

Distribution limited

WHC-04/28.COM/INF.13D

Paris, 21 June 2004

Original: English/French

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC  
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF  
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-eighth session

Suzhou, China

28 June – 7 July 2004

**Item 13 of the Provisional Agenda: Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List**

**Status report on the proposal for a nomination of Qhapaq Ñan - Main Andean Road for inscription on the World Heritage List**

## SUMMARY

### Background Document

The World Heritage Committee at its 27th session requested that the World Heritage Center inform on the progress in the implementation of this initiative.

Representatives of the Governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru met in Cusco, Peru (23-25 October 2003) and La Paz, Bolivia (4-7 April 2004), to advance the initiative to nominate the Qhapaq Ñan – Main Andean Road for inscription on the World Heritage List. At these meetings in 2003/2004, the representatives requested the World Heritage Centre to inform the World Heritage Committee of the actions taken.

The Secretariat submits this document in response to this request.

# **The Nomination of the Qhapaq Ñan - Main Andean Road for inscription on the World Heritage List, an initiative of the Governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.**

## **I. Introduction**

1. The Qhapaq Ñan - Main Andean Road is the denomination of the extensive communication network of roads that, in pre-Hispanic times, connected the territories of present day Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina, and that found its culmination, as one integrated system, under the Inca rule. The system was composed of the roads themselves, and associated architectural and engineering structures (lodging houses, storage facilities, bridges etc.). It connected human settlements, administrative centres, agricultural and mining areas and religious and sacred places. Up to the present day, the road system passes through areas of high cultural value and natural bio-diversity.

## **II. Background**

2. In May 2001, the President of Peru launched the initiative to inscribe the Qhapaq Ñan - Main Andean Road on the World Heritage List. This initiative received the support of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Ecuador, and the Governments of Peru and Argentina have included the Main Andean Road in their respective Tentative Lists.
3. At the World Heritage periodic reporting meeting in Montevideo, in March 2002, the World Heritage periodic reporting focal point persons from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru prepared a brief document on the process that was proposed for the further development and implementation of the initiative. This included a sub-regional meeting that Peru would convene during the course of 2002, and a scientific meeting that the World Heritage Centre would convene in 2003.
4. Since then, several countries have advanced in the study and identification of the Qhapaq Ñan - Main Andean Road on their territories. A consultation meeting between the World Heritage Centre and the Permanent Delegations of the States Parties concerned took place on 29 January 2003 at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris. The participants agreed to the following conclusions:
  - a) The multidisciplinary and long-term dimension of this challenging project ;
  - b) The Permanent Delegations underlined the statement formulated by the Director of the World Heritage Centre, who confirmed the importance of this project for a transboundary nomination, as a reference for the Latin America

and the Caribbean Unit, as well as for the rest of the geographical units of the World Heritage Centre ;

- c) The Permanent Delegations firmly expressed the wish that the World Heritage Centre would be the general coordinator of the project, defining the calendar and criteria for planning the work programme, responsible for the nomination categories and methodologies, and responsible for the conceptualization of a common transboundary proposal ;
  - d) The Centre would elaborate a discussion document, as well as a questionnaire to orient the discussion for the first expert meeting ; and
  - e) The Permanent Delegations were kindly invited to send to the Centre the list of the national experts and national institutions involved in implementation of the project.
5. On 1st and 2nd April 2003, the Government of Peru convened a sub-regional meeting with the objective to coordinate concepts and approaches to the Main Andean Road World Heritage initiative. A second objective was to present, for endorsement by the other countries, a project profile for a technical co-operation project for submission to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

### **III. Activities of States Parties and other organizations**

6. Argentina: Argentina organized a first national encounter and meeting of experts on the *Caminos Andinos* in San Juan in November 2002, and a second meeting with participants from Bolivia, Chile and Peru as well as UNESCO, IUCN and ICOMOS in Jujuy, in February 2003. At these meetings, the experts recommended approaches to the identification of representative parts of the *Camino* in the provinces concerned and institutional arrangements for coordination.
7. Chile: The Tentative List of Chile, submitted in the year 2000, already included a number of sites related to the Qhapaq Ñan. In response to Peru's initiative, the Council of National Monuments decided, in 2002, to establish an interdisciplinary team to participate in and advance the Qhapaq Ñan World Heritage initiative. The approach is that of a cultural landscape.
8. Peru: An inter-institutional National Commission has been established, with the National Institute for Culture as the executive agency. Presently, a team of archaeologists is working to identify and investigate the Qhapaq Ñan - Main Andean Road - in Peru. At the same time, the Government of Peru prepared and submitted a project proposal for sustainable socio-economic development along the Main Andean Road to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

9. IUCN developed a project proposal for a pre-feasibility study for a system of protected areas along the Qhapaq Ñan. IUCN presented the project to the World Parks Congress in South Africa in September 2003.

