STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT

Maya Site of Copan

(1980, Ref. 129)

HONDURAS

43 COM
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State of Conservation Report

Maya Site of Copan - HONDURAS

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MAYA SITE OF COPÁN
(HONDURAS)

STATE OF CONSERVATION

November 2018

INSTITUTO HONDUREÑO DE ANTROPOLOGÍA E HISTORIA
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| **Coordinates** | E 269524.180507  
 N 1641547.93025 |
| **Inscription** | 5 September 1980 |
| **Administrator** | Instituto Hondureño de Antropología e Historia (IHAH) |
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Preface

The report has been prepared by a task force led by the General Manager of the IHAH (Abogado Hector Portillo) with contributions of all the Institutions involved in the archaeological research and the conservation of the site, and in consultation with all the stakeholders possible, especially the local people.
62. Maya Site of Copan (Honduras) (C 129)

Decision: 41 COM 7B.62

The World Heritage Committee,
1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision 39 COM 7B.91, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),

3. Commends the State Party for the work accomplished in the clarification of the boundaries of the property within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory exercise and for the positive response it has given to the Committee’s recommendations and to ICOMOS advice;

4. Welcomes the introduction of a no-fly zone over the property and the completion of mitigation and rescue measures at the Rio Amarillo airport;

5. Notes the information provided on the definition of the buffer zone and urges the State Party to finalize this process and to submit a final proposal for a buffer zone, according to paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines concerning minor boundary modifications;

6. Expresses its appreciation for the progress in the revision in the Management Plan and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, a final version of the Management Plan as soon as it becomes available;

7. Also requests the State Party to keep it informed of further developments in the design and testing results of the protective structure of the Hieroglyphic Stairway and any other development projects that may have an impact on the property;

8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1December 2018, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.
SUMMARY

The Instituto Hondureño de Antropología e Historia, administrator of the property, is moving from a primary system of management towards a participatory system involving all the stakeholders.

Boundaries of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone

The boundary of the World Heritage Property has been approved by the World Heritage Committee in its 41st session (Krakow, 2017).

The buffer zone covers an area of 258ha around the World Heritage property, with the river as its southern boundary, and limits at an average of 1000m from the property to the east, north and west. The land use of the buffer zone is agricultural and pasture.

Management / Action plan

The three main issues are: conservation, management and community

Conservation:

The preservation of sculpture, the most important concern of conservation, is handled by Harvard University through the Santander Program. The Program includes 3D scanning of monuments, the installation of a laboratory for sculpture, protective shelters for monuments, conservation plan for the tunnels, collection management and training of technicians.

The Santander Program is also planning a new shelter for the Hieroglyphic Stairway. A prototype has been tested over the last seven years with success. A meeting will be held in 2019 to discuss the specification options and approve a set of renderings for fundraising efforts. The next step will be to proceed with a schedule for construction and estimated installation dependent on funding.

Management:

1. The management Plan is fairly adequate, but its implementation and monitoring is not, mostly for lack of adequate human, technical and financial resources.
2. The significant factors that affect the management are insufficient management capacity (inadequate capacity and skills, absence of monitoring and evaluation), the administrative structure (ineffective implementation of policies, centralization and rigid structure of decision making) and limited interest of local community (insufficient awareness). There is an urgent need for capacity building and consensus building. A permanent training program is scheduled to start in 2019.
4. Disaster risk preparedness is in planning with the local fire brigade and COPECO, a national agency in charge of disaster management.
Community
The participation of the community is seen as an essential constituent of management. The IHAH has improved communication with the local authorities and civil organizations in order to raise awareness leading to a sustainable development.
Introduction

The Copan Archaeological Park (see Map 1)

The World Heritage Property (Maya Site of Copan) is located within the Copan Archaeological Park which was originally an area of 45 ha delimited in 1874 in order to protect what is called now the Principal Group (World Heritage property) and its surroundings (El Bosque on the map).

Note: The CRIA (Centro Regional de Investigaciones Arqueológicas) is part of the Archaeological Park. The area called Sepulturas is a private property under the administration of the IHAH.

