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**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE  
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**Twenty-second session**

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**Information Document: Report of the Regional Thematic Meeting on Cultural Landscapes in the Andes, Arequipa/Chivay, Peru, 17 – 22 May 1998**

**SUMMARY**

At its twentieth session in December 1996 the World Heritage Committee approved an amount of US\$ 30,000 for the organization of a Regional Thematic Meeting on Cultural Landscapes in the Andes.

This document provides the report of the Expert Meeting. The Agenda of the meeting and the List of Participants are provided in ANNEX I and ANNEX II. The full publication (in Spanish) of the meeting including all presentations is currently under preparation.

## Report of the Regional Thematic Meeting on Cultural Landscapes in the Andes

Arequipa/Chivay (Peru), 17 to 22 May 1998

### Introduction

The thematic expert meeting on "Cultural Landscapes in the Andes" was organized by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Office in Lima with financial support from the World Heritage Fund and the Fundacion Augusto Wiese. The meeting was coordinated by Mr. Elias Mujica. Twenty experts from Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, and representatives from ICOMOS, IUCN and UNESCO participated in the meeting (see programme and list of participants in ANNEXES I and II).

*Elias Mujica (Peru)*, in welcoming the participants, gave explanations on the choice of the extraordinary venue in which the meeting was held: the Colca Valley. The Colca Valley displays an impressive geological formation, in particular at the Colca Canyon, with an average elevation of 3,400 m, one of the deepest canyons on earth. The venue also displays an extraordinary diversity of terracing, one of the main types of agricultural landscapes of the Andean region, which also illustrates the immense hydraulic and architectural skills of the local people. Mr. Mujica also introduced the main objectives of the meeting:

- (a) to contribute to a more representative World Heritage List with the identification of potential cultural landscapes from the Andean region in the framework of the overall Global Strategy for a balanced and representative World Heritage List;
- (b) to create awareness among the national institutes for cultural and/or natural heritage and the scientific community in the region about the World Heritage Convention and the cultural landscape categories;
- (c) to strengthen links and collaboration between experts and representatives from the region as well as with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

### General Aspects

*Herman van Hooff* (UNESCO World Heritage Centre) welcomed the participants on behalf of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and thanked the host country, the UNESCO Office Lima and Mr. Mujica for their immense support in the preparation of the meeting. He underlined that the World Heritage Convention is one of the most international legal instruments in heritage conservation. He drew the attention of the participants to the situation in Latin America, where quite a number of historic cities and archaeological sites have been inscribed on the World Heritage List, however other types of properties are currently underrepresented on the current World Heritage List. He emphasised the concept of universality and of outstanding universal value of the World Heritage List and explained the criteria for the inclusion of natural, cultural and mixed sites.

*Mechtild Rössler* (UNESCO World Heritage Centre) explained the results of previous thematic expert meetings, the three categories for cultural landscapes and the review of their application in different regional contexts in her paper "Cultural Landscapes and the World Heritage Convention". She recalled that the first expert meeting on World Heritage cultural

landscapes held in La Petit Pierre (France) in 1992 drafted the categories for cultural landscapes of outstanding universal value. These categories were adopted by the sixteenth session of the World Heritage Committee in 1992 and included in the Operational Guidelines.

"Cultural landscapes represent the "combined works of nature and of man" designated in Article 1 of the Convention. They are illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both external and internal... The term "cultural landscape" embraces a diversity of manifestations of the interaction between humankind and its natural environment" (Paragraphs 36 to 37 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention).

The recommendations of the cultural landscapes Action Plan<sup>1</sup> for a regional and thematic approach to the inclusion of cultural landscapes on the World Heritage List, made by an expert meeting in 1993 (Schorfheide/Templin, Germany), were adopted by the seventeenth session of the World Heritage Committee in December 1993. A regional and thematic approach for cultural landscapes was implemented with a series of expert meetings on canals, routes, associative values and other themes. Ms. Rössler concluded that the cultural landscape concept was innovative in bringing together nature and culture in the interpretation of the World Heritage Convention. A further step towards this goal was taken through the "Global Strategy Natural and Cultural Heritage Expert Meeting" (Amsterdam, The Netherlands 24 to 28 March 1998).

