



Call for *Expressions of Interest* – ICOMOS World Heritage Advisors

ICOMOS is seeking Expressions of Interest from cultural heritage professionals worldwide in order to expand and diversify its international team of World Heritage Advisors for the evaluation of cultural and mixed property nominations to the World Heritage List.

Background

The role of ICOMOS as one of the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee includes: evaluation of properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List; monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage cultural and mixed properties; reviewing requests for International Assistance submitted by States Parties; and providing input and support for capacity-building activities.

World Heritage Advisors assist the ICOMOS International Secretariat, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel and the ICOMOS Board in formulating its recommendations to the World Heritage Committee. This work requires consistency and the highest professional and scientific standards.

This call for expressions of interest is limited to those wishing to become World Heritage Advisors working on the evaluation of cultural and mixed properties nominations with the ICOMOS World Heritage Evaluation Unit. Similar calls for other types of tasks will be published, when deemed necessary.

Main duties and responsibilities of ICOMOS World Heritage Advisors

The main tasks of Advisors in relation to the evaluation of nominations to the World Heritage List include analysing the nomination dossiers, drafting evaluation reports and making oral presentations to the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel. Draft reports need to adhere to the requirements of the World Heritage Convention and the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*. They, must also be objective and thorough, based on extensive documentation and advice from many experts, and on the up-to-date knowledge of relevant literature (e.g. global studies) using a standardised and rigorous process.

The working arrangements vary – for many tasks, Advisors can work via email. For some tasks, the role may require travel, including attendance at the meetings of the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel in Paris. Some Advisors may also be requested to contribute to technical discussions with State Parties and make presentations to the World Heritage Committee session. Although the arrangements vary, it is common for Advisors to be paid through an annual contract, based on the nature and quantity of the work.

ICOMOS requires all World Heritage Advisors to be fully aware of the [**Policy for the Implementation of the ICOMOS World Heritage Mandate**](#), and to sign it each year of their service to ICOMOS.

Requirements

The requirements of ICOMOS for its World Heritage Advisors working on the evaluation of nominations include:

- Minimum 10 years of work experience in one or more (tangible) cultural heritage related fields.
- Strong and constantly updated knowledge of the World Heritage Convention and its *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* is essential to understand the context of the work of ICOMOS, and to use the terms and concepts involved in our work appropriately.
- Solid foundation of heritage conservation theory and demonstrated experience in conservation practice.
- Openness and empathy in understanding and recognising the differences inherent in cultural diversity.
- Excellent written and spoken command of one of the working languages of the Convention – English and French. Advisors able to work, or at least read, both languages are preferred.
- Excellent analytical and written skills to prepare complex reports based on a structured format. Some Advisors may be required to make oral presentations as part of their work, and these Advisors need to have an exceptional ability to present succinctly, and to respond to questioning and occasional challenges with equanimity and dignity.
- Ability to work effectively alone as well as part of a team and in multi-cultural environments.
- Ability to work under stress and to extremely strict deadlines, without exception. Availability to respond quickly during some peak periods in the year is essential.
- Varied working and demonstrated experience working at the regional or international level will be considered an asset.

In addition, ICOMOS is extremely careful to observe the highest standards of professionalism and avoid perceptions of conflict of interest. Therefore, World Heritage Advisors are requested to observe the following:

- Advisors cannot work on materials related to their own country, or on properties anywhere else that are directly associated with their own professional activities and involvement.
- They must remain independent of any political and/or economic influence or prejudice that could affect the impartiality of their work.
- Individuals who have been involved in nominations being evaluated by ICOMOS in that evaluation cycle will not be considered for work during that period, unless they prove that their role as an Advisor does not pose any conflicts of interest. Similar rules apply to individuals who currently form part of their country's delegation to the World Heritage Committee.

- World Heritage Advisors are generally not allowed to conduct World Heritage field missions for ICOMOS. The selection of experts for field missions (for nominations and reactive monitoring) is handled through a different process.

Assessment of qualified candidates

Short-listed candidates will be required to undergo a written exercise to assess their analytical and written skills. Qualified candidates that satisfy the requirements of this exercise will then enter a mentoring process before assuming their full duties as World Heritage Advisors.

Application

ICOMOS warmly welcomes Expressions of Interest from all interested cultural heritage professionals who fulfil the above requirements to join its team of World Heritage Advisors.

To submit your Expression of Interest, please send an email to:

WHadvisers-callforinterest[a]icomos.org

Please include in the subject 'ICOMOS WH Advisors', and provide the following information:

- a summary *curriculum vitae* outlining your professional expertise (max. 4 pages);
- a cover letter addressing why you wish to become a World Heritage Advisor and how you meet the necessary requirements (max. 2 pages).

We require Expressions of Interest, including all attachments, to be submitted in English or French by **9 September 2019**. Please note that applications received in other languages or received after the deadline will not be considered.

For further information regarding the role of World Heritage Advisors and the requirements needed, please consult the [Frequently Asked Questions](#). Only send us additional enquiries, if your question is not included in that document.

**ICOMOS International Secretariat
Paris, July 2019**