
Baekje Historic Areas (Republic of Korea) No 1477

Official name as proposed by the State Party

Baekje Historic Areas

Location

Gongju and Buyeo, Chungcheongnam-do
Iksan, Jeollabuk-do
Republic of Korea

Brief description

The Baekje lasted 700 years from 18 BCE to 660 CE and was one of the three earliest kingdoms on the Korean peninsula. The Baekje Historic Areas serial property comprises eight archaeological sites located in the mid-western region of the Republic of Korea. These collectively represent the later period of the kingdom during which there was a considerable interchange of values between China, Korea and Japan (475-660 CE). They are the Gongsanseong fortress and royal tombs at Songsan-ri related to the Ungjin capital Gongju; the Busosanseong Fortress and Gwanbuk-ri administrative buildings, Jeongnimsa Temple, royal tombs in Neungsan-ri and Naseong city wall related to the Sabi capital Buyeo; the royal palace at Wanggung-ri and the Mireuksa Temple in Iksan related to the secondary Sabi capital. Together these sites testify to the adoption by the Baekje of Chinese principles of city planning, construction technology, arts and religion; their refinement by the Baekje and subsequent distribution to Japan and East Asia.

Category of property

In terms of categories of cultural property set out in Article I of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a serial nomination of eight *sites*.

1 Basic data

Included in the Tentative List

11 January 2010

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination

None

Date received by the World Heritage Centre

28 January 2014

Background

This is a new nomination.

Consultations

ICOMOS consulted its International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management and several independent experts.

Technical Evaluation Mission

An ICOMOS technical evaluation mission visited the site from 15 to 20 September 2014.

Additional information received by ICOMOS

A letter was sent to the State Party on 21 August 2014 requesting a map showing the location of the 8 component sites; clarification regarding a large building near the Mireuksa Temple, clarification of ownership, protection within the buffer zone and location and of visitor facilities. A second letter was sent to the State Party following the ICOMOS Panel in December 2014 requesting information on the reconstruction of the western pagoda at the Mireuksa temple, an overall tourism strategy and the periodicity of monitoring of the murals in the tombs. A revised nomination with minor errors corrected and an expansion of the comparative analysis was received on 8 September 2014 and a response to queries was provided to the mission and received on 17 October 2014. A response to ICOMOS' first letter including the requested map was received on 15 November 2014. A response to ICOMOS' second letter was received on 16 February 2015. The information has been incorporated below.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

12 March 2015

2 The property

Description

The nominated serial property comprises eight components which are archaeological sites relating to the three capital cities of the late period of the Baekje Kingdom (475-660 CE). The Baekje was one of the three earliest kingdoms on the Korean peninsula along with the Goguryeo to the north and the Silla to the east. The nominated component properties are the Gongsanseong fortress and royal tombs at Songsan-ri related to the Ungjin capital Gongju; the Busosanseong Fortress and Gwanbuk-ri administrative buildings, Jeongnimsa Temple, royal tombs in Neungsan-ri and Naseong city wall related to the Sabi capital Buyeo; the royal palace at Wanggung-ri and the Mireuksa Temple in Iksan related to the secondary Sabi capital. The sites total 135.10ha and each is surrounded by a buffer zone.

Gongju

Gongsanseong Fortress (Component 1)

The Ungjin capital Gongju was built by the Baekje from 475-538 CE 130km south of Seoul after the capture of their earlier capital Hanseong by the Goguryeo. The fortress is located on a hill beside the Geumgang River outside the city. It enclosed the royal palace and other buildings within defensive walls built of stone and rammed earth technology first developed in China.

Royal Tombs in Songsan-ri (Component 2)

These are located further south along the Geumgang River and include the tomb of King Muryeong and his Queen (Tomb 7) which together with Tomb 6 is a brick chamber tomb with a vaulted ceiling similar to those in China of the period. Other tombs are stone chambers with a corridor and domed ceiling, the traditional type of Baekje tombs. The king's tomb was undisturbed when excavated and contained a coffin made of Japanese wood and tomb guardian beasts and pottery from China, as well as decorative jewellery that indicates connections with Thailand and India.

Buyeo

The capital was moved again in 538 CE to Sabi which is modern-day Buyeo, 35km south-west of Gongju. King Muryeong's successor King Seong relocated to gain more space for development at a site which had direct access to the sea at high tide. The city was located on a peninsula in the curve of the Geumgang River and defended at the rear by the Naseong City Wall. Within this area are the Archaeological Site in Gwanbuk-ri, Busosanseong Fortress and Jeongnimsa Temple site. The Royal Tombs in Neungsan-ri are outside the Naseong City Wall.

Excavations have revealed that the Archaeological Site in Gwanbuk-ri and Busosanseong Fortress (Component 3) comprise the royal palace area including a Buddhist temple site with remnants of earthen platforms edged in tiles. This technique was adopted by the Baekje from China and further developed with decorative edge facing tiles, a treatment which was then adopted by the Silla and in Japan. The Fortress served as a garden during normal times but became a place of refuge in an emergency. The rammed earth technique was used to build the Fortress and the Naseong City Wall (Component 6). A special technique using branches and plants was used for the foundation of the City Wall in swampy areas, reinforced with stone buttresses. Barracks sites, water storage facilities and wooden barricades found within the Fortress indicate its use over 1,000 years.

The Jeongnimsa Temple Site (Component 4) comprises a prayer hall and extant five-storey stone pagoda on axis with the main entrance. Excavations have shown that there was also a lecture hall on axis at the rear and the whole was surrounded by monks' dormitories and linking corridors. Excavated artefacts include clay figurines similar to archaeological findings at the Northern Wei capital in China.

The seven Royal Tombs at Neungsan-ri (Component 5) are the stone chamber with corridor type. They were robbed before they could be excavated but discoveries at the temple site to the west of the tombs indicate that the tombs were those of the Baekje during the Sabi period. The walls of Tomb 1 contain murals depicting the Four Deities and the ceiling is decorated with lotus and cloud designs.

Iksan

The second Sabi capital was built by King Mu (600-641 CE) in Iksan, 50km south of Buyeo with the aim of gaining control over the southern region of the kingdom. The location is connected to the Geumgang and Mangyeonggang Rivers and inland transport routes in an area of extensive agricultural lands. The Archaeological Site in Wanggung-ri (Component 7) was the royal place as attested by excavation and is similar to that at Gwanbuk-ri, Buyeo. It was located on raised, terraced platforms and contained a Buddhist temple with five-storey stone pagoda. It shares its layout and features with ancient royal palaces in China and Japan including a garden with miniature landscape elements and water control facility. There was also a craft workshop attested by the excavated crucibles, blast pipes and gold and silver objects. A large multiple toilet was excavated to the south of the workshop.

The Mireuksa Temple Site (Component 8) at the foot of Mireuksan Mountain is said to represent the largest temple site discovered in East Asia and comprises three parallel pagoda and prayer halls on axis with their entrances, the central being the largest and was enclosed within its own encircling corridor. The whole complex was enclosed by linking corridors with monks' dormitories and lecture hall centrally placed at the rear. The layout accords with Buddhist scriptures describing that Maitreya, the Future Buddha would come from Heaven to save all people with his three teachings. Ancient texts recount that it was built at the request of King Mu's wife following the appearance of the Maitreya triad to the royal couple at that place. The central timber pagoda is no longer extant. The eastern stone pagoda had collapsed and the one on the west was still standing but unstable when excavations began in the 20th century. The relic found in the *sarira* cavity confirmed that the west unit was built in 639 during the reign of King Mu.

History and development

The Baekje dynasty was founded by immigrants from Goguryeo along the Hangang River at Hanseong (now Seoul) which was a central position in relation to trade, building techniques and cultural exchange. Buddhism was introduced to the Baekje on the Korean peninsula in the 4th century. In the 5th-7th centuries the Baekje forged diplomatic relations with Chinese kingdoms by which time Buddhism was widely accepted in central China. In the mid-6th century the Baekje introduced Buddhism to Japan where it was adopted by the royal family. According to historical records the Baekje invited craftsmen from the Chinese southern dynasties and later sent its own craftsmen to Japan. East Asian exchanges involving the Baekje are said to have included city planning, civil engineering and architectural technology and as a result East Asia acquired a common writing system using Chinese characters, a common religion (Buddhism) and Confucian law codes during the 5th-7th centuries.

In the Ungjin period (475-538) the capital city Gongju made use of the natural defensive topography but later in the Sabi period at the Buyeo capital the Baekje adopted

Chinese principles of city planning while at the same time continuing to use natural topography for defensive purposes. In the later Sabi period the royal palace at Wanggung-ri illustrates the rectangular planned layout of the East Asian royal palace of the 6th-7th century, similar to Luoyang, capital of the Northern Wei Dynasty.

From the 7th century the Baekje stone pagoda technology spread to Silla, Goryeo and Japan as attested by the similarities at the Silla Bulguksa Temple and in Shiga Prefecture Japan.

Archaeological investigation was first undertaken during the Japanese colonial period in the early 20th century. In 1971 the undisturbed tomb of King Muryeong was discovered and systematic archaeological excavations began in the former Baekje capitals in the 1980s.

3 Justification for inscription, integrity and authenticity

Comparative analysis

The nominated component properties were selected from remnants of the Baekje kingdom's historic capitals at Gongju, Buyeo and Iksan to represent the later period of the Baekje (475-660 CE), providing information on capital planning, the life of the royal family, funeral traditions and religious beliefs of the kingdom at the time and illustrating different aspects testifying to the interchange that evolved between Korea, China and Japan during this period.

An extensive table is provided in the revised nomination dossier comparing the nominated property with others already on the World Heritage List, most of which are not particularly appropriate in terms of the values and period claimed. The most relevant comparison is with Gyeongju Historic Areas, Republic of Korea inscribed in 2000 (criteria (ii) & (iii)). This was the capital of the Silla kingdom whose culture flourished there particularly between the 7th-10th centuries, producing outstanding examples of Korean Buddhist art. It can be seen to follow on from the Baekje kingdom in that techniques were adopted from the Baekje structures and while it has remnants of similar features such as a city wall, royal palaces, fortresses, royal tombs and temples, more than half of these are a few centuries later in date.

The nominated property has been compared with The Historic Monuments and Sites in Kaesong, Democratic People's Republic of Korea inscribed in 2013 (criteria (ii) & (iii)), an ensemble representing the ruling base of the Koryo dynasty (918-1392) with its associated tombs. The ensemble embodies the political, cultural, philosophical and spiritual values of the capital of the unified Koryo state as it transitioned from Buddhist to Confucian philosophy, through the geomantic layout of the city, palace and tomb complexes, the urban defence system of walls and gates, and educational institutions. It can be seen that the Baekje city plan exhibits an earlier stage of development than Kaesong.

In China, the nominated property has been compared with Capital Cities and Tombs of the Ancient Koguryo Kingdom (2004, criteria (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) & (v)) which reigned from 277 BCE to 668 CE. This represents the beginnings of the defensive system later developed by successive dynasties on the Korean peninsula, but not a developed system as evidenced at the Baekje sites. The State Party notes that the directly comparable period of Northern and Southern dynasty capitals in China is not represented on the World Heritage List. What particularly distinguishes Baekje in relation to these is King Muryeong's tomb, discovered intact, whereas royal tombs of the Northern and Southern Wei had been looted and destroyed in the past.

In Japan the nominated property has been compared with Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara (1998, criteria (ii), (iii), (iv) & (vi)), the Japanese capital from 710-784 CE. The city originated from a later period and is said to be modelled on Tang dynasty cities in China and those of the Silla in Korea.

The State Party also compared the nominated property with properties on the Tentative Lists including Historical Relics in Pyongyang covering the period from Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age, Goguryeo, Goryeo and Joseon periods in the north-west of the Korean peninsula, and Asuka-Fujiwara, an ensemble of archaeological sites in the Nara Basin region of Japan. The latter comprise remains of royal palaces, temples and tombs of the period (592-710 CE) which indicate strong influences from China and Korea, testifying to cultural and technical exchanges in East Asia at a slightly later period than the nominated property. There is no evidence of a city wall for defensive purposes.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis shows that the Baekje kingdom occupied a specific chronological period as East Asian cities evolved under the influence of Buddhism. The nomination dossier acknowledges that the specific features of the city type were initiated in the capital cities of the Northern Wei Dynasty of China (386-534 CE) such as Luoyang, but states that the archaeological resources representing the walled city there are insufficient compared with the Baekje sites. ICOMOS notes that the question of Luoyang's influence on the development of Japanese cities has been discussed by scholars. While acknowledging that pre-Tang art forms travelled from China to Japan, often by way of Korea, the possibility of the Baekje capitals being the connecting link for the city plans is not investigated.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies the selection of sites, which together show the evolution of the Baekje capital city within an East Asian context.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this serial property for the World Heritage List.

Justification of Outstanding Universal Value

The nominated property is considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- Evidence of important cultural, religious and technological exchanges between China, Korea and Japan during the Baekje dynasty;
- Exceptional testimony to the Baekje kingdom;
- Demonstrates development of the East Asian capital city.

The serial approach is justified as providing eight components which collectively represent the most significant and influential periods of the Baekje Kingdom. They each contribute different but complementary aspects of the Baekje royal capitals to provide an overall picture which no single component can provide.

ICOMOS considers that the justification is appropriate.