Figure 1: The archaeological park and its setting

Figure 2: The Great Plaza, with the shelter of the hieroglyphic stairway in the foreground
Legal Framework
The legal protection of the ruins of Copan is guaranteed by the Constitution (1982: article 172), the Law for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (1997), and the Presidential Resolution 185 of 1982 declaring National Monument “all the archaeological vestiges of the geographical zone known as the Copan Valley.......... , including the pre-Hispanic city of Copan.....”

Institutional Framework
Cultural heritage in Honduras, including the Maya Site of Copán, is under the custody and management of the Instituto Hondureño de Antropología e Historia (IHAH). This is a typical primary system of management, however the IHAH is intending to move towards a system agreeable to all stakeholders.

Management Plan / Carrying capacity
The first management plan was developed in 1984 (Barborak et a. 1984), updated in 2005 (IHAH 2005) and revised in 2013 (IHAH 2013). A study of the Park’s carrying capacity was performed by the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Hernandez et al. 2013) as part of the last management plan.

Stakeholders
The main actors for administration, research and conservation include: (1) the Instituto Hondureño de Antropología e Historia (IHAH); (2) the Instituto Hondureño de Turismo (IHT); (3) the Instituto de Conservación Forestal (ICF) for the natural environment; (4) the Asociación Copan, an ONG involved with cultural and natural heritage; (5) academic institutions including Harvard University, National University of Honduras (UNAH), City University of New York, University of Kanazawa (Japan), Academy of Social Sciences of Beijing, the German Archaeological Institute (DAI).

Local stakeholders include: (1) the Copan Municipality, (2) the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Tourism of Copan, (3) Indigenous organizations (CONIMCHH and CONADIMCH), (4) educational institutions, (5) inhabitants of the village of Copan Ruinas.

Issues
The most relevant issues are: (1) the preservation of stone, (2) the efficiency of management (finances, visitors, staff training, disaster risk), and the implementation of the plans, (3) the local community.
Decision 3. Commends the State Party for the work accomplished in the clarification of the boundaries of the property within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory exercise and for the positive response it has given to the Committee’s recommendations and to ICOMOS advice;

Decision 5. Notes the information provided on the definition of the buffer zone and urges the State Party to finalize this process and to submit a final proposal for a buffer zone, according to paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines concerning minor boundary modifications;

Summary

The boundary of the World Heritage Property has been approved by the World Heritage Committee in its 41st session (Krakow, 2017): Decision 41 COM 8D (Paragraph 5) and Annex of Document WHC/17/41.COM/8D.

A buffer zone had been proposed in the Management Plan 2014-2020. However it failed to be approved by the IHAH and the stakeholders for several reasons: (1) it was too extended on the northeast side to effectively implement legal restrictions, (2) it had led to land speculations by landowners as the State had expressed its willingness to buy land included in the buffer zone, (3) it did not need to be so extended on the northeast side to comply with the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (Paragraph 104).

It was then decided to curtail the northeast limit of the buffer zone and its southeast side on the other side of the river. The result is a buffer zone that is manageable and yet protects the OUV of the World Heritage Property as well as attributes functionally related to it. It must be noted that the curtailed areas become part of another layer of protection called “Area of Influence” with its own restrictions albeit less strict than those of the buffer zone (Management Plan of 2014: page 66). Also, the Management Plan has created 11 Protected Enclaves (Recintos Protegidos) within the Area of Influence: these enclaves mark a special area around a monument (like a stele or an altar) with the same kind of protections as the Buffer Zone.

1. Area of the proposed buffer zone

The buffer zone covers an area of 258.365 hectares.

2. Description of the proposed buffer zone

2.1. Overview

The buffer zone is limited:
(1) to the north by a line of hilltops: the objective is to preserve the cultural landscape between the world heritage property and those hilltops, including the quarry that provided the stones for the monuments
(2) to the east by the area called Sepulturas where lived the elite of ancient Copan
(3) to the west by a large area of pasture between the archaeological park and the village
(4) to the south by the Copan river (flowing east-west), except for an area across the river close to
the World Heritage Property to enhance its protection

2.2. Description
The boundary of the buffer zone is marked on the map by the points A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H.

1. The line A-B, western boundary from A (hilltop of Cerro Chino, figure 3) to B on the river, is the
most important as it marks the geographical limit allowed for the expansion of the village. The area
between the village and this line is a flood area little suitable for constructions.

