

Recommendations of the ICOMOS CIAV International Conference

“Conservation and Rehabilitation of Vernacular Heritage:  
the Cultural Landscape of Wendland Circular Villages”

29 September – 1 October 2016, Lübeln, Wendland, Germany

*The 60 conference participants gathered at Lübeln, Wendland, originating from or living in a variety of countries, including Bahrain, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, Romania, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, expressed their wish to adopt the following recommendations:*

Stressing the importance of conserving vernacular heritage, in particular in regions characterized by population density and urbanization such as Central Europe,

Admiring the uniqueness, the continued legibility of settlement typology and the level of conservation of the circular villages and landscape in Wendland and congratulating the concerned authorities for their strong efforts and commitment towards the protection of this exceptional heritage of circular, radial and centralized settlement typology (Rundlinge), its surrounding landscape and vernacular architecture,

The conference participants:

Wholeheartedly thank the conference organizers, in particular the Lower Saxony State Office for Heritage, the Ministry of Science and Culture of Lower Saxony, ICOMOS Germany and the Joint-Municipality of Wendland for generously hosting the ICOMOS CIAV 2016 annual conference;

Express gratitude to the Wendland Rundlinge local communities for their hospitality and the warm welcome offered;

Affirm that the Wendland Rundlinge constitute an exceptional example of European vernacular heritage, which needs to be preserved for future generations and encourage the responsible authorities at national, state, regional and municipal level to do their utmost for facilitating their authentic conservation;

Welcome the initiative to nominate the Wendland Rundlinge to the UNESCO World Heritage List and emphasize that such nomination would propose an example of vernacular heritage, which is an underrepresented category on the UNESCO World Heritage List;

Strongly endorse this World Heritage nomination initiative, noting that the Wendland Rundlinge represent a globally outstanding example of a village typology characterized by vernacular architectural heritage of global significance;

Consider that the Wendland Rundlinge have great potential to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value as required by the World Heritage Convention and request the German state and national authorities to include the Wendland Rundlinge on the national Tentative List;

Welcome the state, regional and local heritage experts involved in the documentation, conservation and management of the Wendland Rundlinge to apply for ICOMOS membership, become active members of ICOMOS and contribute to the work of ICOMOS CIAV in sharing their experiences and knowledge in future conferences on the conservation of vernacular heritage.