Integrity and authenticity

Integrity

The eight nominated sites were selected from the known and excavated remains of the three Baekje capitals to build up an overall picture of the middle and late history of the Baekje Kingdom as it reached its peak in terms of cultural development involving frequent communication with neighbouring regions. They include sites of royal palaces, royal tombs, fortresses and temples of the Baekje Kingdom during the Ungjin and Sabi periods and present information on capital planning, the life of the royal family, funeral traditions and religious beliefs of the kingdom at the time.

The nominated property components together contain all the elements necessary to embody the values of the property as a whole. The component parts are of sufficient scale to present the historic function of the capital cities and their relationship to their settings.

The boundaries also include elements which illustrate the evolution of the capital cities through subsequent dynasties, including reconstruction and utilization of the pond at the Jeongnimsa Temple Site in the Goguryeo period and utilization of the Gongsanseong and Busosanseong Fortresses and reinforcement and reconstruction of facilities by the Joseon Dynasty. However the Baekje period of the sites is still paramount.

A number of tombs had been looted prior to archaeological excavation. A pumping station in the vicinity of the northern gate of Busosanseong Fortress has impacted visually on the landscape and four families still reside within the Archaeological Site of Gwanbuk-ri. These are subject to planning controls. Otherwise the sites have not been impacted adversely by development.

ICOMOS considers that the integrity of the whole series has been justified; and that the integrity of the individual sites that comprise the series has been demonstrated.

Authenticity

Most elements of the eight component parts of the nominated serial property have suffered human intervention including repairs and restoration to different degrees. At the Gongsanseong Fortress, Joseon period wall sections have been capped with a waterproof material containing cement. After archaeological excavation, the sites of royal palaces and tombs have been properly reburied to preserve their authenticity. Burial mounds have been reconstructed and grassed over after excavation. At the Jeongnimsa Temple Buddhist statues of the Baekje period unearthed during excavation have been placed in a protective building in traditional style on the Lecture Hall site which is not consistent with the form of the Baekje era. The eastern stone pagoda at the Mireuksa Temple Site was reconstructed in its original form with traditional building materials but only a few original parts remain. The western stone pagoda is being repaired using traditional stone masonry techniques. In terms of location and setting, the views from the east of the Five-storey pagoda at the Jeongnimsa Temple Site have been interrupted by new construction to the west. Overall however, ICOMOS considers authenticity to be high.

ICOMOS considers that the authenticity of the whole series has been justified; and that the authenticity of the individual sites that comprise the series has been demonstrated.

ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity of the whole series have been justified; and for individual sites, the conditions of integrity and authenticity have been met.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv).

Criterion (ii): *exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the archaeological sites and architecture of the Baekje Historic Areas exhibit the interchange between the ancient East Asian kingdoms in Korea, China and Japan in the development of construction techniques and the spread of Buddhism.

ICOMOS considers that the interchange on developments in architecture and building technology is evident in the fortress wall construction, royal tombs, stone pagodas and building platforms.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been demonstrated.

Criterion (iii): *bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilisation which is living or which has disappeared;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the setting of the capital cities, Buddhist temples and tombs, architectural features and stone pagodas contribute in forming the exceptional testimony to the unique culture, religion and artistry of the kingdom of Baekje.

ICOMOS considers that the extent and type of remains demonstrating layout and topographical setting, architecture and technology combine to provide exceptional testimony to the unique culture, history, religion and artistry of the kingdom of Baekje.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been demonstrated.

Criterion (iv): *be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the sites that comprise the Baekje Historic Areas are among the earliest examples clearly expressing the innovative city design marking the start of outer walls encircling the entire city in East Asia, together with the vast influences of Buddhism in the central city layout attesting to the functions of the religion as the ruling ideology. The advanced development of architectural technology is also explicitly presented in the monumental buildings adorned with roof tiles and stone pagodas.

ICOMOS notes that the justification is based on the evidence taken from remains at three former Baekje capital cities of evolution of the Baekje city plan to comprise the spatial layout of royal palace and temples influenced by Buddhism and enclosed by outer walls, with the royal tombs being located outside the walls. However ICOMOS considers that the property is a combination of elements, which although pointing to the development of a type of city plan is in fact a combination of the remains of three separate city plans rather than a single city plan and does not justify the property as an outstanding example of a type in the sense intended in the criterion.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been demonstrated.

ICOMOS considers that the serial approach is justified and that the selection of sites is appropriate.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets criteria (ii) and (iii) and the conditions of authenticity and integrity.

Description of the attributes

The attributes are the sites of royal palaces, royal tombs, fortresses and temples of the Baekje Kingdom during the Ungjin and Sabi periods; the relationship between the selected sites at each capital city (Gongju, Buyeo and Iksan) and topographical features of the settings.

4 Factors affecting the property

According to the nomination dossier the component properties are not subject to development pressure. There are 13 inhabitants of Gwanbuk-ri and Busosanseong Fortress but the other property components have no inhabitants. The number of inhabitants within the buffer zones is less than 100 except in Gwanbuk-ri and Busosanseong Fortress where there are 1,335. ICOMOS notes that the water pump plant at the northern gate of Busosanseong Fortress will not be expanded, and future development in the vicinity of the sites is subject to Urban Construction Control. The intrusive building at Jeongnimsa Temple site will be removed when the opportunity arises.

The Jeongnimsa and Mireuksa Temple Sites and the Archaeological Sites of Gwanbuk-ri and Wanggung-ri are close to residential areas and roads and subject to dust and motor vehicle emission pollution. Studies are underway to investigate treatments to remove pollutants from stone. The other sites are in mountainous areas and while not subject to environmental pollution are more susceptible to natural disaster such as forest fire, storms and floods. These are countered by national risk-preparedness legislation and the Cultural Heritage Administration's safety course run annually on 'Disaster Prevention Day'. In particular, ICOMOS notes that emergency fire plans mean that a response can be made to all component parts within 5 minutes.

Visitor numbers are said to be well within the carrying capacities of the sites and are calculated to still be so in the event of inscription. Current visitor numbers range from 80,877 annually at the Royal Tombs in Neungsan-ri and Naseong City Wall to 680,499 annually at the Mireuksa Temple Site. ICOMOS considers that tourism is a significant factor likely to impact adversely on the property and notes that mitigating measures have already been taken including closure of Tomb 1 of the Royal Tombs of Songsan-ri, which had formerly been open to the public.

ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are tourism and forest fire.

5 Protection, conservation and management

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

The boundaries of the nominated property components follow the exterior of fortress walls and topographical lines where relevant; the exterior of the external boundary walls of the Jeongnimsa and Mireuksa Temple Sites; enclose the width of Naseong City Wall and enclose excavated areas at Gwanbuk-ri and Wanggung-ri. ICOMOS notes that the boundaries either coincide with or enclose a lesser area than the areas protected under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act.

Buffer zone boundaries follow topographical lines and streets and roads and are clearly identifiable. In the case of the fortresses and tombs they enclose landforms and landscapes related to them. They enclose up to 500 metres surrounding the nominated property component as protected under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act and where extending further than that enclose areas protected under the Construction Control Zones of the relevant Historic Cities.

ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property and of its buffer zone are adequate.

Ownership

Most of the nominated property is State-owned. The remaining privately-owned land is less than 10% of the total area and is being continuously purchased.

Protection

The nominated property components are all designated as Historic Sites under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act 1962 amended 2012; the Special Act on the Preservation and Promotion of Ancient Cities 2004, amended 2013 and under local government Cultural Heritage Protection Ordinances: Chungcheongnam-do 2002 and Jeollabuk-do 1999.

The buffer zones are protected under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act up to 500m from the boundaries of the property components. The State Party advised in response to ICOMOS' first letter that where they extend further than 500 metres they are protected under Article 13(3) of that Act. The buffer zones are also protected under the Urban Construction Controls of the Historic Cities legislation which limits the height of new buildings to 8 metres.

ICOMOS notes that it is proposed to improve the street landscape in the buffer zone at Buyeo and that this is funded in the 2015-2020 budget.

ICOMOS considers that the legal protection in place is adequate.

Conservation

The nominated property components have been inventoried for the purposes of assessing their state of conservation and ongoing monitoring. Archaeological investigation and research are continuing at Wanggung-ri.

The property components are considered by the State Party to have been well-maintained since the dates of their designations as Historic Sites. Previous conservation works and archaeological investigations are listed in Tables 4.1-9. Excavations have been back-filled and covered with a protective layer of soil with building layouts outlined on top.

Active conservation works include monitoring of temperature and humidity in royal tombs. At the Songsan-ri and Neungsan-ri royal tomb sites, tombs have been closed to the public to prevent damage to murals and tomb exhibition halls have been created in lieu. The stone pagoda at Jeongnimsa Temple Site has been stabilised and conserved and a movement monitoring system has been installed. At the Mireuksa Temple Site the eastern stone pagoda was reconstructed based on the extant but unstable western pagoda. The latter is currently enclosed within a temporary building while being dismantled and restored. In response to ICOMOS' second letter, the State Party provided detailed information on the restoration process being undertaken. ICOMOS considers the process to be satisfactory.

ICOMOS considers that conservation is adequate and that no emergency measures are currently required.

Management

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes

The property components are currently managed by the central government's Cultural Heritage Administration and the relevant local governments. Gongju Municipality which manages Gongsanseong Fortress and the Royal tombs in Songsan-ri has 58 personnel engaged in various aspects of cultural heritage management. Buyeo, which is responsible for the Archaeological Site in Gwanbuk-ri and Busosanseong Fortress; the Royal Tombs in Neungsan-ri, the Jeongnimsa Temple Site and Naseong City Wall has over 54; and Iksan which is responsible for the Archaeological Site in Wanggung-ri and the Mireuksa Temple Site has more than 68. The latter also look after the Wanggung-ri and Mireuksaji Relics Museums. Staff training is available at the Korea National University of Cultural Heritage. Expertise and training are also available from the Association of Korean Cultural Heritage Repairmen, the Association of Cultural Heritage Technicians and the Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation. Funding is derived from State allocations (70%), provincial government sources (15%) and from local government (15%). The budget for expenditure in line with the Management Plan for 2015-2019 is US \$63,258,000.

A Baekje Historic Areas nomination office was set up in May 2012 to manage the nomination process. This is being replaced by the Baekje Historic Areas Conservation and Management Foundation as the integrated management body from the middle of 2014. This will have input from central, provincial and local authorities as well as community associations through the Community Council, which in turn co-ordinates three Local Community Councils set up under each municipality involving 50-60 staff. A Disaster Management Plan is included in the Management Plan.

Policy framework: management plans and arrangements, including visitor management and presentation

A number of Provincial and Municipal Plans relate to the areas in which the nominated property components are located. There are also National and Provincial Tourism Plans. The preservation of Baekje Historic Areas is a key focus of these plans aimed at tourism. In addition there is the Plan for the Establishment of a Baekje History and Culture City (Chungcheongnam-do provincial government) and individual Ancient City Preservation Plans 2009-17 (Gongju, Buyeo and Iksan municipal governments). There are also individual conservation plans for the various sites within the nominated property components. With the nomination of the property to the World Heritage List, a Conservation and Management Plan was developed to integrate all the agencies responsible for the three components with the aim of ensuring maintenance of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value. This was agreed via a Memorandum of Understanding between the Korean central government and the local governments on 22 December 2011 for the period 2015-2019. It includes a Visitors Management Plan, which covers the development of visitor programs, information materials and web sites, but ICOMOS considered that given the focus of provincial and local governments on tourism this needed to be extended to cover visitor management including restrictions on numbers at particular sites. In response to ICOMOS' second letter, the State Party has provided outlines for the development of an overall tourism management strategy and visitor management plans for each component part under the auspices of the Baekje Historic Areas Conservation and Management Foundation set up in September 2014 to oversee management of the total property. The integrated Tourism Management Plan will be completed in May 2015.

As detailed in the additional information provided by the State Party, small on-site museums are provided at the Royal Tombs in Songsan-ri, Busosanseong Fortress, Jeongnimsa Temple Site, Royal Tombs at Neungsan-ri, Archaeological Site in Wanggung-ri and Mireuksa Temple Site. National museums in Gongju and Buyeo display important collections of cultural relics dating from the Baekje period found in the region. Sites open to the public have uniformly designed signs and some also carry a code which can be read by visitors with a mobile

phone or other portable reading device to obtain three-dimensional presentations and other interpretative material. Government and research institute web sites carry sections on the Baekje culture and sites, and a series of lectures and educational projects has been organized for the public, especially students.

Involvement of the local communities

The Local Community Councils for World Heritage Management set up under each municipality are responsible for conservation and management, utilization and publicity, and coordinating community participation.

ICOMOS notes that local residents participate in daily cleaning of the sites and their settings; patrolling and monitoring the sites; guiding in museums and at sites and in educational activities.

ICOMOS considers that the current management is effective.

ICOMOS considers that the management system for the overall serial property is adequate, and notes the State Party's programme for development of an overall tourism management strategy for the nominated property as well as a visitor management plan for each component part.

6 Monitoring

A monitoring system is set out in the nomination dossier covering indicators, periodicity and records location for all property components. Table 6.10 also sets out the responsible monitoring authorities for each component. ICOMOS noted that the periodicity of monitoring the conservation status of the murals and internal environmental changes in the tombs is set at once every five years and considered that this may be inadequate. In response to ICOMOS' query, the State Party has advised that legislation is currently underway to provide for full study monitoring every three years, and clarified that temperature and humidity are monitored daily.

ICOMOS considers that the monitoring system is adequate.