2. The Copan River marks a physical boundary to the south (line B-C and D-E), except the line CD
which is a northeast oriented tangent to the river. Land use south of the river is exclusively
agricultural and pasture.

3. The line E-F, eastern boundary, corresponds to the limits of the area called Sepulturas from the
river (E) to the road (F)

4. The line F-G follows the road over 350 meters

5. The line G-H is oriented north over 300 meters. The point H corresponds to a hilltop.

6. The line A-H corresponds to a skyline of three hilltops from A (Cerro Chino) to H.

Figure 3: Cerro chino in the foreground (point A) and the village in the background

2.3. Distances from the World Heritage Property
Line A-B: 900 meters minimum
Line A-H: 600 meters minimum
Line C-D: 300 meters minimum
Line E-F: 900 meters minimum
2.4. Ownership and land use (See map 1A)

Areas 1 and 5 are State property; Areas 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 are private property

**Area 1** is state property managed by the IHAH for the exclusive use of visitors. The modern buildings in the northwest part are: visitor center, parking, museum of sculptures, cafeteria souvenir shop and a tourist information center.

**Area 2**, called Sepulturas, is private property administrated by the IHAH through an agreement with the owner (figure 4). The state is considering the purchase of this area.

**Areas 3 and 4** are private property, exclusively for agriculture of light impact like corn. The state is considering the purchase of area 3 to link the world heritage property with Sepulturas (area 2), and maybe area 4.

![Figure 4: The eastern side of the buffer zone with the area of Sepulturas (areas 2, 3 and 4)](image)

**Area 5** is state property used by owner of area 2 for agricultural purpose as a compensation for the use of area 2 by the IHAH

**Area 6** is private property, a flood area unsuitable for constructions and agriculture, used exclusively as pasture for livestock (figure 5). This area shields the archaeological park from the expansion of the village.

**Area 7**, north of the road, private property used as pasture, occasionally to grow corn (figure 6).

**Area 8**, southeast of the river, limited by the river and a tangent to the river, is a private property with exclusive use for agriculture
Figure 5: The western side of the buffer zone, seen from the northern slopes (area 6)

Figure 6: The quarry on the northern slopes (area 7)
3. Justification for the buffer zone

The need to create an area with appropriate regulations of land use that isolates the World Heritage property from the development of the nearby village and abusive agricultural practices.

4. Contribution to the maintenance of the OUV

The buffer zone creates a protected area with specific regulations around the World Heritage property. It also includes areas with very high cultural significance that enhances the OUV of the World Heritage property.

5. Implications for legal protection

The World Heritage Property is State property administered by the IHAH: the only changes acceptable are positive changes for investigation, for heritage protection and visitors safety.

The regulations for the buffer zone consider two areas:

1. Two exclusive areas (1 and 2 on the map) where the only changes acceptable are positive changes for investigation, for heritage protection and visitors safety. However, a more flexible approach is acceptable in the northwest part of area 1 where public facilities are located.

2. Six areas of restricted activities (3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 on the map) where only low impact activities (agriculture and pasture) are allowed. Other low impact changes will be allowed if they are to satisfy a social or economic necessity without alternative, in which case a strict heritage impact assessment will be undertaken and its recommendations implemented.

6. Implications for management arrangements

All the land included in the buffer zone belongs either to the state or to a same family. The private land used to belong to the same landowner who agreed that the IHAH would manage directly the area called Sepulturas (area 2) and that there would not be other use than low impact agriculture and pasture on the rest of the land. No written document was signed; that was more than 30 year ago, a time when in rural Copan a handshake meant more than a signed document. In return, the landowner was allowed to cultivate area 5 that belongs to the state. Times have changed. Now the same land has been divided between five heirs who do respect the word given by their father but they wish to reach a formal agreement with the state. The intention of the state is to buy all the land included in the buffer zone over the next few years to secure its proper management. The priority is area 2 and a pathway linking that land with the World Heritage property, so the visitors can easily walk from one area to the other. Discussions are under way with the owner of area 2 who happens to be the mayor of the village and is willing to reach a deal with the IHAH as soon as possible.
The next areas to be acquired will be areas 3 and 4, then 7. Area 6 is a flood area, unsuitable for anything else than pasture, its current use, and area 8 has been reserved exclusively for agriculture in the “Land Use Management” for the whole territory of Copan Ruinas”.