*Miguel Holle (Peru)* explained the immense natural diversity and human creativity of the Andean region. The Andes are unique as the mountain range runs from north to south, parallel to the Ocean. This characteristic provides a variety of east-west and north south developments, which contribute to its diversity both in environmental (geology, geomorphology, climate, vegetation etc.) and cultural terms (language groups, human adaptation to the land, creativity).

*Elias Mujica (Peru)* outlined different types of productive landscapes in the Andean mountain range. The management of water and land can be illustrated at the Cumbemayo and Moche Canals, the puquios of Nasca and the cochas of Liallahua. The great diversity of flora and fauna allowed the people to domesticate a huge variety of plants (potato, oca, mashua, olluco, racacha, achira, yacon, quinua, tarwi, anihua and kiwicha) and animals (mainly camelids such as llama and alpaca from their wild ancestors, the vicuna and guanacos) in the higher altitudes above 4,200 metres. Characteristic for the Andes is the terracing of the limited irrigable and flat lands in the steep valleys. The oldest terraces from 900 BC have been found around Lake Titicaca. With the large scale terracing, the cultivation of corn and coca leaves was expanded and concentrated, which also enhanced the biological diversity.

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<sup>1</sup> The Action Plan and the reports of the expert meetings from 1992 to 1995 can be found in the book "Cultural Landscapes of Universal Value. Components of a Global Strategy" (edited by B. von Droste, H. Plachter and M. Rössler, Jena, Fischer Verlag 1995).

## 2. Case studies from the Andean Region

*Maximina Monasterio (Venezuela)* explained the case of the paramos of Merida with the most diverse gradients of climate and light, which contributed to diversity of plant species. Illustrated by slides of a section of the Cordillera Oriental she outlined the environment ranging from the tropico frio to the terraced cultivation of potatoes in different cultivation cycles (up to 20 years). The development of cultural landscapes is very closely associated to the natural processes (frost dependencies) and cultural evolution of the communities, such as the routa del trigo.

*Maria Eugenia Bacci (Venezuela)* provided an example of cacao production with the case of a hacienda constructed in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The centre of activity, the cacao, is reproduced in the architectural plans of the hacienda with the drying and fermenting of the cacao on the central square. The case illustrates the close association of natural and cultural values together with the intangible heritage of rituals and music of the workers and local communities, descendants of African slaves.

*Maria Victoria Uribe (Colombia)* presented the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, an exceptional cultural landscape and sacred place of the Kogi indians, who are now living around the pre-Columbian structures of the Ciudad Perdida. Of outstanding significance is their interaction with nature, illustrated by their management of water and knowledge of medicinal plants. The site is now protected as an archaeological park and recognized as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

*Luis Suarez (Ecuador)* provided a preliminary exploration of the cultural landscapes of Ecuador. In a number of examples from different parts of Ecuador he illustrated cultural landscapes in their function to protect biodiversity, in particular in the Andes as the centre of the world's crops. He stressed that the notion of ecology was developed in this region by Alexander von Humboldt.

*Jorge Recharte (Mountain Institute, Peru)* presented the Cordilleras of Peru in an historical-geographical perspective. He underlined that communal land is typical for the Andes, which leads to the development of specific cultures, including local culinary specialities (production of cheeses, sopa de piedra etc.), and clothes, rituals and festivities. Only the combination of the natural factors and human influence makes it the typical cultural landscape characteristic for the region.

*Jose Canziani (Peru)* displayed the lomas of Antiquipa, an extraordinary relict culture of 2070 ha in small terraces. This prehispanic coastal community was dependent on maritime resources with the natural system of cloud forests providing the water for the irrigation system. The agricultural system collapsed with deforestation and agriculture remains today only in a few areas.