7 Conclusions

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this serial property for the World Heritage List; that the serial approach is justified and the selection of sites is appropriate. ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets criteria (ii) and (iii) and conditions of authenticity and integrity. The attributes are the sites of royal palaces, royal tombs, fortresses and temples of the Baekje Kingdom during the Ungjin and Sabi periods; the relationship between the selected sites

at each capital city (Gongju, Buyeo and Iksan) and topographical features of the settings.

ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are tourism and forest fire. ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property and of its buffer zone are adequate; legal protection in place is adequate, and the protective measures for the property are adequate. Conservation is adequate and no emergency measures are currently required. ICOMOS considers that the management system for the overall serial property is adequate but in noting that the focus of provincial and local plans is on tourism, welcomes the State Party's advice that the management system and plans will be extended to include an overall tourism management strategy for the nominated property as well as a visitor management plan for each component part.

8 Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that Baekje Historic Areas, Republic of Korea, be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iii)**.

Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

Located in the mountainous mid-western region of the Republic of Korea, the remains of three capital cities collectively represent the later period of the Baekje Kingdom as it reached its peak in terms of cultural development involving frequent communication with neighbouring regions. The Baekje lasted 700 years from 18 BCE to 660 CE and was one of the three earliest kingdoms on the Korean peninsula. The Baekje Historic Areas serial property comprises eight archaeological sites dating from 475-660 CE including the Gongsanseong fortress and royal tombs at Songsan-ri related to the Ungjin capital Gongju; the Busosanseong Fortress and Gwanbuk-ri administrative buildings, Jeongnimsa Temple, royal tombs in Neungsan-ri and Naseong city wall related to the Sabi capital Buyeo; the royal palace at Wanggung-ri and the Mireuksa Temple in Iksan related to the secondary Sabi capital. Together these sites testify to the adoption by the Baekje of Chinese principles of city planning, construction technology, arts and religion; their refinement by the Baekje and subsequent distribution to Japan and East Asia.

Criterion (ii): The archaeological sites and architecture of the Baekje Historic Areas exhibit the interchange between the ancient East Asian kingdoms in Korea, China and Japan in the development of construction techniques and the spread of Buddhism.

Criterion (iii): The setting of the capital cities, Buddhist temples and tombs, architectural features and stone pagodas of the Baekje Historic Areas contribute in forming exceptional testimony to the unique culture, religion and artistry of the kingdom of Baekje.

Integrity

The nominated property components together contain all the elements necessary to embody the values of the property as a whole. The component parts are of sufficient scale to present the historic function of the capital cities and their relationship to their settings. Apart from the pumping station in the vicinity of the northern gate of Busosanseong Fortress and the remaining residential accommodation within the Archaeological Site of Gwanbuk-ri, the sites have not been impacted adversely by development or neglect.

Authenticity

Most elements of the eight component parts of the nominated serial property have suffered human intervention including reparation and restoration to different degrees. Materials and techniques used have largely been traditional. The forms of tombs and temples have been retained. The temple sites are now to some extent islands amongst low scale urban development but the settings of the fortresses and tombs largely retain their forested setting in a mountain landscape.

Management and protection requirements

The nominated property components are all designated as Historic Sites under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act 1962 amended 2012; the Special Act on the Preservation and Promotion of Ancient Cities 2004, amended 2013 and under local government Cultural Heritage Protection Ordinances: Chungcheongnam-do 2002 and Jeollabuk-do 1999. The buffer zones are protected under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act up to 500m from the boundaries of the property components and under the Urban Construction Controls of the Historic Cities legislation which limits the height of new buildings to 8 metres.

The property is managed by the Baekje Historic Areas Conservation and Management Foundation with input from central, provincial and local authorities as well as community associations through the Community Council, which in turn co-ordinates three Local Community Councils. The Community Councils set up under the three municipalities of Gongju, Buyeo and Iksan are responsible for conservation and management, utilization and publicity, and coordinating community participation. An overall Conservation and Management Plan for 2015-2019 was developed to integrate all the agencies responsible for the three components with the aim of ensuring maintenance of Outstanding Universal Value. This is currently being extended to include an overall tourism management strategy for the property as well as a visitor management plan for each component part.

Additional recommendations

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

- Completing the management system and plans as proposed to include an overall tourism management strategy for the nominated property as well as visitor management plans for each component part directed at retention of Outstanding Universal Value;
- Adjusting as proposed the periodicity of monitoring of the conservation status of the murals and internal environmental changes in the tombs.



Map showing the location of the nominated properties



Gongsanseong Fortress



Royal Tombs in Neungsan-ri



Jeongnimsa Temple Site



Royal Palace at Wanggung-ri

Baekje Historic Areas (Republic of Korea) No 1477

Official name as proposed by the State Party

Baekje Historic Areas

Location

Gongju and Buyeo, Chungcheongnam-do
Iksan, Jeollabuk-do
Republic of Korea

Brief description

The Baekje lasted 700 years from 18 BCE to 660 CE and was one of the three earliest kingdoms on the Korean peninsula. The Baekje Historic Areas serial property comprises eight archaeological sites located in the mid-western region of the Republic of Korea. These collectively represent the later period of the kingdom during which there was a considerable interchange of values between China, Korea and Japan (475-660 CE). They are the Gongsanseong fortress and royal tombs at Songsan-ri related to the Ungjin capital Gongju; the Busosanseong Fortress and Gwanbuk-ri administrative buildings, Jeongnimsa Temple, royal tombs in Neungsan-ri and Naseong city wall related to the Sabi capital Buyeo; the royal palace at Wanggung-ri and the Mireuksa Temple in Iksan related to the secondary Sabi capital. Together these sites testify to the adoption by the Baekje of Chinese principles of city planning, construction technology, arts and religion; their refinement by the Baekje and subsequent distribution to Japan and East Asia.

Category of property

In terms of categories of cultural property set out in Article I of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a serial nomination of eight *sites*.

1 Basic data

Included in the Tentative List

11 January 2010

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination

None

Date received by the World Heritage Centre

28 January 2014

Background

This is a new nomination.

Consultations

ICOMOS consulted its International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management and several independent experts.

Technical Evaluation Mission

An ICOMOS technical evaluation mission visited the site from 15 to 20 September 2014.

Additional information received by ICOMOS

A letter was sent to the State Party on 21 August 2014 requesting a map showing the location of the 8 component sites; clarification regarding a large building near the Mireuksa Temple, clarification of ownership, protection within the buffer zone and location and of visitor facilities. A second letter was sent to the State Party following the ICOMOS Panel in December 2014 requesting information on the reconstruction of the western pagoda at the Mireuksa temple, an overall tourism strategy and the periodicity of monitoring of the murals in the tombs. A revised nomination with minor errors corrected and an expansion of the comparative analysis was received on 8 September 2014 and a response to queries was provided to the mission and received on 17 October 2014. A response to ICOMOS' first letter including the requested map was received on 15 November 2014. A response to ICOMOS' second letter was received on 16 February 2015. The information has been incorporated below.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

12 March 2015

2 The property

Description

The nominated serial property comprises eight components which are archaeological sites relating to the three capital cities of the late period of the Baekje Kingdom (475-660 CE). The Baekje was one of the three earliest kingdoms on the Korean peninsula along with the Goguryeo to the north and the Silla to the east. The nominated component properties are the Gongsanseong fortress and royal tombs at Songsan-ri related to the Ungjin capital Gongju; the Busosanseong Fortress and Gwanbuk-ri administrative buildings, Jeongnimsa Temple, royal tombs in Neungsan-ri and Naseong city wall related to the Sabi capital Buyeo; the royal palace at Wanggung-ri and the Mireuksa Temple in Iksan related to the secondary Sabi capital. The sites total 135.10ha and each is surrounded by a buffer zone.

Gongju

Gongsanseong Fortress (Component 1)

The Ungjin capital Gongju was built by the Baekje from 475-538 CE 130km south of Seoul after the capture of their earlier capital Hanseong by the Goguryeo. The fortress is located on a hill beside the Geumgang River outside the city. It enclosed the royal palace and other buildings within defensive walls built of stone and rammed earth technology first developed in China.

Royal Tombs in Songsan-ri (Component 2)

These are located further south along the Geumgang River and include the tomb of King Muryeong and his Queen (Tomb 7) which together with Tomb 6 is a brick chamber tomb with a vaulted ceiling similar to those in China of the period. Other tombs are stone chambers with a corridor and domed ceiling, the traditional type of Baekje tombs. The king's tomb was undisturbed when excavated and contained a coffin made of Japanese wood and tomb guardian beasts and pottery from China, as well as decorative jewellery that indicates connections with Thailand and India.

Buyeo

The capital was moved again in 538 CE to Sabi which is modern-day Buyeo, 35km south-west of Gongju. King Muryeong's successor King Seong relocated to gain more space for development at a site which had direct access to the sea at high tide. The city was located on a peninsula in the curve of the Geumgang River and defended at the rear by the Naseong City Wall. Within this area are the Archaeological Site in Gwanbuk-ri, Busosanseong Fortress and Jeongnimsa Temple site. The Royal Tombs in Neungsan-ri are outside the Naseong City Wall.

Excavations have revealed that the Archaeological Site in Gwanbuk-ri and Busosanseong Fortress (Component 3) comprise the royal palace area including a Buddhist temple site with remnants of earthen platforms edged in tiles. This technique was adopted by the Baekje from China and further developed with decorative edge facing tiles, a treatment which was then adopted by the Silla and in Japan. The Fortress served as a garden during normal times but became a place of refuge in an emergency. The rammed earth technique was used to build the Fortress and the Naseong City Wall (Component 6). A special technique using branches and plants was used for the foundation of the City Wall in swampy areas, reinforced with stone buttresses. Barracks sites, water storage facilities and wooden barricades found within the Fortress indicate its use over 1,000 years.

The Jeongnimsa Temple Site (Component 4) comprises a prayer hall and extant five-storey stone pagoda on axis with the main entrance. Excavations have shown that there was also a lecture hall on axis at the rear and the whole was surrounded by monks' dormitories and linking corridors. Excavated artefacts include clay figurines similar to archaeological findings at the Northern Wei capital in China.

The seven Royal Tombs at Neungsan-ri (Component 5) are the stone chamber with corridor type. They were robbed before they could be excavated but discoveries at the temple site to the west of the tombs indicate that the tombs were those of the Baekje during the Sabi period. The walls of Tomb 1 contain murals depicting the Four Deities and the ceiling is decorated with lotus and cloud designs.

Iksan

The second Sabi capital was built by King Mu (600-641 CE) in Iksan, 50km south of Buyeo with the aim of gaining control over the southern region of the kingdom. The location is connected to the Geumgang and Mangyeonggang Rivers and inland transport routes in an area of extensive agricultural lands. The Archaeological Site in Wanggung-ri (Component 7) was the royal place as attested by excavation and is similar to that at Gwanbuk-ri, Buyeo. It was located on raised, terraced platforms and contained a Buddhist temple with five-storey stone pagoda. It shares its layout and features with ancient royal palaces in China and Japan including a garden with miniature landscape elements and water control facility. There was also a craft workshop attested by the excavated crucibles, blast pipes and gold and silver objects. A large multiple toilet was excavated to the south of the workshop.

The Mireuksa Temple Site (Component 8) at the foot of Mireuksan Mountain is said to represent the largest temple site discovered in East Asia and comprises three parallel pagoda and prayer halls on axis with their entrances, the central being the largest and was enclosed within its own encircling corridor. The whole complex was enclosed by linking corridors with monks' dormitories and lecture hall centrally placed at the rear. The layout accords with Buddhist scriptures describing that Maitreya, the Future Buddha would come from Heaven to save all people with his three teachings. Ancient texts recount that it was built at the request of King Mu's wife following the appearance of the Maitreya triad to the royal couple at that place. The central timber pagoda is no longer extant. The eastern stone pagoda had collapsed and the one on the west was still standing but unstable when excavations began in the 20th century. The relic found in the *sarira* cavity confirmed that the west unit was built in 639 during the reign of King Mu.

History and development

The Baekje dynasty was founded by immigrants from Goguryeo along the Hangang River at Hanseong (now Seoul) which was a central position in relation to trade, building techniques and cultural exchange. Buddhism was introduced to the Baekje on the Korean peninsula in the 4th century. In the 5th-7th centuries the Baekje forged diplomatic relations with Chinese kingdoms by which time Buddhism was widely accepted in central China. In the mid-6th century the Baekje introduced Buddhism to Japan where it was adopted by the royal family. According to historical records the Baekje invited craftsmen from the Chinese southern dynasties and later sent its own craftsmen to Japan. East Asian exchanges involving the Baekje are said to have included city planning, civil engineering and architectural technology and as a result East Asia acquired a common writing system using Chinese characters, a common religion (Buddhism) and Confucian law codes during the 5th-7th centuries.

In the Ungjin period (475-538) the capital city Gongju made use of the natural defensive topography but later in the Sabi period at the Buyeo capital the Baekje adopted

Chinese principles of city planning while at the same time continuing to use natural topography for defensive purposes. In the later Saba period the royal palace at Wanggung-ri illustrates the rectangular planned layout of the East Asian royal palace of the 6th-7th century, similar to Luoyang, capital of the Northern Wei Dynasty.

From the 7th century the Baekje stone pagoda technology spread to Silla, Goryeo and Japan as attested by the similarities at the Silla Bulguksa Temple and in Shiga Prefecture Japan.

Archaeological investigation was first undertaken during the Japanese colonial period in the early 20th century. In 1971 the undisturbed tomb of King Muryeong was discovered and systematic archaeological excavations began in the former Baekje capitals in the 1980s.