In sum, the management arrangements have been working for more than 30 years, and it should improve with the acquisitions of land by the state over the next few years. The reduction of the buffer zone on the eastern side allows such arrangements.

The Management Plan 2014-2020 of the Maya Site of Copan considers 4 regulation zones:

Zone 0 (World Heritage property) where no changes are allowed except those that would have a positive impact on heritage conservation and visitors safety.

Zone 1 (Buffer zone and Protected Enclaves) where no changes are allowed, except those that are of social or economic necessity for the community without alternatives. In such case, the IHAH will carry a heritage impact assessment and the recommended mitigation strictly implemented. A more flexible approach is allowed for the area where the Visitor Center, the parking and the cafeteria are located.

Zone 2 (Area of Influence, see paragraph 8.2) where any change must be authorized by the IHAH after a heritage impact assessment, with a particular attention to registered archaeological remains and “visual” impacts.

Zone 3 (Rest of the Copan pocket) where any change must also be authorized by the IHAH after a survey with a particular attention to unregistered archaeological remains.

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**7. Map**

Map 2: Buffer zone (see PDF document in A3 size attached)

- Topographic map
- Scale 1: 8000
- Title and legend in English
- The boundaries are marked through a clearly visible red line
- Clearly labeled coordinate grid, and coordinates of 7 points on the map
- Title and legend clearly refer to the boundary of the buffer zone; the boundary of the World Heritage property is clearly distinguished by a different color.
8. Additional information

8.1. Comparison with the buffer zone proposed in the Management Plan 2014-2020

Albeit the buffer zone proposed was not approved by the stakeholders it may be informative to show that the changes do not affect its effectiveness.

Map 1B shows the buffer zone proposed in 2013

Map 1C shows the area that has been curtailed: area filled with a red crosshatch pattern

The curtailed area is now part of another layer of protection called “Area of Influence” (see next paragraph 8.2)

In reference to the note “129bis-ICOMOS 1870” and the recommendations of ICOMOS (2011), the proposed buffer zone was actually a proposition of extension of the Archaeological Park in the Management Plan of 2005 (map 14). The 2011 proposition was slightly more extended than the present one on the eastern side but did not include area 8 south of the river. The present proposition responds to all the recommendation by ICOMOS in 2011; it is also more effective, avoids land speculations and allows the acquisition of land by the state over the next few years.

8.2. Area of Influence

The Management Plan 2014-2020 created an Area of Influence as another layer of protection around the buffer zone, with its own regulations. The main objective of the Area of Influence is the protection of archaeological remains dispersed in the Copan pocket. According to circumstances, changes may be allowed but with limitations and conditions.

Map 1D shows: (1) the world heritage property in red color, (2) the proposed buffer zone in green color, (3) the area curtailed from the 2013 proposed buffer zone, with crosshatch pattern, (4) the Area of Influence in orange color.
MAP 1B

Maya Site of Copan: Proposed Buffer Zone

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Legend
- World Heritage Property
- Sacbe
- Highway
- Roads
- Archaeological Structures
- Modern Park Buildings
- Actual Park Boundary
- Proposed Buffer Zone

Scale 1:15,000
August 2013
Chapter 2

Decision 6: Expresses its appreciation for the progress in the revision in the Management Plan and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, a final version of the Management Plan as soon as it becomes available;

The final version of the Management Plan is expected to be ready for the end of the year 2020 in order to be implemented from the year 2021.

Progress in the revision of the Management Plan:

1. Assessment of the management
   1. Management effectiveness
   2. Critical factors affecting heritage conservation and management
   3. Monitoring
2. Inclusion of the PARALC and the PAMAC issues within the Management Plan
3. Principal issues of the Management Plan
   1. Conservation
   2. Public Use
   3. Local communities
   4. Administration

1. Assessment of the management

1.1. Management effectiveness

The management effectiveness can be summarized in the following 7 points:

1. The Management Plan (2014-2020) is fairly adequate and regularly revised according to the changing circumstances. However, the implementation of the Plan is not what it should be, mostly for lack of adequate human, technical and financial resources;

2. The periodic change of staff (generally to satisfy political clientelism), prevents the development of an efficient process of management. Cultural management is not regarded as a priority, and training is insufficient;

