March 2023

2 Issues raised

Background

Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group: Mounded Tombs of Ancient Japan was inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (iii) and (iv) in 2019.

The World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to finalise the expansion of the buffer zone of Minegazuka Kofun (component part no. 44). The present proposal for minor boundary modification responds to that recommendation.

Modification

The proposed modification to the buffer zone for Minegazuka Kofun (component part no. 44) enlarges the buffer zone by 1 ha on its northwestern edge. Although this is a relatively small extension, it was discussed with ICOMOS prior to the inscription of the serial property because this kofun site is located within an urban residential neighbourhood. The enlargement of the buffer zone aims to strengthen the protection of the site.

The State Party advises that the Osaka Prefectural Government and Habikino City have amended the relevant regulations applying to this area to provide protection of the buffer zone. Legislative measures that apply to the buffer zone include the City Planning Act, Building Standards Act, Landscape Act and Outdoor Advertisement Act. A comprehensive management system for the serial property identifies the roles of each for the relevant administrative bodies.

3 Recommendations

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group: Mounded Tombs of Ancient Japan, Japan, be **approved**.

Additional recommendations

ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) Continuously monitoring development in this buffer zone and its surrounding areas,
- b) Further exploring how the buffer zones relate to the broader setting and what, if anything, needs protecting in the broader setting; and implement the subsequent measures;