3 Justification for inscription, integrity and authenticity

Comparative analysis

The nominated component properties were selected from remnants of the Baekje kingdom's historic capitals at Gongju, Buyeo and Iksan to represent the later period of the Baekje (475-660 CE), providing information on capital planning, the life of the royal family, funeral traditions and religious beliefs of the kingdom at the time and illustrating different aspects testifying to the interchange that evolved between Korea, China and Japan during this period.

An extensive table is provided in the revised nomination dossier comparing the nominated property with others already on the World Heritage List, most of which are not particularly appropriate in terms of the values and period claimed. The most relevant comparison is with Gyeongju Historic Areas, Republic of Korea inscribed in 2000 (criteria (ii) & (iii)). This was the capital of the Silla kingdom whose culture flourished there particularly between the 7th-10th centuries, producing outstanding examples of Korean Buddhist art. It can be seen to follow on from the Baekje kingdom in that techniques were adopted from the Baekje structures and while it has remnants of similar features such as a city wall, royal palaces, fortresses, royal tombs and temples, more than half of these are a few centuries later in date.

The nominated property has been compared with The Historic Monuments and Sites in Kaesong, Democratic People's Republic of Korea inscribed in 2013 (criteria (ii) & (iii)), an ensemble representing the ruling base of the Koryo dynasty (918-1392) with its associated tombs. The ensemble embodies the political, cultural, philosophical and spiritual values of the capital of the unified Koryo state as it transitioned from Buddhist to Confucian philosophy, through the geomantic layout of the city, palace and tomb complexes, the urban defence system of walls and gates, and educational institutions. It can be seen that the Baekje city plan exhibits an earlier stage of development than Kaesong.

In China, the nominated property has been compared with Capital Cities and Tombs of the Ancient Koguryo Kingdom (2004, criteria (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) & (v)) which reigned from 277 BCE to 668 CE. This represents the beginnings of the defensive system later developed by successive dynasties on the Korean peninsula, but not a developed system as evidenced at the Baekje sites. The State Party notes that the directly comparable period of Northern and Southern dynasty capitals in China is not represented on the World Heritage List. What particularly distinguishes Baekje in relation to these is King Muryeong's tomb, discovered intact, whereas royal tombs of the Northern and Southern Wei had been looted and destroyed in the past.

In Japan the nominated property has been compared with Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara (1998, criteria (ii), (iii), (iv) & (vi)), the Japanese capital from 710-784 CE. The city originated from a later period and is said to be modelled on Tang dynasty cities in China and those of the Silla in Korea.

The State Party also compared the nominated property with properties on the Tentative Lists including Historical Relics in Pyongyang covering the period from Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age, Goguryeo, Goryeo and Joseon periods in the north-west of the Korean peninsula, and Asuka-Fujiwara, an ensemble of archaeological sites in the Nara Basin region of Japan. The latter comprise remains of royal palaces, temples and tombs of the period (592-710 CE) which indicate strong influences from China and Korea, testifying to cultural and technical exchanges in East Asia at a slightly later period than the nominated property. There is no evidence of a city wall for defensive purposes.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis shows that the Baekje kingdom occupied a specific chronological period as East Asian cities evolved under the influence of Buddhism. The nomination dossier acknowledges that the specific features of the city type were initiated in the capital cities of the Northern Wei Dynasty of China (386-534 CE) such as Luoyang, but states that the archaeological resources representing the walled city there are insufficient compared with the Baekje sites. ICOMOS notes that the question of Luoyang's influence on the development of Japanese cities has been discussed by scholars. While acknowledging that pre-Tang art forms travelled from China to Japan, often by way of Korea, the possibility of the Baekje capitals being the connecting link for the city plans is not investigated.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies the selection of sites, which together show the evolution of the Baekje capital city within an East Asian context.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this serial property for the World Heritage List.

Justification of Outstanding Universal Value

The nominated property is considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- Evidence of important cultural, religious and technological exchanges between China, Korea and Japan during the Baekje dynasty;
- Exceptional testimony to the Baekje kingdom;
- Demonstrates development of the East Asian capital city.

The serial approach is justified as providing eight components which collectively represent the most significant and influential periods of the Baekje Kingdom. They each contribute different but complementary aspects of the Baekje royal capitals to provide an overall picture which no single component can provide.

ICOMOS considers that the justification is appropriate.

Integrity and authenticity

Integrity

The eight nominated sites were selected from the known and excavated remains of the three Baekje capitals to build up an overall picture of the middle and late history of the Baekje Kingdom as it reached its peak in terms of cultural development involving frequent communication with neighbouring regions. They include sites of royal palaces, royal tombs, fortresses and temples of the Baekje Kingdom during the Ungjin and Sabi periods and present information on capital planning, the life of the royal family, funeral traditions and religious beliefs of the kingdom at the time.

The nominated property components together contain all the elements necessary to embody the values of the property as a whole. The component parts are of sufficient scale to present the historic function of the capital cities and their relationship to their settings.

The boundaries also include elements which illustrate the evolution of the capital cities through subsequent dynasties, including reconstruction and utilization of the pond at the Jeongnimsa Temple Site in the Goguryeo period and utilization of the Gongsanseong and Busosanseong Fortresses and reinforcement and reconstruction of facilities by the Joseon Dynasty. However the Baekje period of the sites is still paramount.

A number of tombs had been looted prior to archaeological excavation. A pumping station in the vicinity of the northern gate of Busosanseong Fortress has impacted visually on the landscape and four families still reside within the Archaeological Site of Gwanbuk-ri. These are subject to planning controls. Otherwise the sites have not been impacted adversely by development.

ICOMOS considers that the integrity of the whole series has been justified; and that the integrity of the individual sites that comprise the series has been demonstrated.

Authenticity

Most elements of the eight component parts of the nominated serial property have suffered human intervention including repairs and restoration to different degrees. At the Gongsanseong Fortress, Joseon period wall sections have been capped with a waterproof material containing cement. After archaeological excavation, the sites of royal palaces and tombs have been properly reburied to preserve their authenticity. Burial mounds have been reconstructed and grassed over after excavation. At the Jeongnimsa Temple Buddhist statues of the Baekje period unearthed during excavation have been placed in a protective building in traditional style on the Lecture Hall site which is not consistent with the form of the Baekje era. The eastern stone pagoda at the Mireuksa Temple Site was reconstructed in its original form with traditional building materials but only a few original parts remain. The western stone pagoda is being repaired using traditional stone masonry techniques. In terms of location and setting, the views from the east of the Five-storey pagoda at the Jeongnimsa Temple Site have been interrupted by new construction to the west. Overall however, ICOMOS considers authenticity to be high.

ICOMOS considers that the authenticity of the whole series has been justified; and that the authenticity of the individual sites that comprise the series has been demonstrated.

ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity of the whole series have been justified; and for individual sites, the conditions of integrity and authenticity have been met.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv).

Criterion (ii): *exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the archaeological sites and architecture of the Baekje Historic Areas exhibit the interchange between the ancient East Asian kingdoms in Korea, China and Japan in the development of construction techniques and the spread of Buddhism.

ICOMOS considers that the interchange on developments in architecture and building technology is evident in the fortress wall construction, royal tombs, stone pagodas and building platforms.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been demonstrated.

Criterion (iii): *bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilisation which is living or which has disappeared;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the setting of the capital cities, Buddhist temples and tombs, architectural features and stone pagodas contribute in forming the exceptional testimony to the unique culture, religion and artistry of the kingdom of Baekje.

ICOMOS considers that the extent and type of remains demonstrating layout and topographical setting, architecture and technology combine to provide exceptional testimony to the unique culture, history, religion and artistry of the kingdom of Baekje.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been demonstrated.

Criterion (iv): *be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the sites that comprise the Baekje Historic Areas are among the earliest examples clearly expressing the innovative city design marking the start of outer walls encircling the entire city in East Asia, together with the vast influences of Buddhism in the central city layout attesting to the functions of the religion as the ruling ideology. The advanced development of architectural technology is also explicitly presented in the monumental buildings adorned with roof tiles and stone pagodas.

ICOMOS notes that the justification is based on the evidence taken from remains at three former Baekje capital cities of evolution of the Baekje city plan to comprise the spatial layout of royal palace and temples influenced by Buddhism and enclosed by outer walls, with the royal tombs being located outside the walls. However ICOMOS considers that the property is a combination of elements, which although pointing to the development of a type of city plan is in fact a combination of the remains of three separate city plans rather than a single city plan and does not justify the property as an outstanding example of a type in the sense intended in the criterion.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been demonstrated.

ICOMOS considers that the serial approach is justified and that the selection of sites is appropriate.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets criteria (ii) and (iii) and the conditions of authenticity and integrity.

Description of the attributes

The attributes are the sites of royal palaces, royal tombs, fortresses and temples of the Baekje Kingdom during the Ungjin and Sabi periods; the relationship between the selected sites at each capital city (Gongju, Buyeo and Iksan) and topographical features of the settings.

4 Factors affecting the property

According to the nomination dossier the component properties are not subject to development pressure. There are 13 inhabitants of Gwanbuk-ri and Busosanseong Fortress but the other property components have no inhabitants. The number of inhabitants within the buffer zones is less than 100 except in Gwanbuk-ri and Busosanseong Fortress where there are 1,335. ICOMOS notes that the water pump plant at the northern gate of Busosanseong Fortress will not be expanded, and future development in the vicinity of the sites is subject to Urban Construction Control. The intrusive building at Jeongnimsa Temple site will be removed when the opportunity arises.

The Jeongnimsa and Mireuksa Temple Sites and the Archaeological Sites of Gwanbuk-ri and Wanggung-ri are close to residential areas and roads and subject to dust and motor vehicle emission pollution. Studies are underway to investigate treatments to remove pollutants from stone. The other sites are in mountainous areas and while not subject to environmental pollution are more susceptible to natural disaster such as forest fire, storms and floods. These are countered by national risk-preparedness legislation and the Cultural Heritage Administration's safety course run annually on 'Disaster Prevention Day'. In particular, ICOMOS notes that emergency fire plans mean that a response can be made to all component parts within 5 minutes.

Visitor numbers are said to be well within the carrying capacities of the sites and are calculated to still be so in the event of inscription. Current visitor numbers range from 80,877 annually at the Royal Tombs in Neungsan-ri and Naseong City Wall to 680,499 annually at the Mireuksa Temple Site. ICOMOS considers that tourism is a significant factor likely to impact adversely on the property and notes that mitigating measures have already been taken including closure of Tomb 1 of the Royal Tombs of Songsan-ri, which had formerly been open to the public.

ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are tourism and forest fire.

5 Protection, conservation and management

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

The boundaries of the nominated property components follow the exterior of fortress walls and topographical lines where relevant; the exterior of the external boundary walls of the Jeongnimsa and Mireuksa Temple Sites; enclose the width of Naseong City Wall and enclose excavated areas at Gwanbuk-ri and Wanggung-ri. ICOMOS notes that the boundaries either coincide with or enclose a lesser area than the areas protected under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act.

Buffer zone boundaries follow topographical lines and streets and roads and are clearly identifiable. In the case of the fortresses and tombs they enclose landforms and landscapes related to them. They enclose up to 500 metres surrounding the nominated property component as protected under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act and where extending further than that enclose areas protected under the Construction Control Zones of the relevant Historic Cities.

ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property and of its buffer zone are adequate.

Ownership

Most of the nominated property is State-owned. The remaining privately-owned land is less than 10% of the total area and is being continuously purchased.

Protection

The nominated property components are all designated as Historic Sites under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act 1962 amended 2012; the Special Act on the Preservation and Promotion of Ancient Cities 2004, amended 2013 and under local government Cultural Heritage Protection Ordinances: Chungcheongnam-do 2002 and Jeollabuk-do 1999.

The buffer zones are protected under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act up to 500m from the boundaries of the property components. The State Party advised in response to ICOMOS' first letter that where they extend further than 500 metres they are protected under Article 13(3) of that Act. The buffer zones are also protected under the Urban Construction Controls of the Historic Cities legislation which limits the height of new buildings to 8 metres.

ICOMOS notes that it is proposed to improve the street landscape in the buffer zone at Buyeo and that this is funded in the 2015-2020 budget.

ICOMOS considers that the legal protection in place is adequate.

Conservation

The nominated property components have been inventoried for the purposes of assessing their state of conservation and ongoing monitoring. Archaeological investigation and research are continuing at Wanggung-ri.

The property components are considered by the State Party to have been well-maintained since the dates of their designations as Historic Sites. Previous conservation works and archaeological investigations are listed in Tables 4.1-9. Excavations have been back-filled and covered with a protective layer of soil with building layouts outlined on top.

Active conservation works include monitoring of temperature and humidity in royal tombs. At the Songsan-ri and Neungsan-ri royal tomb sites, tombs have been closed to the public to prevent damage to murals and tomb exhibition halls have been created in lieu. The stone pagoda at Jeongnimsa Temple Site has been stabilised and conserved and a movement monitoring system has been installed. At the Mireuksa Temple Site the eastern stone pagoda was reconstructed based on the extant but unstable western pagoda. The latter is currently enclosed within a temporary building while being dismantled and restored. In response to ICOMOS' second letter, the State Party provided detailed information on the restoration process being undertaken. ICOMOS considers the process to be satisfactory.

ICOMOS considers that conservation is adequate and that no emergency measures are currently required.