*Mireya Munoz (Bolivia)* presented the case of the Sajama National Park, which encompasses 200,000 hectares and is one of the first protected areas of Bolivia. The combination of archaeological sites with a high number of chullpas, site of religious significance and the natural values of the Andean ecosystem (6,540 m), with one of the highest forests in the world making it an exceptional site.

*Victoria Castro (Chile)* provided an anthropological approach to the ceremonies of the earth and water in the north of Chile. The indigenous population believes in the preservation of plants and animals, not only for their medicinal and ritual uses, but also because they are important for their perception of the environment. The vegetation is used for numerous purposes including rituals, construction and medicinal purposes. The cultural landscape includes the (invisible) cultural dynamics of the communities.

*Lautaro Nunez Atencio (Chile)* presented the case study of an oasis in the desert of Chile, where sustainable development is also a question of ethics and preservation of cultural values under enormous economic pressures and socio-economic changes. The case also led to a discussion of the dynamics of cultural landscapes, which cannot be seen as static.

### **Theoretical and methodological aspects**

*Olga Pizano (Colombia)* elaborated theoretical and methodological aspects of landscape categories and their interpretation while giving an overview over the Andean Region. In her reflection she reviewed the three types of cultural landscapes and came to the conclusion that designed cultural landscapes were less present in the region, but existed mainly through colonial influences in the form of haciendas and botanical gardens for instance. Living cultural landscapes such as terraced agricultural landscapes with sophisticated irrigation systems have a high representativity for the Andean region and are also characteristic for their outstanding universal value with their production of the highest diversity of crops in the world and their fragile environmental situation (altitude). Characteristic also is the complex network of routes (el caminos) connecting different territories and regions and technological achievements with the complex irrigation systems, for examples. Relict/fossil cultural landscapes are extremely well displayed with a number of pre-Columbian and pre-Inca and Inca landscapes and their architectural work, which are connected to rituals, artisanal production, social and agricultural production or other constructions (such as the Nasca Lines). A high number of associative cultural landscapes can be found in the Andean region with an overlay of different cultural values due to the Conquista. Two types can be distinguished: the pre-colonization values still present in a number of sacred sites and ritual places, sometimes linked to monumental Inca places; and the Spanish colonization with mainly the Catholic tradition.

In the lively discussion which followed the papers presented, the representatives of IUCN, *Fausto Sarmiento* (Ecuador/USA) and the Representative of ICOMOS, *Maria de las Nieves Arias*, contributed towards the classification and identification of different types of cultural landscapes in the region. The recommendations of the expert meeting can be found in the section Conclusions and Recommendations. A workshop on the topic of sacred sites was organized by *Thomas Schaaf* (UNESCO Division of Ecological Sciences) during the meeting and a summary can be found in ANNEX III.

At the closing session, *Patricia Uribe*, Director of the UNESCO Office (Lima, Peru) thanked all participants for their valuable contributions towards the identification of a new type of property for the World Heritage List. She underlined UNESCO's support in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Andean Region, and stressed the importance of awareness building in particular among younger generations to protect this fragile heritage for the future.

## Public event

The results of the meeting were also presented to the general public with a public event in the Convento de Santa Catalina in Arequipa. The Major of Arequipa welcomed the participants and chaired the session. *Herman van Hooff* presented an overview paper on the World Heritage Convention and its implementation in Latin America. A podium discussion followed with Patricia Uribe (Director UNESCO Office Lima), Luis Arista (Director Instituto Nacional del Cultura), Marko Lopez (INC Arequipa), Elias Mujica (Lima), Lautaro Nunez Atencio (Chile, on behalf of the meeting participants) and Mechtild Rössler (UNESCO World Heritage Centre).

