

AMENDMENT/PROPOSAL

Agenda Item	8B
Draft Decision	47 COM 8B.26
Submitted by the Delegation of:	Greece
Co-author(s) (if any)	
Date of submission	

TEXT

Draft Decision 47 COM 8B.26

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1,
2. ~~Refers the nomination of~~ **Inscribes** the ~~Art and Architecture~~ **Funerary Tradition** in the Prehistory of Sardinia – The domus de janas, Italy, **with the exception of the following component parts: Fortified complex of Monte Baranta (004), Sanctuary of Monte d'Accoddi (006), Necropolis of Li Muri (010), Dolmen of Sa Coveccada (012), Shelter of Luzzanas (013), Village of Serra Linta (017), Grotta Corbeddu (022), Menhir of Monte Corru Tundu (023), Shelter of Su Forru de is Sinzurreddus and the stone tool workshops of Sennixeddu (024) on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion (iii);**
3. ~~back to the State Party in order to allow it to:~~
4. a) ~~Reformulate the justification for inscription to focus on the ways the domus de janas reflect the development of the funerary practices and beliefs of the prehistoric communities, including ideological, spiritual, social or other changes over time that can be observed thanks to the longevity of use of these funerary structures;~~
5. b) ~~Reduce the series by including only the hypogeal structures known as the domus de janas, and reconsider the selection of component parts to ensure that each of them contributes individually in a substantial way to the potential Outstanding Universal Value, while ensuring that cultural, social or functional links between the component parts over time provide a sense of connectivity to the whole revised series;~~
6. c) ~~Establish an adequate governance system for the revised nominated property, taking into consideration all relevant stakeholders;~~
3. **Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:**

Brief synthesis

The site “Funerary Tradition in the Prehistory of Sardinia: the domus de janas” comprises a series of hypogean burials and necropolises located in Sardinia, created between the 5th and 3rd millennia BCE.

The domus de janas, locally known as “fairy houses,” are rock-cut tombs that reflect the funerary practices, spiritual beliefs, and social evolution of Sardinia’s prehistoric communities. These structures feature complex layouts, symbolic decorations, and figurative motifs that testify to the transformation of the relationship between the living and the dead in a society transitioning toward more complex forms of social organization.

The domus de janas represent the most extensive and rich manifestation of hypogean funerary architecture in the western Mediterranean, exemplifying a phenomenon attested by approximately 3,500 hypogea spread across the entire island. The sculpted and engraved figures found in many of the tombs show striking similarities with motifs present in major prehistoric art sites of the Neolithic and Copper Age in Europe, such as Valcamonica, Monte Bego, and the Iberian Peninsula. These similarities testify to the material and cultural exchanges between Sardinia and other regions of the Euro-Mediterranean basin.

Moreover, the hypogean necropolises were closely connected to contemporary villages, serving as the focal point of ritual practices and the symbolic expression of community organization. This confirms the existence of a complex cultural system that integrated residential settlements, cultural places and funerary spaces within a unified landscape.

Criterion (iii):

The domus de janas of Sardinia represent a unique and exceptional testimony of a vanished cultural tradition, related to the cult of the dead and beliefs about the afterlife developed by the island’s prehistoric communities between the 5th and 3rd millennia BCE. The architectural variety, decorative complexity, and planimetric evolution of these hypogean tombs document—like no other site in the Mediterranean—the social organization, rituals, and spiritual conception of the island’s earliest settled communities, showing both continuity and cultural transformations up to the beginning of the Bronze Age.

Statement of integrity

The domus de janas constitute a representative and coherent ensemble encompassing all known typological variants of this funerary hypogean tradition. They fully meet the criterion of integrity both as a whole, and with reference to individual monuments and complexes considering their decorative apparatus. The 17 component parts include all the elements necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value, ensuring the integrity and completeness of the testimony to the cultural and architectural evolution of the phenomenon in Sardinia from the Neolithic to the early Bronze Age. The series of Domus de Janas is the most representative, and best preserved, expression of the funerary practices, spiritual beliefs, and social evolution of that period, both in terms of number of attributes and diversity of features. They are closely related to the landscape context where they are embedded, whose visual-aesthetic integrity has remained almost unchanged. The natural processes of deterioration are under control, monitored by the competent authorities.

Statement of Authenticity

The domus de janas largely preserve their original materials, construction techniques, layouts, and decorative elements. Recent conservation interventions have adhered to scientific standards and respected the material integrity of the sites, thereby ensuring

the authenticity of the tombs as direct and tangible evidence of Sardinia's prehistoric culture.

Scientific studies and diverse sources of information, both written and visual (surveys, photographs and drawings), both testify to the authenticity of the individual component parts of the serial site and their attributes.

Protection and Management requirements

All the assets in the proposed serial site are subject to national and regional legislation, with a very strict regulation on cultural heritage. The regional territory is under the control of the Superintendencies, peripheral offices of the Ministry of culture. The Code of cultural heritage and landscape (Legislative decree 42/2004) sets specific and strict measures concerning protection, conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage.

For the short, medium and long term, a specific Management Plan for the property has been developed. It outlines a governance framework coordinated by the Ministry of Culture and the Region of Sardinia, with the support of the Superintendencies and local administrations. The plan includes measures for maintenance, monitoring, risk mitigation, and awareness-raising programs.

43. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) Establishing centralised repository for all the relevant documents and incoming monitoring and research data regarding the ~~selected-nominated~~ domus de janas, and make it accessible to all,
- b) Implementing a Heritage Impact Assessment mechanism as defined in the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context for any development proposals within the revised ~~nominated~~ property (such as visitor infrastructure) before any irreversible decisions are made,
- c) Developing small-scale monitoring systems tailored to the selected component parts, with monitoring indicators designed for assessing the conditions of the sites, as well as development trends and rates of affecting factors,
- d) Developing a comprehensive tourism management plan, including an interpretation strategy,
- e) Strengthening the involvement of the local communities in the decision-making process for the management of the revised ~~nominated~~ property.

f) Establishing a more comprehensive governance system for the property, taking into account all relevant stakeholders.

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2025, the maps of the revised property boundaries in accordance with this decision;

6. Also request the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by 1 December 2026 a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.