#### **IV. The First Regional Technical Meeting Qhapaq Ñan - Main Andean Road (Lima, Peru, 1-2 April 2003)**

10. Participants from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, UNESCO and the Inter-American Development Bank attended. This 2-fold meeting consisted of : the first part was dedicated to the Qhapaq Ñan - Main Andean Road World Heritage initiative, and the second part to the Technical Co-operation project for submission to the IDB.
11. The delegates adopted two documents: one on the Qhapaq Ñan – Main Andean Road World Heritage, and one on the IDB Technical Co-operation project.
12. Concerning the document of the Qhapaq Ñan - Main Andean Road in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru and its inscription on the World Heritage List:

The delegates agreed that, while recognizing the different national conditions, it was convenient to aspire to a process of regional co-operation that would lead to one single nomination on the World Heritage List. The delegates adopted the following recommendations:

- a) That the Heads of State of the Rio Group, in their meeting in Cusco in May 2003, express their support for this initiative;
- b) That the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session be informed of the actions undertaken by States Parties, and the results of the sub-regional meeting in Lima, in order to define possible technical and financial co-operation. In this sense, it was recommended that the World Heritage Centre provides the coordination and follow-up of the project;
- c) That it was essential that States Parties that had not yet done so should inscribe the Qhapaq Ñan - Main Andean Road in their respective Tentative Lists;
- d) That the World Heritage Centre organize a scientific meeting to establish joint guidelines, criteria, concepts and a timetable for the preparation of the nomination documents;
- e) That complementarity be sought between the World Heritage inscription and other initiatives, programmes and technical and financial projects whose objectives are concordant with the nomination process;

- f) That the World Heritage Centre explore the possibilities to establish a virtual discussion forum to ensure a permanent exchange of ideas between the parties involved;
  - g) That the World Heritage Centre, through a questionnaire, identify the available human, technical and financial resources, as well as the specific needs of States Parties with the view of establishing multidisciplinary teams to facilitate co-operation among countries; and
  - h) That full use of valuable and relevant experiences in countries be made in the identification, management, inventorying and participation of communities.
13. Project profile for technical co-operation with the Inter-American Development Bank for the Qhapaq Ñan - Main Andean Road Regional Project.
- Peru submitted a project profile to IDB for a Technical Co-operation project for the preparation of an Action Plan for the Development of the Qhapaq Ñan - Main Andean Road. The project would consist of four components: identification of the archaeological and cultural heritage, conservation of natural heritage, development and empowerment of indigenous people and local communities, and sustainable tourism. The draft project profile proposed that the regional coordination would be the Peruvian National Commission for the Qhapaq Ñan's responsibility, and that the executing agency would be UNESCO, through its representation in Peru.

All delegates agreed on the following recommendations:

- a. That a consultation process would be initiated through the respective ministries of foreign affairs to explore the possibility that the Heads of State of the Rio Group, in their meeting in Cusco in May 2003, express their support to this project;
- b. That, on the basis of the project profile, the IDB, together with the countries concerned, develop an Operation Plan for early implementation of the project;
- c. That in the framework of the regional project, specific attention be paid to particular national conditions and requirements for institutional development and resources;
- d. That the executive agency of the project be UNESCO; and
- e. That, considering that this is a project of integral development, which complements and broadens the World Heritage nomination process, this project contributes to the objective of inscribing the Qhapaq Ñan - Main Andean Road on the World Heritage List and that the results of the scientific

meeting that the World Heritage Centre will convene, be taken into account in the preparation of the Action Plan.

**V. Declaration of the Heads of State of the States Parties**

14. The Heads of State of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru met in Cusco, Peru on 23 May 2003. On this occasion, they signed a Joint Declaration on the Qhapaq Ñan – Main Andean Road Project in which they expressed their full support for its implementation.
15. The Heads of State consider the Qhapaq Ñan – Main Andean Road of outstanding universal value, and commit themselves to pursue its inscription on the World Heritage List. They also expressed support for the Technical Co-operation with the IDB as a first step in the materialization of the project.
16. The Heads of State clearly place the project in the context of regional development and integration, and the improvement of the living conditions of the indigenous populations and the people of the countries.