## Field visit

The main lines of the discussion at the meeting were highlighted during the field study in the Colca Valley (Cruz del Condor, Cabanaconde, Lari y Coparque). The field visit was directed by *Pablo de la Vera Cruz* and consideration was given to a number of issues concerning the integrity of complex agricultural landscapes (watershed, irrigation systems, communities, scale etc.) with a specific focus on functional integrity (vertical and horizontal). Other topics concerned the sustainability of the cultural landscape and issues related to the local population, their associations to the landscape and its tangible and intangible heritage and the interaction between different communities. Questions of the management of such a complex system were raised and it was noted that the landscape changed considerably over time and that objects in the landscape (“test of authenticity”) have been used differently by different communities (re-use of Inca walls for housing purposes etc.).

## Conclusions and recommendations: themes for a dialogue

The expert meeting was the first to be held on Cultural Landscapes of outstanding universal value in the Andean Region. It represents the first attempt at implementing the concept of cultural landscapes as part of the Global Strategy for a balanced and representative World Heritage List for the Latin American Region.

The expert meeting noted the following themes for future dialogue and consideration in the identification of potential World Heritage sites:

### 1. *Characteristics of the Andean Region*

The cultural and natural heritage experts revealed in case studies the rich diversity of the Andean mountain range, produced by a North-South and East-West variety of climatic zones. This characteristic makes the region one of the most diverse in environmental terms. A broad range of cultural landscapes evolved on the basis of both biological diversity (which includes the origins of the world’s crops, such as maize and potatoes), and human creativity, which is also expressed in the management of land and water resources evident in terraced agricultural systems with complex irrigation channels. The Andes is the birthplace of one of the world’s most outstanding civilizations, the Incas, which transformed the natural landscape. Associations to the landscape include sacred places, rituals and age-old beliefs.

## 2. *The definition of cultural landscape categories*

The application of the three cultural landscape categories as outlined in Paragraph 39 of the Operational Guidelines was reaffirmed for the Andean Region. The categories are applicable and there is no need for any changes to the current definitions.

One of the most disputed issues was the question how to define the distinction between a natural landscape and a cultural landscape. The expert meeting affirmed the concept of the interaction between people and the environment.

The transformation of a living into a fossil/relict landscape (and vice-versa) was also considered as an issue of extreme relevance for the Andean region.

## 3. *Cultural landscapes and sustainable development*

In the Andean region landscapes evolved organically on the basis of physical-geographical and socio-economic conditions. Specific techniques and land use practices developed under these conditions and have the potential to make valuable contributions to sustainable development.

The expert meeting stressed the importance of living cultural landscapes embodying past ways of life and having continuing relevance today. It addressed questions of sustainability of cultural landscapes, conservation of biodiversity (both natural and through human use), identity of people, technology and productivity and poverty.

## 4. *Cultural landscapes: universality and representativity*

The cultural landscapes of the Andes are among the world's most diverse and complex heritage properties. A typology of cultural landscapes for the region would need a historical perspective (pre-Inca, Inca, colonial, republican and contemporary), consideration of its actual and traditional use and functions (e.g. pastoral, agricultural, forestry and spiritual) and an ecological perspective (e.g. paramos, jalcas, punas, deserts and forests).

From these perspectives, cultural landscapes for World Heritage Listing should be identified both on the national and the regional levels and could imply serial nominations, consisting of complementary elements, itineraries and exchange routes. In this identification, particular attention should be given to the contribution made by the Andean Region to the world's genetic heritage.

## 5. *Integrity - authenticity*

Concerning the “test of authenticity” and the “conditions of integrity” as referred to in the Operational Guidelines the following elements should be considered:

- the Andean people's vision of space and scale (could imply the identification of large scale or serial cultural landscapes);
- the functional, formal, spatial and structural integrity;

- integrated natural, cultural and spiritual values of cultural landscapes (perception by the local community, interdisciplinary perspectives), as well as
- analysis and research.