Management

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes

The property components are currently managed by the central government's Cultural Heritage Administration and the relevant local governments. Gongju Municipality which manages Gongsanseong Fortress and the Royal tombs in Songsan-ri has 58 personnel engaged in various aspects of cultural heritage management. Buyeo, which is responsible for the Archaeological Site in Gwanbuk-ri and Busosanseong Fortress; the Royal Tombs in Neungsan-ri, the Jeongnimsa Temple Site and Naseong City Wall has over 54; and Iksan which is responsible for the Archaeological Site in Wanggung-ri and the Mireuksa Temple Site has more than 68. The latter also look after the Wanggung-ri and Mireuksaji Relics Museums. Staff training is available at the Korea National University of Cultural Heritage. Expertise and training are also available from the Association of Korean Cultural Heritage Repairmen, the Association of Cultural Heritage Technicians and the Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation. Funding is derived from State allocations (70%), provincial government sources (15%) and from local government (15%). The budget for expenditure in line with the Management Plan for 2015-2019 is US \$63,258,000.

A Baekje Historic Areas nomination office was set up in May 2012 to manage the nomination process. This is being replaced by the Baekje Historic Areas Conservation and Management Foundation as the integrated management body from the middle of 2014. This will have input from central, provincial and local authorities as well as community associations through the Community Council, which in turn co-ordinates three Local Community Councils set up under each municipality involving 50-60 staff. A Disaster Management Plan is included in the Management Plan.

Policy framework: management plans and arrangements, including visitor management and presentation

A number of Provincial and Municipal Plans relate to the areas in which the nominated property components are located. There are also National and Provincial Tourism Plans. The preservation of Baekje Historic Areas is a key focus of these plans aimed at tourism. In addition there is the Plan for the Establishment of a Baekje History and Culture City (Chungcheongnam-do provincial government) and individual Ancient City Preservation Plans 2009-17 (Gongju, Buyeo and Iksan municipal governments). There are also individual conservation plans for the various sites within the nominated property components. With the nomination of the property to the World Heritage List, a Conservation and Management Plan was developed to integrate all the agencies responsible for the three components with the aim of ensuring maintenance of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value. This was agreed via a Memorandum of Understanding between the Korean central government and the local governments on 22 December 2011 for the period 2015-2019. It includes a Visitors Management Plan, which covers the development of visitor programs, information materials and web sites, but ICOMOS considered that given the focus of provincial and local governments on tourism this needed to be extended to cover visitor management including restrictions on numbers at particular sites. In response to ICOMOS' second letter, the State Party has provided outlines for the development of an overall tourism management strategy and visitor management plans for each component part under the auspices of the Baekje Historic Areas Conservation and Management Foundation set up in September 2014 to oversee management of the total property. The integrated Tourism Management Plan will be completed in May 2015.

As detailed in the additional information provided by the State Party, small on-site museums are provided at the Royal Tombs in Songsan-ri, Busosanseong Fortress, Jeongnimsa Temple Site, Royal Tombs at Neungsan-ri, Archaeological Site in Wanggung-ri and Mireuksa Temple Site. National museums in Gongju and Buyeo display important collections of cultural relics dating from the Baekje period found in the region. Sites open to the public have uniformly designed signs and some also carry a code which can be read by visitors with a mobile

phone or other portable reading device to obtain three-dimensional presentations and other interpretative material. Government and research institute web sites carry sections on the Baekje culture and sites, and a series of lectures and educational projects has been organized for the public, especially students.

Involvement of the local communities

The Local Community Councils for World Heritage Management set up under each municipality are responsible for conservation and management, utilization and publicity, and coordinating community participation.

ICOMOS notes that local residents participate in daily cleaning of the sites and their settings; patrolling and monitoring the sites; guiding in museums and at sites and in educational activities.

ICOMOS considers that the current management is effective.

ICOMOS considers that the management system for the overall serial property is adequate, and notes the State Party's programme for development of an overall tourism management strategy for the nominated property as well as a visitor management plan for each component part.

6 Monitoring

A monitoring system is set out in the nomination dossier covering indicators, periodicity and records location for all property components. Table 6.10 also sets out the responsible monitoring authorities for each component. ICOMOS noted that the periodicity of monitoring the conservation status of the murals and internal environmental changes in the tombs is set at once every five years and considered that this may be inadequate. In response to ICOMOS' query, the State Party has advised that legislation is currently underway to provide for full study monitoring every three years, and clarified that temperature and humidity are monitored daily.

ICOMOS considers that the monitoring system is adequate.

7 Conclusions

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this serial property for the World Heritage List; that the serial approach is justified and the selection of sites is appropriate. ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets criteria (ii) and (iii) and conditions of authenticity and integrity. The attributes are the sites of royal palaces, royal tombs, fortresses and temples of the Baekje Kingdom during the Ungjin and Sabi periods; the relationship between the selected sites

at each capital city (Gongju, Buyeo and Iksan) and topographical features of the settings.

ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are tourism and forest fire. ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property and of its buffer zone are adequate; legal protection in place is adequate, and the protective measures for the property are adequate. Conservation is adequate and no emergency measures are currently required. ICOMOS considers that the management system for the overall serial property is adequate but in noting that the focus of provincial and local plans is on tourism, welcomes the State Party's advice that the management system and plans will be extended to include an overall tourism management strategy for the nominated property as well as a visitor management plan for each component part.

8 Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that Baekje Historic Areas, Republic of Korea, be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iii)**.

Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

Located in the mountainous mid-western region of the Republic of Korea, the remains of three capital cities collectively represent the later period of the Baekje Kingdom as it reached its peak in terms of cultural development involving frequent communication with neighbouring regions. The Baekje lasted 700 years from 18 BCE to 660 CE and was one of the three earliest kingdoms on the Korean peninsula. The Baekje Historic Areas serial property comprises eight archaeological sites dating from 475-660 CE including the Gongsanseong fortress and royal tombs at Songsan-ri related to the Ungjin capital Gongju; the Busosanseong Fortress and Gwanbuk-ri administrative buildings, Jeongnimsa Temple, royal tombs in Neungsan-ri and Naseong city wall related to the Sabi capital Buyeo; the royal palace at Wanggung-ri and the Mireuksa Temple in Iksan related to the secondary Sabi capital. Together these sites testify to the adoption by the Baekje of Chinese principles of city planning, construction technology, arts and religion; their refinement by the Baekje and subsequent distribution to Japan and East Asia.

Criterion (ii): The archaeological sites and architecture of the Baekje Historic Areas exhibit the interchange between the ancient East Asian kingdoms in Korea, China and Japan in the development of construction techniques and the spread of Buddhism.

Criterion (iii): The setting of the capital cities, Buddhist temples and tombs, architectural features and stone pagodas of the Baekje Historic Areas contribute in forming exceptional testimony to the unique culture, religion and artistry of the kingdom of Baekje.

Integrity

The nominated property components together contain all the elements necessary to embody the values of the property as a whole. The component parts are of sufficient scale to present the historic function of the capital cities and their relationship to their settings. Apart from the pumping station in the vicinity of the northern gate of Busosanseong Fortress and the remaining residential accommodation within the Archaeological Site of Gwanbuk-ri, the sites have not been impacted adversely by development or neglect.

Authenticity

Most elements of the eight component parts of the nominated serial property have suffered human intervention including reparation and restoration to different degrees. Materials and techniques used have largely been traditional. The forms of tombs and temples have been retained. The temple sites are now to some extent islands amongst low scale urban development but the settings of the fortresses and tombs largely retain their forested setting in a mountain landscape.

Management and protection requirements

The nominated property components are all designated as Historic Sites under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act 1962 amended 2012; the Special Act on the Preservation and Promotion of Ancient Cities 2004, amended 2013 and under local government Cultural Heritage Protection Ordinances: Chungcheongnam-do 2002 and Jeollabuk-do 1999. The buffer zones are protected under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act up to 500m from the boundaries of the property components and under the Urban Construction Controls of the Historic Cities legislation which limits the height of new buildings to 8 metres.

The property is managed by the Baekje Historic Areas Conservation and Management Foundation with input from central, provincial and local authorities as well as community associations through the Community Council, which in turn co-ordinates three Local Community Councils. The Community Councils set up under the three municipalities of Gongju, Buyeo and Iksan are responsible for conservation and management, utilization and publicity, and coordinating community participation. An overall Conservation and Management Plan for 2015-2019 was developed to integrate all the agencies responsible for the three components with the aim of ensuring maintenance of Outstanding Universal Value. This is currently being extended to include an overall tourism management strategy for the property as well as a visitor management plan for each component part.

Additional recommendations

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

- Completing the management system and plans as proposed to include an overall tourism management strategy for the nominated property as well as visitor management plans for each component part directed at retention of Outstanding Universal Value;
- Adjusting as proposed the periodicity of monitoring of the conservation status of the murals and internal environmental changes in the tombs.



Map showing the location of the nominated properties



Gongsanseong Fortress



Royal Tombs in Neungsan-ri



Jeongnimsa Temple Site



Royal Palace at Wanggung-ri

Aires historiques de Baekje (République de Corée) No 1477

Nom officiel du bien tel que proposé par l'État partie
Aires historiques de Baekje

Lieu

Gongju et Buyeo, Chungcheongnam-do
Iksan, Jeollabuk-do
République de Corée

Brève description

Le royaume de Baekje dura 700 ans, de 18 av. J.-C. à 660 apr. J.-C., et fut l'un des trois premiers royaumes de la péninsule coréenne. Le bien en série des aires historiques de Baekje comprend huit sites archéologiques situés dans le centre-ouest de la République de Corée. Ensemble, ils représentent la dernière période du royaume au cours de laquelle existèrent des échanges considérables d'influences entre la Chine, la Corée et le Japon (475-660 apr. J.-C.). Ces sites sont la forteresse Gongsanseong et les tombes royales de Songsan-ri liées à la capitale Ungjin (actuelle Gongju), la forteresse Busosanseong et les bâtiments administratifs Gwanbuk-ri et les remparts de Naseong liés à la capitale Sabi (actuelle Buyeo), le palais royal de Wanggung-ri et le temple Mireuksa à Iksan, liés à la deuxième capitale Sabi. L'ensemble de ces sites témoigne de l'adoption par Baekje des principes d'urbanisme, des technologies de construction, des arts et de la religion originaires de Chine ainsi que de leur raffinement par Baekje et leur transmission subséquente au Japon et à l'Asie de l'Est.

Catégorie de bien

En termes de catégories de biens culturels, telles qu'elles sont définies à l'article premier de la Convention du patrimoine mondial de 1972, il s'agit d'une proposition d'inscription en série de huit *sites*.

1 Identification

Inclus dans la liste indicative

11 janvier 2010

Assistance internationale au titre du Fonds du patrimoine mondial pour la préparation de la proposition d'inscription

Aucune

Date de réception par le Centre du patrimoine mondial

28 janvier 2014

Antécédents

Il s'agit d'une nouvelle proposition d'inscription.

Consultations

L'ICOMOS a consulté son Comité scientifique international sur la gestion du patrimoine archéologique ainsi que plusieurs experts indépendants.

Mission d'évaluation technique

Une mission d'évaluation technique de l'ICOMOS s'est rendue sur le bien du 15 au 20 septembre 2014.

Information complémentaire reçue par l'ICOMOS

Une lettre a été envoyée à l'État partie le 21 août 2014 demandant de fournir une carte indiquant la localisation des huit sites composant le bien et des clarifications concernant un grand édifice situé à proximité du temple Mireuksa, le droit de propriété, la protection prévue dans la zone tampon et les installations d'accueil des visiteurs. Une deuxième lettre a été envoyée à l'État partie à la suite de la réunion de la Commission pour le patrimoine mondial de l'ICOMOS en décembre 2014, lui demandant des informations sur la reconstruction de la pagode de l'Ouest du temple Mireuksa, une stratégie touristique globale et la périodicité du suivi des peintures murales des tombes. Une proposition d'inscription révisée, comportant la correction d'erreurs mineures et une extension de l'analyse comparative, a été reçue le 8 septembre 2014 et une réponse aux questions a été fournie à la mission et reçue le 17 octobre 2014. Une réponse à la première lettre de l'ICOMOS fournissant la carte demandée est parvenue le 15 novembre 2014. Une réponse à la deuxième lettre de l'ICOMOS a été reçue le 16 février 2015. Les informations ont été incluses ci-après.

Date d'approbation de l'évaluation par l'ICOMOS

12 mars 2015

2 Le bien

Description

La proposition d'inscription du bien en série comprend huit éléments qui sont des sites archéologiques liés aux trois capitales de la dernière période du royaume de Baekje (475-660 apr. J.-C.). Baekje fut l'un des premiers royaumes de la péninsule coréenne avec Goguryeo au nord et Silla à l'est. Les biens constitutifs de la série sont la forteresse Gongsanseong et les tombes royales de Songsan-ri liées à la capitale Ungjin (actuelle Gongju), la forteresse Busosanseong et les bâtiments administratifs Gwanbuk-ri, le temple Jeongnimsa, les tombes royales de Neungsan-ri et les remparts de Naseong liés à la capitale Sabi (actuelle Buyeo), le palais royal de Wanggung-ri et le temple Mireuksa à Iksan, liés à la deuxième capitale Sabi. Les sites couvrent au total 135,10 ha et chacun d'entre eux est entouré d'une zone tampon.

Gongju

Forteresse Gongsanseong (élément 1)

La capitale Ungjin (actuelle Gongju) fut construite par Baekje entre 475 et 538 apr. J.-C. à 130 km au sud de Séoul après la prise de l'ancienne capitale Hanseong

par Goguryeo. La forteresse est située sur une colline surplombant le fleuve Geumgang qui coule au pied de la ville. Elle enserrait le palais royal et d'autres édifices dans ses remparts construits selon une technologie de pierre et de terre compactée mise au point en Chine.

