

WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION

IUCN TECHNICAL REVIEW

1. IDENTIFICATION NUMBER AND NAME: 274. MACHU PICCHU NATIONAL SANCTUARY

2. LOCATION: Cuzco Department, Urubamba Province in the Peruvian Andes

3. NOMINATED BY: National Institute of Culture, Region of Cuzco

4. DOCUMENTATION:

(i) Nomination form

(ii) Supplementary documentation (IUCN)

a) Consultations: Dr. Marc Dourojeanni; Dr. Manuel Rios; Mr. Erich Cardich; Dr. Kenton Miller

b) Field mission carried out by members of IUCN's Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas

c) Data files on Machu Picchu held by IUCN's Conservation Monitoring Centre

5. BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

Machu Picchu covers 32,500 ha in some of the scenically most attractive mountainous territory of the Peruvian Andes. As the last stronghold of the Incas and of superb architectural and archeological importance, Macchu Picchu is one of the most important cultural sites in Latin America; the stonework of the site remains as one of the world's great examples of the use of a natural raw material to provide outstanding architecture which is totally appropriate to the surroundings. The surrounding valleys have been cultivated continuously for well over a thousand years, providing one of the world's greatest examples of a productive man-land relationship; the people living around Macchu Picchu continue a way of life which closely resembles that of their Inca ancestors, being based on potatoes, maize and llamas. Macchu Picchu also provides a secure habitat for several endangered species, notably the Spectacled Bear (Tremarctos ornatus).

6. INTEGRITY

The boundaries are clear and explicit and the area is well protected by legislation and a well-trained staff. It is of sufficient size to function as an ecological unit, though to better contain the entire spectrum of man-land relationships it would be better to include some of the other sites in the lower reaches of the Urubamba River.

7. COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS

Other Peruvian areas in the same Yungas Montane Biogeographic Province include Tingo Maria National Park (18,000 ha), Cutervo National Park (3,500 ha), Calipuy Nature Reserve (64,000); other areas in the same biogeographic province include Bellavista National Park (90,000 ha) in Bolivia and Cayambe-Coca Scientific Reserve (350,000 ha) in Ecuador. Macchu Picchu is the best-protected of any of these areas and is unmatched in its scenic splendour and historical importance.

8. EVALUATION

Macchu Picchu qualifies for inclusion on the World Heritage List under natural criteria ii -- as an outstanding example of man's interaction with his natural environment -- and iii -- as an area containing superlative mountains, vegetation, and watercourses.

9. RECOMMENDATION

Macchu Picchu should be inscribed on the World Heritage List as a mixed cultural and natural property. While Macchu Picchu is unquestionably part of the World's Heritage, the property would be even better if it were to include the lower courses of the Urubamba River and the incredible archeological wealth of sites such as Pisac and Ollantaytambo in the so-called "Valley of the Gods."

International Union for Conservation of
Nature and Natural Resources

15 June 1983

NAME Macchu Picchu Natural Monument

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY III (Natural Monument) Proposed World Heritage Site
(Criteria ii, iii)

BIOGEOGRAPHICAL PROVINCE 8.35.12 (Yungas)

LEGAL PROTECTION Total protection of the ecosystem, especially of animals nearing extinction.

DATE ESTABLISHED 8 January 1981, by Decreto Supremo 001=81-AA.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION 12°12'S; 72°35'W. On the highest part of the eastern slopes of the Andes (at the forest edge). Cuzco department.

ALTITUDE 1,452-3,600m

AREA 32,592 ha

LAND TENURE 4 estates (Mandorpampa, Quente, Torontay y S, Rita-Quente).

PHYSICAL FEATURES Rough terrain; high valley slopes of the Urubamba river. Sedimentary rocks of marine origin and volcanic rocks are characteristic. Ordovician schists, slates and quartzites are overlain by Cretaceo-Tertiary facies. Mean annual temperature is around 16°C and mean total annual rainfall is 1500-3000mm. At 2,500m, annual means of 10.2°C and 2,171.3mm rainfall have been recorded.

VEGETATION The natural vegetation is of humid and very humid lower montane forest of the sub-Tropical region, mainly with genera such as Weinmania, Podocarpus, Phragmites, Ocotea, Nectandra, Cecropia, and ferns of the Cyathea and palms such as Geromoina, Cedrela, Guasca, Riupala, Polylepis, and Puya raimondii.

NOTEWORTHY FAUNA The fauna is most interesting, with the vulnerable Spectacled bear Tremarctos ornatus being one of the most interesting species in the area. Others include dwarf brocket Mazama chunyii, the otter Lutra longicaudis, long-tailed weasel Mustela frenata, Pampas cat Felis colocolo and the vulnerable ocelot Felis pardalis; Boa spp.; and the Andean cock of the rock Rupicola peruviana, and the Andean condor Vultur gryphus etc. Work in the area has suggested that the reserve is too small to maintain a viable breeding population on the spectacled bear.

ZONING None. There is no master plan for the reserve.

DISTURBANCES OR DEFICIENCIES Jurisdiction is divided between various government departments, the efforts of which are not always coordinated, and which may be counteractive. There is no control infrastructure. Deforestation, grazing and agriculture are all problems, and human activity in and around the park can be substantial. The Macchu Picchu HEP headquarters are an eyesore. In total about 20,000ha of the park are seriously affected by human use, and it has been suggested that the boundaries need to be redrawn from the point of view of wildlife conservation.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH None by the national administration, but private research is carried out on the ecology of the spectacled bear, and in particular its use of the available resources. The research is being coordinated by Bernie Peyton, under the aegis of the New York Zoological Society.

SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC FACILITIES

There is a small site museum.

PRINCIPAL REFERENCE MATERIAL

Plan COPESCO 1974. Centro de Servicios del Parque Nacional Macchu Picchu. 114 pp.

STAFF None.

BUDGET None.

LOCAL PARK OR RESERVE ADMINISTRATION Region Agraria IX, Cuzco, Matara 394 -
Cuzco, Peru, Teléfono 2970-63.

DATE June 1981