3. Inputs in the management are limited, depending on the income from visitor’s fees. As tourism has been low for the last 10 years, inputs are low;
4. Relations with stakeholders are still deficient, due to difficulties in engaging with local people. There is a need for stakeholder workshops and a need for staff trained to handle such workshops;

5. Outputs in Conservation programs, led by highly qualified experts with their own resources, are quite acceptable: they generally achieve their targets. Not so much in Management programs where there are few indicators to measure outputs and achievements, not even a set of targets;

6. In spite of all the hindrances, the Maya Site of Copan is maintaining its Outstanding Universal Value, its integrity and its authenticity. The goodwill of all staff and the assistance of archaeological projects create a congeniality that overcomes many shortcomings;

7. The key to improvement is capacity building, with training of staff, so the implementation of programs and their monitoring would be more effective.

1.2. The significant factors that are affecting heritage conservation and management

The factors affecting conservation and management proceed from four contexts: (1) Natural Processes, (2) Management capacity, (3) Social environment, and (4) Administration structure:

1.1.1. Natural processes:
Stone erosion, amplified by climate change

1.1.2. Management capacity:
Inadequate capacity and skills
Limited professional and technical exchange
Buffer zone management sometimes deficient
Absence of monitoring and evaluation
Insufficient risk preparedness

1.1.3. Social environment:
Limited interest of local community in their cultural heritage

1.1.4. Administration structure
Ineffective implementation of policies and legislation
Centralization and rigid structures for decision-making
Lack of institutional memory
Insufficient cooperation and communication amongst government agencies; overlap in responsibilities and mandates
Insufficient territorial planning; heritage not integrated in other levels of planning
Partial awareness regarding benefits of heritage conservation and role in poverty alleviation, quality of life and social equity

1.3. Monitoring

While monitoring of the conservation of building and sculptures are fairly adequate, it is the most deficient component of the management process, due to inadequate training, resources and capacity.
Need for an effective monitoring system, coupled with commitment to putting the findings into practice.

2. Inclusion of the PARALC and PAMAC objectives within the Management Plan

The most relevant objectives of the PARALC (Programa de Acción Regional para América Latina y el Caribe) for the Maya Site of Copan are: (1) Education, Communication and Information, (2) Sustainable Tourism and (3) improve the quality of life of the local communities

In April 2018 the IHAH participated in the PAMAC (Programa de Acción para México y América Central) in Zacatecas (México). The Action Plan includes 6 objectives, however only 5 objectives are relevant for the Management Plan:

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<th><strong>Objective 1:</strong> Reinforce the implementation of the World Heritage Convention</th>
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<td><strong>Capacity building:</strong> Better implementation of the Convention through effective national politics and actions of diffusion and capacity building for the protection, conservation and participative management of World Heritage</td>
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<td><strong>Expected result:</strong> Increase of knowledge of the Convention and its application process among the different national actors</td>
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<td><strong>Application at Copan:</strong> see paragraph 3.3. below</td>
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<th>Objective 2: Establishment of a Tentative List</th>
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<td><strong>Application at Copan:</strong> Not relevant for the site management</td>
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| Objective 3: Establish and improve communication and coordination between public institutions, |
**Objective 4**: Develop and implement participative politics and strategies of sustainable tourism with a view to preserve the OUV of the World Heritage properties, and promote them in the national frames of tourism management

**Capacity building**: Effective integration of sustainable tourism politics and strategies based on the preservation of OUV within the mechanisms of World Heritage properties management, and with objectives that contribute to the development of local communities.

**Expected results**: Increase of sustainable tourism practices between the different actors involved in the management of World Heritage properties

**Application at Copan**: see paragraph 3.3. below

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**Objective 5**: Revise and reinforce the legal frame and the technical capacity for the elaboration of Heritage Impact Assessment of projects or initiatives that may affect the OUV of the World Heritage properties.

**Capacity building**: Efficient legal frame and trained professionals to effectively elaborate Heritage Impact Assessments prior to the implementation of projects that may affect the OUV.

**Expected results**: Technical personal identified and trained for the elaboration of Impact Assessments and the implementation of activities to induce the opportune application of the resulting recommendations.

**Application at Copan**: see paragraph 3.4.2. below

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**Objective 6**: Elaborate and implement efficient disaster risk management plan in World Heritage properties and its surroundings.