Tombes royales de Songsan-ri (élément 2)

Ces tombes sont situées plus au sud, en bordure du fleuve Geumgang et comptent parmi elles la tombe du roi Muryeong et de sa reine (tombe 7) qui, avec la tombe 6, comporte une chambre funéraire en briques surmontée d'un plafond voûté similaire aux tombes que l'on trouve en Chine à la même époque. D'autres tombes du type traditionnel de Baekje comportent des chambres funéraires en pierre avec couloir et plafond voûté. La tombe du roi était intacte lorsqu'elle fut fouillée et contenait un cercueil en bois du Japon, des bêtes gardiennes de tombeaux et des poteries venant de Chine, ainsi que des bijoux d'ornementation indiquant des liens avec la Thaïlande et l'Inde.

Buyeo

La capitale fut déplacée de nouveau en 538 apr. J.-C. à Sabi (actuelle Buyeo), à 35 km au sud-ouest de Gongju. Le roi Seong, successeur du roi Muryeong, déplaça la capitale pour gagner de l'espace et se développer sur un site bénéficiant d'un accès direct à la mer à marée haute. La ville était située sur une péninsule dans un coude du fleuve Geumgang et était défendue à l'arrière par les remparts de la ville de Naseong. Dans cette zone se trouvent le site archéologique de Gwanbu-ri et la forteresse de Busosanseong ainsi que le site du temple Jeongnimsa. Les tombes royales de Neungsan-ri sont à l'extérieur des remparts de Naseong.

Des fouilles ont révélé que le site archéologique de Gwanbuk-ri et la forteresse de Busosanseong (élément 3) comprend la zone du palais royal recelant notamment un temple bouddhiste ainsi que des vestiges de plateformes en terre bordées de tuiles. Cette technique venue de Chine fut adoptée puis perfectionnée par Baekje grâce à l'ajout de bordures décoratives en céramique, un traitement adopté par la suite à Silla et au Japon. Jardin en temps de paix, la forteresse servait de refuge en cas d'attaque. La technique de la terre compactée fut utilisée pour construire la forteresse et les remparts de la ville de Naseong (élément 6). Une technique particulière utilisant des branchages et des plantes permit de réaliser les fondations des remparts de la ville dans des zones marécageuses, renforcés par des contreforts en pierre. D'anciennes casernes, des réservoirs d'eau et des barricades en bois mis au jour indiquent une utilisation de la forteresse sur plus de 1 000 ans.

Le site du temple Jeongnimsa (élément 4) comprend une salle de prière et une pagode à cinq niveaux disposée dans l'axe de l'entrée principale. Des fouilles ont montré qu'il existait aussi une salle de lecture à l'arrière, sur le même axe, et que l'ensemble était entouré des dortoirs des moines et de couloirs reliant les différents espaces. Le produit des fouilles

archéologiques comprend des figurines d'argile semblables à celles trouvées en Chine dans les fouilles archéologiques de la capitale des Wei du Nord.

Les sept tombes royales de Neungsan-ri (élément 5) sont du type des chambres funéraires en pierre dotées d'un couloir. Elles ont été pillées avant de pouvoir être fouillées, mais les découvertes faites sur le site du temple à l'ouest des tombes indiquent qu'elles étaient celles des Baekje pendant la période de Sabi. Les murs de la tombe 1 sont ornés de peintures représentant les quatre divinités, les plafonds sont ornés de motifs de lotus et de nuages.

Iksan

La deuxième capitale Sabi fut construite par le roi Mu (600-641 apr. J.-C) à Iksan, à 50 km au sud de Buyeo, dans le but d'étendre sa domination sur la région plus au sud du royaume. Ce lieu est relié aux fleuves Geumgang et Mangyeonggang et aux itinéraires de transport intérieur au milieu d'une vaste région agricole. Le site archéologique de Wanggung-ri (élément 7) était le siège royal, comme l'attestent les fouilles, similaire à celui de Gwanbuk-ri, à Buyeo. Il était situé sur des plateformes en forme de terrasses et comportait un temple bouddhiste et une pagode en pierre à cinq niveaux. Il partage la forme et les caractéristiques des anciens palais royaux de Chine et du Japon, notamment un jardin avec des éléments de paysages miniatures et des jeux d'eau. La présence d'un atelier d'artisanat est attestée par la découverte de creusets, de tuyères et d'objets en or et en argent. Des toilettes collectives ont été découvertes au sud de l'atelier.

Le site du temple Mireuksa (élément 8) au pied du mont Mireuksan serait le plus grand site de temple découvert en Asie de l'Est ; il comprend trois pagodes parallèles et des salles de prière construites dans l'axe de leur entrée, celle du milieu étant la plus grande et entourée de son propre couloir. L'ensemble religieux était entouré de couloirs reliés aux dortoirs des moines et à la salle de lecture située à l'arrière sur l'axe central. La disposition des lieux s'accorde aux écritures bouddhistes décrivant l'avènement de Maitreya, le Bouddha du futur, qui viendrait du paradis pour sauver tous les êtres par ses trois enseignements. Les anciens textes racontent que le temple fut construit à la demande de l'épouse du roi Mu à la suite de l'apparition de la triade de Maitreya qui se manifesta en ce lieu au couple royal. La pagode centrale en bois n'existe plus. La pagode de l'Est, en pierre, s'est effondrée et la pagode de l'Ouest était toujours debout mais instable au moment où les fouilles ont commencé au XXe siècle. La relique découverte dans la cavité *sarira* a confirmé que la pagode de l'Ouest a été construite en 639 sous le règne du roi Mu.

Histoire et développement

La dynastie Baekje fut fondée par des migrants venus de Goguryeo le long du fleuve Hangang à Hanseong (actuelle Séoul) qui occupait une place centrale en termes de commerce, de techniques et de construction et d'échanges culturels. Le bouddhisme fut introduit au

royaume de Baekje sur la péninsule coréenne au I^{er} siècle. Entre le Ve et le VII^e siècle, Baekje noua des relations diplomatiques avec les royaumes chinois, à une époque à laquelle le bouddhisme était largement pratiqué en Chine centrale. Au milieu du VI^e siècle, Baekje introduisit le bouddhisme au Japon où il fut adopté par la famille royale. Selon les récits historiques, Baekje invita les artisans des dynasties du sud de la Chine puis envoya ses propres artisans au Japon. Les échanges en Asie de l'Est impliquant Baekje ont concerné l'urbanisme, le génie civil et les technologies architecturales, mettant en place un système d'écriture commun utilisant les caractères chinois, une religion commune (le bouddhisme) et les codes de loi du confucianisme entre les Ve et VII^e siècles.

Durant la période Ungjin (475-538), la capitale Gongju fit usage de la topographie défensive naturelle, mais par la suite, durant la période Sabi, Baekje adopta les principes d'urbanisme chinois pour sa capitale Buyeo tout en continuant d'utiliser la topographie naturelle à des fins défensives. À la fin de la période Sabi, le palais royal de Wanggung-ri illustre le plan rectangulaire des palais royaux d'Asie de l'Est aux VI^e et VII^e siècles, comme à Luoyang, capitale de la dynastie Wei du Nord.

À partir du VII^e siècle, la technologie de construction en pierre des pagodes s'étendit à Silla, à Goryeo et au Japon, comme l'attestent les similitudes observées au temple Bulguksa de Silla et dans la préfecture de Shiga au Japon.

Des recherches archéologiques ont été entreprises durant la période coloniale japonaise au début du XX^e siècle. En 1971, la tombe intacte du roi Muryeong fut découverte et des fouilles archéologiques systématiques furent entreprises dans les anciennes capitales de Baekje dans les années 1980.

3 Justification de l'inscription, intégrité et authenticité

Analyse comparative

Les biens composant la proposition d'inscription ont été choisis parmi les vestiges des capitales historiques du royaume de Baekje à Gongju, Buyeo et Iksan afin de représenter la dernière période de Baekje (475-660 apr. J.-C.), offrant des informations sur l'urbanisme des capitales, la vie de la famille royale, les traditions funéraires et les croyances religieuses ayant cours dans le royaume à l'époque et illustrant différents aspects qui témoignent des échanges qui eurent lieu entre la Corée, la Chine et le Japon durant cette période.

Un grand tableau a été fourni dans le dossier de proposition d'inscription révisé qui compare le bien proposé pour inscription avec d'autres bien inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial, dont la plupart ne sont pas particulièrement appropriés en termes de valeurs et de périodes concernées. L'élément de comparaison le plus pertinent est celui des Zones historiques de Gyeongju, République de Corée, inscrit en 2000 (critères (ii) et (iii)).

Gyeongju fut la capitale du royaume de Silla, dont la culture, qui s'y est épanouie en particulier entre le VII^e et le Xe siècle, a produit des réalisations exceptionnelles de l'art bouddhiste coréen. On peut considérer que cette culture découle du royaume de Baekje, car des techniques ont été reprises des structures Baekje et, bien qu'elle présente des vestiges aux caractéristiques comparables, tels les remparts, les palais royaux, les forteresses, les tombes royales et les temples, plus de la moitié sont postérieurs de quelques siècles.

Le bien proposé pour inscription a été comparé aux Monuments et sites historiques de Kaesong, République populaire démocratique de Corée, inscrits en 2013 (critères (ii) et (iii)), un ensemble qui représente la base du pouvoir de la dynastie Koryo (918-1392) avec ses tombes associées. Cet ensemble incarne les valeurs politiques, culturelles, philosophiques et spirituelles de la capitale de l'État Koryo unifié au moment de son passage de la philosophie bouddhiste au confucianisme, au travers de la configuration géomantique de la ville, des palais et des tombes, des structures défensives urbaines composées de remparts et de portes et des institutions pédagogiques. On peut considérer que le plan des villes Baekje représente un état de développement antérieur à celui de Kaesong.

En Chine, le bien proposé pour inscription a été comparé aux Capitales et tombes de l'ancien royaume de Koguryo (2004, critères (i), (ii), (iii) (iv) et (v)) entre 227 av. J.-C. et 668 apr. J.-C. Ce bien représente les débuts du système défensif développé plus tard par les dynasties successives qui régnèrent sur la Corée, sans toutefois atteindre le niveau du système dont témoignent les sites Baekje. L'État partie note que la période directement comparable des capitales des dynasties du Nord et du Sud de la Chine n'est pas représentée sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial. Ce qui distingue notablement Baekje de ces dynasties est la tombe du roi Muryeong, découverte intacte, alors que les tombes royales des Wei du Nord et du Sud avaient été pillées et détruites par le passé.

Au Japon, le bien proposé pour inscription a été comparé aux Monuments historiques de l'ancienne Nara (1998, critères (ii), (iii), (iv) et (vi)), la capitale du Japon de 710 à 784 apr. J.-C. La fondation de la ville date d'une époque plus tardive et puise son modèle dans les villes de la dynastie Tang en Chine et dans celles de Silla en Corée.

L'État partie a aussi comparé le bien proposé pour inscription avec des biens inscrits sur les listes indicatives, notamment les reliques historiques de Pyongyang couvrant les périodes du Paléolithique, de l'Âge du Bronze, de Goguryeo, Goryeo et Joseon dans le nord-ouest de la péninsule coréenne, et Asuka-Fujiwara, un ensemble de sites archéologiques dans la région du bassin de Nara au Japon. Ce dernier bien comprend des palais royaux, des temples et des tombes de la période (592-710 apr. J.-C.) qui indiquent de fortes influences de la Chine et de la Corée, attestant les

échanges culturels et techniques en Asie de l'Est à une période légèrement plus tardive que celle du bien proposé pour inscription. Il n'y a pas trace de remparts défensifs.

L'ICOMOS considère que l'analyse comparative montre que le royaume de Baekje occupa une place spécifique dans la chronologie de l'évolution des villes de l'Asie de l'Est sous l'influence du bouddhisme. Le dossier de proposition d'inscription reconnaît que les caractéristiques spécifiques de la ville puisent leur origine dans les capitales de la dynastie Wei du Nord de la Chine (386-534 apr. J.-C.) telles que Luoyang, mais établit que les ressources archéologiques représentant la ville fortifiée y sont insuffisantes comparées aux sites Baekje. L'ICOMOS remarque que la question de l'influence de Luoyang sur le développement des villes japonaises a été débattue par des chercheurs. Tout en reconnaissant que les formes d'art pré-Tang ont voyagé de Chine au Japon, souvent en passant par la Corée, la possibilité que les capitales Baekje soient le lien en matière d'urbanisme n'est pas envisagée.

L'ICOMOS considère que l'analyse comparative justifie la sélection des sites, qui conjointement montrent l'évolution des capitales Baekje dans le contexte élargi de l'Asie de l'Est.

L'ICOMOS considère que l'analyse comparative justifie d'envisager l'inscription de ce bien en série sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial.

Justification de la valeur universelle exceptionnelle

Le bien proposé pour inscription est considéré par l'État partie comme ayant une valeur universelle exceptionnelle en tant que bien culturel pour les raisons suivantes :

- Preuves matérielles d'échanges technologiques, religieux et culturels considérables entre la Chine, la Corée et le Japon sous la dynastie Baekje ;
- Témoignage exceptionnel concernant le royaume de Baekje ;
- Démonstration du développement de la capitale de l'Asie de l'Est.

