

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.: TK/LM/40

25 May 2020

Marlova Jovchelovitch Noieto –
Diretora da Unesco no Brasil

Dear Ms Jovchelovitch Noieto

I am writing to express the deep concern of the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) with the current state of heritage preservation in Brazil, and particularly with the current administration of IPHAN, the Instituto do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional.

ICOMOS is the largest global professional organization dedicated to the conservation of the world's monuments and sites, and serves as an Advisory Body to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.,

ICOMOS is aware that, in its 83 years of existence, IPHAN has implemented successful policies for the protection of Brazilian cultural heritage, developing advanced programs in accordance with the best international conservation practice. IPHAN is indeed one of the oldest institutions in the world dedicated to preserving cultural heritage, and represents a long tradition of preservation knowledge and practice that has gained international recognition and become a paradigm for several countries and international organizations.

Brazil is an important State Party in the UNESCO heritage system, with 22 properties inscribed in the World Heritage List, six elements inscribed in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, and two programs, projects, and activities for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage acknowledged as best reflecting the principles and objectives of the Convention. All of these cultural places and practices are managed under the jurisdiction of IPHAN, which has maintained a very good record in the preservation of the cultural heritage of Brazil.

According to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 1972, each State Party recognizes the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage situated on its territory, doing all it can to this end, to the utmost of its own resources. Appropriate and adequate technical knowledge is one of the most essential of these resources, especially given the complexities involved in the heritage field.

ICOMOS cannot emphasise too strongly the importance of all State Parties maintaining well qualified people at all levels in the management of their natural and cultural heritage resources, especially those which have been acknowledged as having outstanding universal value. As a signatory to the World Heritage Convention and other international conventions, Brazil is part of the international community and shares the duty of all signatories to co-operate in the protection and conservation of its heritage for the world.

ICOMOS, therefore, emphasizing our concern with the current situation, would like to urge UNESCO to closely monitor events in Brazil.

Respectfully,



Toshiyuki Kono
President of ICOMOS