**VI. Second Expert Meeting to prepare the nomination process of the Qhapaq Ñan - Main Andean Road to be inscribed on the World Heritage List (Cusco, 24-25th October 2003)**

17. Institutional representatives and national cultural and natural heritage experts from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru attended the meeting. The World Heritage Centre Latin America and the Caribbean Unit coordinated the selection of the experts with the UNESCO Office in Lima. Eight senior professionals helped the national experts and institutional representatives to define the archaeological, historical, anthropological, and environmental nature of the Qhapaq Ñan.

The two-day meeting allowed the participants to outline their priorities and concerns on the nomination process. The successful outcome witnesses the spirit of consensus and understanding between Delegations.

National representatives agreed on:

- a) The role of the World Heritage Centre in coordinating the nomination process;
- b) Setting up a Committee for monitoring and implementing actions. The committee will have one representative from each country, with a Presidency rotating every six months. The first Presidency will be assumed by Bolivia, which expressed its desire to host the second meeting, in April 2004;

- c) Establishing a protocol, to be ratified by the countries involved, to adopt a common definition of the Qhapaq Ñan, as a guide for the articulation of the process; and
  - d) Giving priority to the transboundary nominations, and to joint bi-national efforts within a common process. Bolivia and Peru will work together for the transboundary nomination of Lake Titicaca, while Chile and Argentina will do the same for their shared Qhapaq Ñan area, and Ecuador and Colombia could operate in a similar way in area of the Chota River.
18. Concerning the category and criteria of the nomination, the majority of the representatives agreed on the nomination of the Qhapaq Ñan as a Cultural Road (awaiting the new re-definition of the cultural road category -further than a linear cultural landscape), which goes across different Andean cultural landscapes. The formula of the nomination invokes the figure of a matrix: a road, which cuts across their own cultural landscapes.
  19. As a tool for exchanging information between focal points, the World Heritage Centre will coordinate a Closed Mailing List, with restricted access. One of the first activities could be to exchange registration systems used by the countries to establish inventories of the cultural resources of Qhapaq Ñan.
  20. The Secretariat would co-ordinate actions with the European Space Agency, the Argentine Space Agency (Comision Nacional de Actividades Espaciales - CONAE) and the Permanent Representation of Argentina to organize a meeting. The objective of this meeting will be to train national experts in using radar and satellite information, and to provide them with sufficient expertise to develop the system on a national basis, as well as to prepare a satellite photography presentation of the Qhapaq Ñan.

This meeting was supported by the extra-budgetary funds of Spain and the Netherlands. The Spanish extra-budgetary funds will cover the cost of the publication, which is already underway.

## **VII. Mission to Washington to meet Interamerican Development Bank (IDB) and National Geographic Research Institute.**

21. On 18th and 19th March 2004, the World Heritage Centre attended meetings with Mr. Alvaro Llosa and Mr. Javier Cuervo, in charge of the agreement between IDB and the National Institute for Culture, Peru, to discuss the possibility of co-operating for the nomination, without compromising their respective objectives. The UNESCO/World Heritage Centre mission met Mr. Terry D. Garcia, Executive Vice President of Missions Programs, Mr John M. Francis, Vice President for Research, Conservation and Exploration and Mr. Allen Carroll, Chief Cartographer. *National geographic* is interested in a close collaboration

with the Centre on this issue and is interested in developing an IMAX film on the Qhapaq Ñan. *National Geographic Society* and the WHC will explore the possibilities to set up a co-operation in this area.

### **VIII. Meeting on Qhapaq Ñan**

22. On 29th March, the UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture called a meeting on Qhapaq Ñan for an exchange of information concerning the initiatives which are being implemented by colleagues of the Cultural Heritage Sector. At that meeting, Ms. Nuria Sanz, programme specialist of Latin America and the Caribbean Unit at the World Heritage Centre, was appointed as the focal point for Qhapaq Ñan, at the Culture Heritage Sector, to coordinate and facilitate a mutual exchange of ideas, knowledge and initiatives. She will rely on colleagues to gather further inputs and materials to set up a World Heritage Centre web page with the pertinent links to other related Cultural Heritage UNESCO initiatives.