6. *Management of cultural landscapes*

Concerning the issue of management of cultural landscapes, the role of the local communities was highlighted (initially during the nomination process), sustainable development and education has to be given major importance. Protective measures should take into account and respect the interest of the local communities, who in many cases have permanently occupied the land.

Tourism planning should be an integral part of the management of cultural landscapes. Particularly in the case of continuing cultural landscapes with a very strong cultural tradition and local identity, tourism could seriously affect the values and the way of life of the people. On the other hand, if well planned, sustainable tourism can make a substantive contribution to the local economy and even contribute to the preservation of the landscape.



**ANNEX I    Agenda of the Regional Thematic Meeting on Cultural Landscapes in the Andes, Arequipa/Chivay, Peru, 17 – 22 May 1998**

Sábado 16 de mayo:

Llegada de los participantes a Lima.

Domingo 17 de mayo de 1998:

Lima-Arequipa, Traslado al Hotel Libertador de Selva Alegre

**SESIÓN INAUGURAL**

Palabras de bienvenida del Sr. Luis Sardón, Presidente de Patronato Cultural de Arequipa

Palabras de bienvenida de la Sr. Herman van Hooff, Representante de la UNESCO

Cena

Lunes 18 de mayo de 1998:

- 07:00      Salida hacia el valle del Colca  
 Visita a la localidad de Sibayo
- 14:00      Llegada al Hotel Rumillaqta, en Chivay, valle del Colca
- 14:30      Almuerzo

**Primera Sesión: INTRODUCCIÓN Y ASPECTOS GENERALES**

- 15:45      *Introducción a la reunión de expertos: objetivos y metas esperadas*, por **Elías Mujica**, coordinador de la reunión
- 16:00      *La Convención sobre la protección del patrimonio mundial, cultural y natural y su implementación en América Latina*, por **Herman van Hooff**
- 16:45      *Paisajes culturales: resultados de reuniones temáticas previas*, por **Mechtild Rössler**, Programme Specialist, Natural Heritage & Cultural Landscapes, UNESCO World Heritage Centre.
- 17:45      *Los Andes: diversidad y creatividad*, por **Miguel Holle**
- 18:15      *Paisajes culturales productivos: a manera de ejemplos*, por **Elías Mujica**
- 19:00      Cena

Martes 19 de mayo de 1998

07:30 Desayuno

**Segunda Sesión: EL EXTREMO NORTE ANDINO Y LOS ANDES SEPTENTRIONALES**

09:00 *Paisajes culturales en Venezuela: el caso de los páramos de Mérida*, por **Maximina Monasterio**

10:00 *Chuaó, el caso de una hacienda colonial productora de cacao en Venezuela*, por **María Eugenia Bacci**

11:00 *El caso de Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia*, por **María Victoria Uribe**

12:00 Almuerzo

**Tercera Sesión: LOS ANDES CENTRALES**

15:00 *Paisajes culturales en el Ecuador: una exploración preliminar*, por **Luis Suárez**

16:00 *Paisajes protegidos en el contexto de los Andes: naturaleza y cultura en la Cordillera de Huayhuash*, por **Jorge Recharte**

17:00 *El caso de las lomas de Atiquipa, costa sur del Perú*, por **José Canziani**

19:00 Cena

Miércoles 20 de mayo de 1998

07:00 Desayuno

Día de campo. Visita al valle: Cruz del Cóndor, Cabanaconde, Lari y Coporaque. Presentación de: *El caso del valle del Colca, Arequipa, Perú*, por **Pablo de la Vera Cruz**

Jueves 21 de mayo de 1998:

07:00 Desayuno

08:00 Salida a la ciudad de Arequipa

14:00 Llegada a Arequipa

Viernes 22 de mayo de 1998:

07:30 Desayuno

**Cuarta Sesión: LOS ANDES DEL CENTRO-SUR**

09:00 *El caso de Sajama en Bolivia*, por **Mireya Muñoz**

10:00 *Ayquina y Toconce: paisajes culturales en el norte árido de Chile*, por **Victoria Castro**