L'approche en série est justifiée car elle présente huit éléments qui représentent collectivement les périodes les plus significatives et les plus influentes du royaume de Baekje. Chacun contribue, par des aspects différents mais complémentaires qui caractérisent les capitales royales Baekje, à offrir une image complète qu'aucun des éléments pris individuellement ne peut fournir.

L'ICOMOS considère que cette justification est appropriée.

Intégrité et authenticité

Intégrité

Les huit sites proposés pour inscription ont été choisis parmi les vestiges connus et fouillés des trois capitales Baekje afin d'offrir une vision globale de l'histoire du milieu et de la fin du royaume de Baekje alors qu'il atteignait son apogée en termes de développement culturel impliquant des échanges fréquents avec les régions voisines. Les sites comprennent des palais royaux, des tombes royales, des forteresses et des temples du royaume de Baekje au cours des périodes Ungjin et Sabi et fournissent des informations sur l'urbanisme des capitales, la vie de la famille royale, les traditions funéraires et les croyances religieuses ayant cours dans le royaume à l'époque.

Les sites composant le bien proposé pour inscription comprennent tous les éléments nécessaires pour représenter les valeurs du bien dans son ensemble. Les éléments individuels sont d'une taille suffisante pour exprimer la fonction historique des capitales et leur lien avec leur environnement.

Les délimitations du bien comprennent aussi des éléments qui illustrent l'évolution des capitales au fil des dynasties suivantes, notamment la reconstruction et l'utilisation de l'étang sur le site du temple Jeongnimsa durant la période Goguryeo ainsi que l'utilisation des forteresses Gongsanseong et Busosanseong, le renforcement et la reconstruction des édifices sous la dynastie Joseon. Malgré cela, la période Baekje des sites reste prédominante.

Plusieurs tombes ont été pillées avant la réalisation des fouilles archéologiques. Une station de pompage située à proximité de la porte Nord de la forteresse Busosanseong a un impact visuel sur le paysage et quatre familles vivent encore dans l'enceinte du site archéologique de Gwanbuk-ri. Ces sites sont soumis à des contrôles de l'aménagement. Par ailleurs, les sites n'ont pas subi d'effets préjudiciables du développement.

L'ICOMOS considère que l'intégrité de la série dans son ensemble a été justifiée ; et que l'intégrité des sites individuels qui composent la série a été démontrée.

Authenticité

La plupart des éléments des huit composantes du bien en série proposé pour inscription ont subi des interventions telles que des réparations et des restaurations de diverses ampleurs. À la forteresse Gongsanseong, des parties du mur datant de la période Joseon ont été recouvertes d'un matériau imperméable contenant du ciment. Après les fouilles archéologiques, les sites des palais royaux et des tombes ont été enfouis comme il se doit pour préserver leur authenticité. Les tumuli ont été reconstruits et engazonnés après les fouilles. Au temple bouddhiste Jeongnimsa, des statues de la période Baekje découvertes lors de fouilles

archéologiques ont été placées dans un édifice de style traditionnel afin de les protéger ; cet édifice a été construit à l'emplacement de la salle de lecture, ce qui ne correspond pas à la forme traditionnelle de l'époque Baekje. La pagode en pierre de l'Est sur le site du temple Mireuksa a été reconstruite dans sa forme originelle avec des matériaux de construction traditionnels, alors qu'il ne restait que quelques parties d'origine. La pagode en pierre de l'Ouest est en cours de restauration à l'aide de techniques traditionnelles de construction en pierre. En termes d'implantation et d'environnement, les vues depuis l'est de la pagode à cinq niveaux du temple Jeongnimsa sont interrompues par de nouvelles constructions à l'ouest. Globalement, l'ICOMOS considère cependant que le niveau d'authenticité est globalement élevé.

L'ICOMOS considère que l'authenticité de la série dans son ensemble a été justifiée ; et que l'authenticité de chacun des sites qui composent la série a été démontrée.

L'ICOMOS considère que les conditions d'intégrité et d'authenticité pour la série dans son ensemble ont été remplies ; et que pour les sites individuels, les conditions d'intégrité et d'authenticité ont été remplies.

Critères selon lesquels l'inscription est proposée

Le bien est proposé pour inscription sur la base des critères culturels (ii), (iii) et (iv)

Critère (ii) : témoigner d'un échange d'influences considérable pendant une période donnée ou dans une aire culturelle déterminée, sur le développement de l'architecture ou de la technologie, des arts monumentaux, de la planification des villes ou de la création de paysages ;

Ce critère est justifié par l'État partie au motif que les sites archéologiques et l'architecture des aires historiques de Baekje témoignent des échanges entre les anciens royaumes d'Asie de l'Est en Corée, en Chine et au Japon en ce qui concerne le développement des techniques de construction et la diffusion du bouddhisme.

L'ICOMOS considère que les échanges concernant le développement de l'architecture et les techniques de construction sont mis en évidence dans la construction du mur de la forteresse, des tombes royales, des pagodes en pierre et des plateformes.

L'ICOMOS considère que ce critère a été justifié.

Critère (iii) : apporter un témoignage unique ou du moins exceptionnel sur une tradition culturelle ou une civilisation vivante ou disparue ;

Ce critère est justifié par l'État partie au motif que l'établissement des capitales, des temples bouddhistes et des tombes, les caractéristiques architecturales et les pagodes en pierre contribuent à former un témoignage

exceptionnel et unique sur la culture, la religion et l'art du royaume de Baekje.

L'ICOMOS considère que l'ampleur et le type de vestiges montrant la disposition et l'environnement topographique, l'architecture et la technologie se combinent pour offrir un témoignage exceptionnel sur la culture, la religion et l'art uniques du royaume de Baekje.

L'ICOMOS considère que ce critère a été justifié.

Critère (iv) : offrir un exemple éminent d'un type de construction ou d'ensemble architectural ou technologique ou de paysage illustrant une période ou des périodes significative(s) de l'histoire humaine ;

Ce critère est justifié par l'État partie au motif que les sites qui comprennent la région historique de Baekje comptent parmi les plus anciens exemples exprimant clairement la conception innovante de la ville marquant le début de la construction de remparts entourant la ville entière en Asie de l'Est, ainsi que la vaste influence du bouddhisme sur la disposition de la ville centrale, attestant les fonctions de la religion en tant qu'idéologie dominante. Le développement avancé de la technologie architecturale est explicitement présenté dans les édifices monumentaux ornés de toitures en tuiles et les pagodes de pierre.

L'ICOMOS note que la justification est basée sur le témoignage provenant des vestiges de trois anciennes capitales Baekje d'une évolution du plan de la ville Baekje pour intégrer l'agencement spatial du palais royal et des temples influencé par le bouddhisme et entouré de remparts, les tombes royales étant situées hors des murs. Toutefois, l'ICOMOS considère que le bien est une association d'éléments qui, même s'ils indiquent le développement d'un type de plan de ville, forment en fait une association des vestiges de trois villes distinctes et non pas le plan d'une ville unique, et que donc il n'est pas justifié de présenter le bien comme un exemple éminent d'un type de construction au sens de ce critère.

L'ICOMOS considère que ce critère n'a pas été justifié.

L'ICOMOS considère que l'approche en série est justifiée et l'ICOMOS considère que la sélection des sites est appropriée.

L'ICOMOS considère que le bien proposé pour inscription remplit les conditions d'intégrité et d'authenticité et répond aux critères (ii) et (iii).

Description des attributs de la valeur universelle exceptionnelle

Les attributs sont les sites des palais royaux, des tombes royales, des forteresses et des temples du royaume de Baekje durant les périodes Ungjin et Sabi ; les liens entre les sites choisis dans chaque capitale (Gongju, Buyeo et Iksan) et les caractéristiques topographiques des environs.

4 Facteurs affectant le bien

Selon le dossier de proposition d'inscription, les éléments du bien ne sont pas soumis à la pression du développement. On compte 13 habitants à Gwanbuk-ri et à la forteresse Busosanseong, mais les autres éléments du bien ne sont pas habités. Le nombre d'habitants dans les zones tampons est inférieur à 100, sauf dans celles de Gwanbuk-ri et de la forteresse Busosanseong où ils sont plus de 1 335. L'ICOMOS note que l'usine de pompage implantée à proximité de la porte Nord de la forteresse Busosanseong ne sera pas agrandie et que les constructions au voisinage des sites sont soumises à un contrôle du développement urbain. L'édifice gênant qui s'élève à proximité du site du temple Jeongnimsa sera détruit dès que possible.

Les sites des temples Jeongnimsa et Mireuksa et les sites archéologiques de Gwanbuk-ri et Wanggung-ri sont proches de zones résidentielles et de routes et exposés à la poussière et aux émissions polluantes des véhicules à moteur. Des études sont en cours en vue de traiter la pierre pour éliminer les polluants. Les autres sites se trouvent dans des zones montagneuses et, bien qu'épargnés par la pollution environnementale, sont plus exposés aux catastrophes naturelles, telles que les feux de forêt, les tempêtes et les inondations. Pour y faire face, il existe une législation nationale de préparation aux risques et l'Administration du patrimoine culturel organise chaque année une « Journée de prévention des catastrophes » portant sur la sécurité. En particulier, l'ICOMOS note que les plans d'urgence en cas d'incendie signifient qu'une intervention est possible sur tous les éléments du bien en moins de cinq minutes.

La fréquentation des sites est largement inférieure à leurs capacités d'accueil et devrait le rester en cas d'inscription. Le nombre de visiteurs actuel est de l'ordre de 80 877 par an pour les tombes royales de Neungsan-ri et les remparts de la ville fortifiée de Naseong, et de 680 499 visiteurs par an pour le site du temple Mireuksa. L'ICOMOS considère que le tourisme est un facteur important susceptible d'avoir un impact négatif sur le bien et note que des mesures palliatives ont déjà été prises, notamment la fermeture de la tombe royale 1 de Songsan-ri qui était ouverte au public.

L'ICOMOS considère que les principales menaces pesant sur le bien sont le tourisme et les feux de forêt.

5 Protection, conservation et gestion

Délimitations du bien proposé pour inscription et de la zone tampon

Les délimitations des éléments du bien proposé pour inscription suivent l'extérieur des fortifications et les lignes topographiques lorsque cela est pertinent ; l'extérieur des murs des sites des temples Jeongnimsa et Mireuksa ; renferment la largeur des remparts de la ville de Naseong et les zones fouillées à Gwanbuk-ri et

Wanggung-ri. L'ICOMOS note que les délimitations coïncident ou englobent une zone plus petite que les zones protégées par la Loi sur la protection du patrimoine culturel.

Les délimitations des zones tampons suivent les lignes topographiques, les rues et les routes et sont clairement identifiables. Dans le cas des forteresses et des tombes, elles renferment des reliefs et des paysages qui leurs sont associés. Elles entourent les éléments du bien proposé pour inscription jusqu'à 500 mètres comme le prévoit la Loi sur la protection du patrimoine culturel et, lorsqu'elles s'élargissent encore plus, elles entourent des zones protégées selon les zones de contrôle de la construction des villes historiques concernées.

L'ICOMOS considère que les délimitations du bien proposé pour inscription et de la zone tampon sont appropriées.

Droit de propriété

La plupart des biens proposés pour inscription sont la propriété de l'État. Les parcelles détenues par des propriétaires privés représentent moins de 10 % et font l'objet de rachats systématiques.

Protection

Les éléments du bien proposé pour inscription sont tous classés en tant que sites historiques au titre de la Loi sur la protection du patrimoine culturel de 1962 amendée en 2012, de la Loi spéciale pour la préservation et la promotion des villes anciennes de 2004, amendée en 2013, et des Ordonnances de protection du patrimoine culturel des gouvernements locaux : Chungcheongnam-do en 2002 et Jeollabuk-do en 1999.

Les zones tampons sont protégées par la Loi sur la protection du patrimoine culturel jusqu'à 500 m des délimitations des éléments du bien. L'État a expliqué, en réponse à la première lettre de l'ICOMOS, que là où les zones protégées s'étendent au-delà de 500 m, celles-ci sont protégées au titre de l'Article 13(3) de la Loi. Les zones tampons sont protégées en vertu de la législation régissant les règles de construction urbaine dans les villes historiques, qui limitent la hauteur des nouvelles constructions à 8 mètres.

L'ICOMOS note qu'il est proposé d'aménager le paysage des rues dans la zone tampon à Buyeo et que le financement de ces travaux est prévu dans le budget 2015-2020.

L'ICOMOS considère que la protection légale en place est appropriée.

Conservation

Les éléments du bien proposés pour inscription ont été inventoriés afin d'évaluer leur état de conservation et le suivi en cours. Les fouilles et les recherches archéologiques se poursuivent à Wanggung-ri.

Les éléments du bien sont considérés par l'État partie comme ayant été bien entretenus depuis la date de leur classement en tant que sites historiques. Des travaux de conservation et des fouilles archéologiques antérieurs sont listés au Tableau 4.1-9. Des fouilles ont été enfouies et recouvertes d'une couche protectrice de terre, avec la disposition des constructions retracée en surface.

Les travaux de conservation mis en place comprennent le contrôle de la température et de l'humidité dans les tombes royales. Sur les sites des tombes royales de Songsan-ri et Neungsan-ri, les tombes ont été fermées au public afin d'éviter la dégradation des peintures murales et des salles d'exposition des tombes ont été créées. Sur le site du temple Jeongnimsa, la pagode en pierre a bénéficié de travaux de stabilisation et de conservation et un dispositif de contrôle des mouvements a été installé. Sur le site du temple Mireuksa, la pagode en pierre de l'Est a été reconstruite sur la base de la pagode de l'Ouest existante mais instable. Cette dernière est actuellement enfermée dans un bâtiment temporaire pendant son démontage et sa restauration. En réponse à la deuxième lettre de l'ICOMOS, l'État partie a fourni des informations détaillées sur le processus de restauration entrepris. L'ICOMOS considère que le processus est satisfaisant.