### **IX. Third International Expert Meeting to prepare the nomination process of the Qhapaq Ñan "Camino Principal Andino" (Main Andean Road) to be inscribed on the World Heritage List (La Paz, Bolivia, 4-7th April 2004)**

23. The aims of the meeting were the following:
- a) To discuss the uniqueness of the cultural landscapes of the Qhapaq Ñan , according to the conceptualization convened in Cusco: Qhapaq Ñan as a cultural itinerary (lineal cultural landscape) crossing Andean cultural landscapes of outstanding value, in the light of a serial transboundary nomination;
  - b) To set up a homogeneous process to harmonize inventories between countries: cartography, technical schedules and informatics systems;
  - c) To take note of the progress made by national working groups since the meeting in Cusco; and
  - d) To provide a space for bilateral discussions on the process of the preparation of the candidature.
24. Representatives from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru attended the meeting. Experts on world heritage cultural landscapes category were also invited to present theoretical approaches and case studies as a reference for the discussion.
25. The two-and-a-half day meeting allowed the participants to submit the progress of the works fulfilled by Delegations to implement the foreseen task outlined in

Cusco. The meeting was able to take stock of the considerable progress outlined by the National Delegations, which continues to witness the spirit of bilateral and international consensus and understanding between countries and work in favor of a joint, transboundary project.

National representatives agreed on:

- a) The importance of informing the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible of the composition of the national working groups, as well as to appoint a focal point for the process in each country, responsible of providing coordination on national basis and responsible of the exchange of information by an intranet system, which will be online in May 2004;
- b) The importance of assuring a stable composition of the National Delegation who attends the meetings, to provide continuity to achieve the foreseen objectives;
- c) The need to begin, in parallel to the process of candidature, a forward-looking process for international co-operation to set up a solid mechanism to assure the continuity of a successful future after the nomination. In the light of this proposal, a contact with international financial institutions could be required. This process should be the base to work in an action plan for the coming 10 years, to be discussed in an International Conference in 2006;
- d) The interest in organizing a workshop in Quebrada de Humahuaca (Argentina) the only Andean cultural landscape, which has been inscribed so far to develop methodologies to register and manage the Andean cultural landscapes, as a reference for the other countries. Additional funds for this activity should be required;
- e) The inscription of Qhapaq Ñan in the Tentative List of Ecuador and Colombia at the earliest convenience by the respective countries;
- f) To present the results of this process of candidature at the occasion of the presentation of the Periodical Report of Latin America and the Caribbean, at the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee;
- g) The common approach to the process according to the idea of the indissociable character of the Qhapaq Ñan and its associated cultural landscapes. The Qhapaq Ñan provides its related landscapes with a specific physiognomy of connectivity of the historic Andean integration. The Qhapaq Ñan should be regarded as the vehicle of a continental phenomenon of communication;
- h) The Qhapaq Ñan is an historical network of roads, which continued evolving from a common historic substratum, as a model of territorial integration of

complementary economic areas to nowadays. This integrated system of relations gave the Qhapaq Ñan its outstanding value until today;

- i) The necessity to reflect on authenticity in dynamic terms, attempting to reconnect places, cultural groups and destinies, by the recuperation of its systemic character, as well as self-appropriation of this integrated vision by the communities involved;
  - j) The urgency to draw attention on the development of local community's participative methodologies, from the beginning of the candidature process. This matter will focus the attention of the Fourth experts meeting, which will take place in Chile in October 2004;
  - k) The interest to discuss the Qhapaq Ñan for historic and anthropological disciplines, currently taught in universities and research centres in the countries involved, and to take advantage of the nomination process to set up a common historical and anthropological approach as a common vision/narrative; and
  - l) The benefit of the Glossary provided by Peruvian Authorities, as an indispensable tool for each of the countries in the process of candidature. The countries will provide suggestions of classification, new terms, additional national information, etc. The Bolivian Delegation will contribute to the same exercise with the translation of the main descriptors in Aymara, and other local languages.
26. The meeting set up three sub-working groups to discuss and exchange information on:

Cultural landscapes:

All the cultural landscapes of Qhapaq Ñan are subordinated to the idea of the lineal resource; the sine qua non condition for cultural landscapes is to be intersected by Qhapaq Ñan. The reference landscape unit will be constructed on the basis of the Main Andean Road. The form to be fulfilled for cultural landscapes should be considered as a continuing process of implementation by spatial, structural and historic characterization analyzed by environmental, cultural, sociological and institutional criteria to define strategies for monitoring and integrated management. The form will focus on identification and signification: components and values. A data base will be created to share information between countries.