11:00 *El caso del oasis de San Pedro de Atacama, Chile*, por **Lautaro Núñez Atencio**

12:30 Almuerzo

### **Quinta Sesión: ASPECTOS TEÓRICOS Y METODOLÓGICOS**

14:30 *Paisajes culturales y la Guía Operativa: reflexiones teóricas desde los Andes*, por **Olga Pizano**

15:30 Discusiones y recomendaciones finales

### **SESIÓN DE CLAUSURA**

Sesión pública, en el Monasterio de Santa Catalina

Bienvenida a los participantes de la reunión y público invitado, por **Elías Mujica**,  
Coordinador de la reunión

*La Convención sobre la protección del patrimonio mundial, cultural y natural y su implementación en América Latina*. Conferencia magistra a cargo de **Herman van Hooff**

Discurso de agradecimiento e importancia de la reunión temática, por **Patricia Uribe**,  
Representante de la UNESCO en el Perú

Discurso de clausura, por **Luis Arista**, Director General del Instituto Nacional de Cultura del Perú

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### **Annex III Workshop on the project Sacred Sites - Cultural Integrity and Biological Diversity"**

1. At the occasion of the "Regional Thematic Meeting on Cultural Landscapes in the Andes" in Chivay and Arequipa (Peru), a workshop was animated by Mr Thomas Schaaf (UNESCO, Division of Ecological Sciences and Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB)) on 22 May 1998 on the new UNESCO project "*Sacred Sites - Cultural Integrity and Biological Diversity*". The workshop was attended by some fifteen participants from Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, and thus gave a good geographical representation of the Andean mountain chain. The objectives of the workshop were to inform on the new UNESCO project, to discuss project objectives and site selection criteria, and to identify project sites and partners.

2. The project uses a culture-based approach to enhance environmental conservation. In many cultures of the world, natural sacred sites are often important areas for environmental conservation. Traditional respect of the environment and access restrictions to sacred sites have often led to well conserved areas with high biological diversity. As already demonstrated through a UNESCO pilot project on sacred groves in Ghana (West Africa), such sites can play an important role in the conservation of the environment and the rehabilitation of degraded areas. Applying this experience gained in a wider regional context (Africa, Asia and Latin America), this new UNESCO project is interdisciplinary in character and involves natural scientists and cultural anthropologists. At the development level, the project aims at restoring degraded environments surrounding sacred sites by using sacred areas as reference sites for potential natural vegetation. At the conservation level, the project will assess if traditional sacred sites can play a complementary role to legally protected areas (such as national parks). Its results - through inter-regional comparative work - will help to formulate policy guidelines on culture-based environmental conservation.

3. Workshop participants felt that a culture-based approach to environmental conservation would be workable in the Andean context, in particular as many mountains in the Andes are considered sacred. Such mountains can be the abodes of benevolent, but also of malicious deities and the respect of sacred sites has often led to well preserved natural areas. It would be important to study the differences and similarities of sacred areas (especially mountains) in the northern, central and southern Andes in the light of different cultural contexts. A typology of natural sacred sites may clarify similarities and differences in the cultural relationship of people with their environment. A first phase in the project should be concerned with identifying and recording natural sacred sites. A detailed plant and animal species inventorying should then be carried out by the natural scientists, while the anthropologists should study the cultural practises (rituals and rites, taboos, natural resource use and management). Restoration activities of degraded areas should then be carried out in the second phase of the project based on the findings of the natural and social scientists and in line with the traditional, religious belief systems, and in direct collaboration with local people.

4. In a first round, four to five sites should be selected per world region. As for the Andean context, the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta Biosphere Reserve (Colombia), the Huascarán World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve (Peru), and the Rio Salago area in northern Chile (no protected area status as yet) were considered as potential study sites for the project. The number of sites could increase pending suitable project sites, partners, and the availability of funding.