L'ICOMOS considère que la conservation est appropriée et qu'aucune mesure d'urgence n'est actuellement requise.

Gestion

Structures et processus de gestion, y compris les processus de gestion traditionnels

Les éléments du bien sont actuellement gérés par l'Administration du patrimoine culturel du gouvernement central et par les gouvernements locaux concernés. La municipalité de Gongju qui gère la forteresse Gongsanseong et les tombes royales de Songsan-ri emploie 58 personnes aux diverses tâches de la gestion du patrimoine culturel. Buyeo, qui est responsable du site archéologique de Gwanbuk-ri et de la forteresse Busosanseong, des tombes royales de Neungsan-ri, du site du temple Jeongnimsa et des remparts de la ville de Naseong, en emploie 54. Enfin, Iksan, qui est responsable du site archéologique de Wanggung-ri et du site du temple Mireuksa, emploie plus de 68 personnes. Iksan gère aussi les musées des reliques de Wanggung-ri et de Mireuksaji. La formation du personnel est dispensée par l'Université nationale coréenne du patrimoine culturel. L'expertise et la formation sont également apportées par les associations coréennes des artisans du patrimoine culturel et la Fondation coréenne du patrimoine culturel. Le financement provient de subventions de l'État (70 %) et de ressources des gouvernements provinciaux (15 %) et locaux (15 %). Le budget des dépenses prévues au Plan de gestion 2015-2019 est de 63 258 000 USD.

Un bureau dédié à la proposition d'inscription des aires historiques de Baekje a été établi en mai 2012 afin de gérer le processus de proposition d'inscription. Ce bureau a été remplacé par la Fondation de gestion et de conservation des aires historiques de Baekje en tant qu'organe de gestion intégrée au deuxième semestre 2014. La Fondation travaillera en lien avec les autorités centrales, provinciales et locales ainsi qu'avec les associations communautaires à travers le conseil communautaire qui, à son tour, coordonne trois conseils communautaires locaux établis auprès de chaque municipalité, impliquant un personnel de 50 à 60 personnes. Un plan de gestion des catastrophes est inclus dans le plan de gestion du bien.

Cadre de référence : plans et mesures de gestion, y compris la gestion des visiteurs et la présentation

Un certain nombre de plans municipaux et provinciaux concernent les aires où sont situés les éléments du bien. Il existe aussi des plans de tourisme au niveau provincial et national. La préservation des aires historiques de Baekje est un élément clé de ces plans qui traitent du tourisme. S'y ajoute aussi le Plan pour l'établissement d'une Cité de la culture et de l'histoire de Baekje (gouvernement provincial de Chungcheongnam-do) et des Plans de préservation des anciennes villes 2009-2017 (gouvernements municipaux de Gongju, Buyeo et Iksan). Il existe enfin des plans de conservation individuels pour les différents sites au sein des éléments du bien proposé pour inscription. À l'occasion de la proposition d'inscription du bien sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial a été créé un plan de gestion et de conservation afin d'intégrer toutes les agences responsables des trois éléments du bien avec pour objectif le maintien de la valeur universelle exceptionnelle proposée. Cela s'est conclu par la signature, le 22 décembre 2011, d'un protocole d'accord visant la période 2015-2019 entre le gouvernement central coréen et les gouvernements locaux. Ce protocole comprend un plan de gestion des visiteurs, qui couvre le développement de programmes pour les visiteurs, de matériels d'information et de sites internet, mais l'ICOMOS a considéré que, du fait que les gouvernements locaux et provinciaux mettent l'accent sur le tourisme, il conviendrait de l'étoffer afin de couvrir la gestion des visiteurs, notamment des restrictions de la fréquentation sur certains sites. En réponse à la deuxième lettre de l'ICOMOS, l'État partie a fourni les grandes lignes du développement d'une stratégie globale de gestion du tourisme et de plans de gestion des visiteurs pour chacun des éléments composant le bien sous l'égide de la Fondation de gestion et de conservation des aires historiques de Baekje créée en septembre 2014 afin de superviser la gestion de l'ensemble du bien. Le plan de gestion du tourisme intégré sera achevé en mai 2015.

Comme indiqué dans les informations complémentaires fournies par l'État partie, des petits musées existent sur les sites des tombes royales de Songsan-ri, de la forteresse Busosanseong, du temple Jeongnimsa, des

tombes royales de Neungsan-ri, du site archéologique de Wanggung-ri et du temple Mireuksa. Des musées nationaux à Gongju et Buyeo présentent d'importantes collections de reliques culturelles datant de la période Baekje découvertes dans la région. Les sites ouverts au public ont adopté une signalétique uniformisée et certains disposent de codes que les visiteurs peuvent scanner avec un téléphone portable ou d'autres dispositifs de lecture afin d'obtenir des présentations tridimensionnelles et d'autres matériels interprétatifs. Des sites Internet créés par le gouvernement et des instituts de recherche comportent des pages consacrées à la culture et aux sites Baekje ; une série de conférences et de projets éducatifs ont été organisés à destination des publics, en particulier les étudiants.

Implication des communautés locales

Les conseils communautaires pour la gestion du patrimoine mondial créés dans chacune des municipalités sont responsables de la conservation et de la gestion, de l'utilisation et de la publicité, ainsi que de la coordination de la participation des communautés.

L'ICOMOS note que les habitants participent au nettoyage quotidien des sites et de leur environnement, aux patrouilles et au suivi des sites, aux visites guidées dans les musées et sur les sites et aux activités éducatives.

L'ICOMOS considère que la gestion actuelle est efficace.

L'ICOMOS considère que le système de gestion de l'ensemble du bien en série est approprié et note le programme de l'État partie visant l'élaboration d'une stratégie globale du tourisme pour le bien proposé pour inscription ainsi que d'un plan de gestion des visiteurs pour chacun des éléments composant le bien.

6 Suivi

Un système de suivi est défini dans le dossier de proposition d'inscription et couvre les indicateurs, la périodicité et la localisation des données enregistrées pour tous les éléments du bien. Le Tableau 6.10 désigne aussi les autorités de suivi responsables pour chaque élément. L'ICOMOS a noté que la périodicité du suivi de l'état de conservation des peintures murales et des changements de l'environnement intérieur dans les tombes est fixée une fois tous les cinq ans et a considéré qu'elle pourrait être inappropriée. En réponse à la demande de l'ICOMOS, l'État partie a expliqué que la législation évolue actuellement pour prévoir une étude complète de suivi tous les trois ans, et a précisé que la température et l'humidité sont suivies quotidiennement.

L'ICOMOS considère que le système de suivi est approprié.

7 Conclusions

L'ICOMOS considère que l'analyse comparative justifie d'envisager l'inscription de ce bien en série sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial ; que l'approche en série est justifiée et que la sélection des sites est appropriée. L'ICOMOS considère que le bien proposé pour inscription remplit les conditions d'intégrité et d'authenticité et répond aux critères (ii) et (iii). Les attributs sont les sites des palais royaux, des tombes royales, des forteresses et des temples du royaume de Baekje durant les périodes Ungjin et Sabi ; les liens entre les sites choisis dans chaque capitale (Gongju, Buyeo et Iksan) et les caractéristiques topographiques des environs.

L'ICOMOS considère que les principales menaces pesant sur le bien sont le tourisme et les feux de forêt. L'ICOMOS considère que les délimitations du bien proposé pour inscription et de la zone tampon sont appropriées ; la protection légale en place est appropriée et les mesures de protection du bien sont adéquates. La conservation est appropriée et aucune mesure d'urgence n'est actuellement requise. L'ICOMOS considère que le système de gestion pour l'ensemble du bien en série est approprié mais, observant que les plans locaux et provinciaux sont orientés vers le tourisme, accueille favorablement la décision de l'État partie d'étendre les plans et le système de gestion afin d'inclure une stratégie globale de gestion du tourisme pour le bien proposé pour inscription ainsi qu'un plan de gestion des visiteurs pour chacun des éléments composant le bien.

8 Recommandations

Recommandations concernant l'inscription

L'ICOMOS recommande que les aires historiques de Baekje, République de Corée, soient inscrites sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial sur la base des **critères (ii) et (iii)**.

Déclaration de valeur universelle exceptionnelle recommandée

Brève synthèse

Situé dans la région montagneuse du centre-ouest de la République de Corée, les vestiges des trois capitales représentent collectivement la dernière période du royaume de Baekje alors qu'il atteint son apogée en termes de développement culturel impliquant des échanges fréquents avec les régions voisines. Le royaume de Baekje dura 700 ans, de 18 av. J.-C. à 660 apr. J.-C., et fut l'un des trois premiers royaumes de la péninsule coréenne. Le bien en série des aires historiques de Baekje comprend huit sites datant de 475-660 apr. J.-C, comprenant la forteresse Gongsanseong et les tombes royales de Songsan-ri liées à la capitale Ungjin (actuelle Gongju), la forteresse Busosanseong et les bâtiments administratifs Gwanbuk-ri et les remparts de

Naseong liés à la capitale Sabi (actuelle Buyeo), le palais royal de Wanggung-ri et le temple Mireuksa à Iksan, liés à la deuxième capitale Sabi. L'ensemble de ces sites témoigne de l'adoption par Baekje des principes d'urbanisme, des technologies de construction, des arts et de la religion originaires de Chine ainsi que de leur raffinement par Baekje et leur transmission subséquente au Japon et à l'Asie de l'Est.

Critère (ii) : Les sites archéologiques et l'architecture des aires historiques de Baekje témoignent des échanges entre les anciens royaumes d'Asie de l'Est en Corée, en Chine et au Japon en ce qui concerne le développement des techniques de construction et la diffusion du bouddhisme.

Critère (iii) : L'établissement des capitales, des temples bouddhistes et des tombes, les caractéristiques architecturales et les pagodes en pierre des aires historiques de Baekje contribuent à former un témoignage exceptionnel et unique sur la culture, la religion et l'art du royaume de Baekje.

Intégrité

Les sites composant le bien proposé pour inscription comprennent tous les éléments nécessaires pour représenter les valeurs du bien dans son ensemble. Les éléments individuels sont d'une taille suffisante pour exprimer la fonction historique des capitales et leur lien avec leur environnement. En dehors de la station de pompage située à proximité de la porte Nord de la forteresse Busosanseong et les quelques logements restants dans l'enceinte du site archéologique de Gwanbuk-ri, les sites n'ont pas subi d'effets préjudiciables du développement ou de l'abandon.

Authenticité

La plupart des éléments des huit composantes du bien en série proposé pour inscription ont subi des interventions telles que des réparations et des restaurations de diverses ampleurs. Les matériaux et les techniques qui ont été utilisés sont largement traditionnels. Les formes des tombes et des temples ont été conservées. Les sites des temples sont aujourd'hui des îlots insérés dans des quartiers connaissant un faible développement urbain, mais l'environnement des forteresses et des tombes demeure essentiellement constitué d'espaces boisés dans des paysages de montagne.

Mesures de gestion et de protection

Les éléments du bien proposé pour inscription sont tous classés en tant que sites historiques au titre de la Loi sur la protection du patrimoine culturel de 1962 amendée en 2012, de la Loi spéciale pour la préservation et la promotion des villes anciennes de 2004, amendée en 2013, et des Ordonnances de protection du patrimoine culturel des gouvernements locaux : Chungcheongnam-do en 2002 et Jeollabuk-do en 1999. Les zones tampons sont protégées par la Loi sur la protection du patrimoine

culturel jusqu'à 500 m des délimitations des éléments du bien et en vertu de la législation régissant les règles de construction urbaine dans les villes historiques, qui limitent la hauteur des nouvelles constructions à 8 mètres.

Le bien est géré par la Fondation de gestion et de conservation des aires historiques de Baekje en lien avec les autorités centrales, provinciales et locales ainsi qu'avec les associations communautaires à travers le conseil communautaire qui, à son tour, coordonne trois conseils communautaires locaux. Ces derniers, établis auprès des municipalités de Gonju, Buyeo et Iksan, sont responsables de la conservation et de la gestion, de l'utilisation et de la publicité ainsi que de la coordination de la participation de la communauté. Un plan global de gestion de conservation pour la période 2015-2019 a été élaboré pour intégrer toutes les agences responsables des trois éléments du bien dans le but d'assurer le maintien de la valeur universelle exceptionnelle. Ce plan est en cours d'extension afin d'inclure une stratégie globale de gestion du tourisme ainsi qu'un plan de gestion des visiteurs pour chacun des éléments composant le bien.

Recommandations complémentaires

L'ICOMOS recommande que l'État partie prenne en considération les points suivants :

- finaliser les plans et le système de gestion tels que proposés afin d'inclure une stratégie globale de gestion du tourisme pour le bien proposé pour inscription ainsi qu'un plan de gestion des visiteurs pour chacun des éléments composant le bien, afin de conserver la valeur universelle exceptionnelle ;
- ajuster comme proposé la périodicité du suivi de l'état de conservation des peintures murales et des changements de l'environnement intérieur dans les tombes.



Plan indiquant la localisation des biens proposés pour inscription



Forteresse Gongsanseong



Tombes royales de Neungsan-ri



Temple de Jeongnimsa



Le palais royal de Wanggung-ri