Qhapaq Ñan and historic, anthropological, cultural related heritage:

To develop a methodology to register the Qhapaq Ñan itself, according to functional and physical structure of the Main Andean Road. Each form will be accompanied by a chapter for national specifications. It will be advisable to work with Geographic Information Systems (GIS), data base in Access, or comparable

programme. For graphic information, Arc Views programme might be required. The form will be accompanied by a user's manual.

\*Community participation in the process of nomination:

The sub-group proposed that the countries begin a process of analysis, in consultation with national experts, on the communitarian/aboriginal or indigenous law and its state of implementation, in the light of cultural or cultural heritage rights. This should be accompanied by examples of community participation, with a clear specification, to set up mechanism, which assure the principle of equity on the distribution of benefits. The working group underlined as well the interest in providing tools for a better communication of the candidature process, and to avoid misunderstanding or message manipulation. In the light of this initiative, a specialist in communication might be needed to guide the nomination process within the communities. It would be very convenient to develop in a parallel way a training process on original constructive technology, research of authentic iconography, handcraft, agricultural traditional technologies, etc.

27. The meeting provided space for bilateral discussion on the following scheme:
- a) The selected area to begin the process of candidature;
  - b) The justification for the selection;
  - c) The preliminary agreements between the two countries; and
  - d) Timetable for future activities.

## Colombia/Ecuador

1. Province of Carchi (Ecuador) and Province of Nariño (Colombia)
2. In Pre-Hispanic times, the Qhapaq Ñan forged a unique geographical and cultural unit: The Pre-Inca chiefdoms developed long distance trade. During Inca rule, this area was colonized by Quechua language speakers
3. The Institute of Cultural Heritage of Ecuador and the Institute of History and Anthropology have set as a priority to set up an <i>ad hoc</i> working group to collaborate in the study of the common components for Qhapaq Ñan
4. April-May: submission of agreement of understanding between entities and the inscription of Qhapaq Ñan on national basis to the tentative List of World Heritage. May-June: Coordination meeting. December: Draft candidature file.

## Chile- Argentina

1. Jujuy/ Salta/ Tucumán/ Catamarca (Argentina) ↔ Antofagasta (Chile) Coy/ San Juan/Raja/Mendoza (Argentina) ↔ Tacoma (Chile)
2. Selected sectors of Qhapaq Ñan from pre-Inca period. The Inca Road system was maintained during the colonial period and the Republic. Common environmental and symbolic issues: Extreme dry conditions and sanctuaries at the top of the mountains.
3. International Assistance Request submitted to the World Heritage Centre and supported by extra-budgetary Spanish Fund-in-Trust.
4. Six month Action Plan (May-November 2004).

## Peru-Bolivia

1. La Paz – Cusco
2. Area recognized as Kollasuyo, which took advantage of the bilateral works on the Lake Titicaca (mythical origin for Inca Civilization)
3. Oral Communications after the Cusco meeting
4. July 2004: Bilateral meeting in Cusco to discuss cartography and graphic systems of representation. Identification for definitive sectors of the Road and its related cultural landscapes. Development of the Glossary of terms in Aymara and other local languages

This meeting was supported by the extra-budgetary funds of Spain and the Netherlands.

### **X. UNESCO Lima Office / Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) agreement**

28. UNESCO Lima Office has signed an agreement on 16th March 2004 with the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB) to undertake a nine-month technical co-operation programme (US\$250.000) to prepare an action plan based on archaeological resources and environmental resources, local development/indigenous communities and sustainable tourism of the Qhapaq Ñan. This action plan under preparation will contribute to the process of nomination of the Qhapaq Ñan on the World Heritage List. On 5th April 2004, the UNESCO Lima Office has signed an agreement with the Peruvian Government to define the execution formula to set up the above mentioned technical Co-operation.

### **XI. Related UNESCO/WHC Bibliography:**

- Paisajes Culturales en Los Andes, UNESCO Lima, Peru, 2002
- Cultural Landscapes- The challenges of conservation, conclusions of the International Workshop, (Ferrara, Italy on 11 and 12 November 2002), UNESCO Ferrara, Italy 2002.

- *El comienzo del proceso de candidatura del Qhapaq Ñan (Camino Principal Andino) a la Lista de Patrimonio Mundial. Una iniciativa transnacional de Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador y Perú* (in print). The Spanish extra-budgetary funds will cover the cost of the publication, which is already underway

## **XII. Leaflet**

29. A leaflet informing of the process of candidature will be printed.