**Capacity building**: Disaster risk management plans are efficiently implemented in all World Heritage properties.

**Expected results**: Personal trained to elaborate Disaster Risk Management Plans that reflect the contribution of the different authorities and responsible actors of the actions during such events in World Heritage properties

**Application at Copan**: See paragraph 3.4.3. below
3. Principal issues of the Management Plan

The principal issues of the Management Plan are

1. Conservation
   1.1. 3D scanning
   1.2. Preservation of sculptures
      1.2.1. Laboratory
      1.2.2. Shelters
      1.2.3. Collection
   1.3. Training
   1.4. Tunnels

2. Public Use
   2.1. Carrying capacity
   2.2. Visitor management
   2.3. Interpretation

3. Local community
   3.1. Communication
   3.3. Awareness-raising
   3.3. Education
   3.4. Participation of local people / Capacity Building
   3.5. Sustainable development

4. Administration:
   4.1. Capacity building / staff training
   4.2. Law enforcement: HIA
   4.3. Disaster risk preparedness
   4.4. Monitoring

3.1. Conservation

The most important issue is the preservation of sculpture which is an essential attribute of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Maya Site of Copan.

The backbone of this action is the Santander Program for Research and Conservation of Maya Sculpture, a comprehensive program for the conservation of Maya sculpture, funded by Santander Bank of Spain. The Santander Program is directed by Barbara and William Fash (Harvard University) who have been working on the sculpture of Copan for more than 35 years. The associated professionals include experts from IPCE (Instituto de Patrimonio Cultural de España), ICCROM, ICOMOS, INAH-Mexico and UNAM (National University of Mexico).
The main components of the program are: 3D scanning, conservation and training.

3.1.1. 3D scanning of monuments in danger of erosion or loss.

From the start, the attention of the program focused on extremely high-resolution 3D scanning of monuments and artefacts with high significance threatened by erosion or disintegration. Priority was given to the Hieroglyphic Stairway which is now totally scanned and for which both a virtual model and a solid model (at 1:10 scale) have been produced. Most of the modelled plaster sculptures that decorate Early Classic buried architecture uncovered in the Acropolis tunnels have also been scanned. Besides the high-quality documentation provided by the 3D scans, the technique will allow perfect replications of the monuments and artefacts when necessary, at whatever scale is required.

3.1.2. Preservation of sculptures:

3.1.2.1. Sculpture Conservation Laboratory in the Copan Sculpture Museum.

A large room within the Sculpture Museum has been reconditioned into a modern laboratory for the preservation of stone and plaster sculpture. The facility hosted its first Conference and Workshop from August 22-26, 2016 and is now operational. This facility will be also available for laboratory analysis of plaster and stone sculpture samples from monuments of other sites in Honduras and in Guatemala.

In February 2018 an instructional workshop (organized and funded by the Santander Program) and in situ field trials for a novel bacterial biomineralization treatment of stone were conducted with Prof. Carlos Rodriguez-Navarro of the University of Granada. The research team developing the conservation treatment directed by Prof. Rodriguez-Navarro includes Dr. Kerstin Elert and Dr. Encarnación Ruiz-Agudo, at the Dept. of Mineralogy and Petrology of the University of Granada, and Prof. Maria Teresa Gonzalez-Muñoz and Dr. Fadwa Jroundi, at the Dept. of Microbiology of the University of Granada.

3.1.2.2. Protective shelters of sculpture, particularly over the stelae. The flagship of this component is a new protective structure for the Hieroglyphic Stairway, based upon the recommendations of the Getty Conservation Institute report (see Chapter 3)

3.1.2.3. Collection management

The management of the collections is an integral part of the program of conservation. All archives on sculptures - catalogues, registers, drawings and photographic negatives – are being scanned and digitalized to create a databank that can be replicated and stored in different places for safety.
3.1.3. Training

Training of local technicians in sculpture conservation and collection management is an essential component of the program in order to assure its sustainability. This component, called COEDMAC (Conservación, Educación y Desarrollo de Museos Arqueológicos de Copan) includes interchanges of trainees with Guatemala and Mexico.

3.1.4. Conservation plan for tunnels

The conservation of the archaeological tunnels dug into the Acropolis by projects carried out in the 1930s, 1970s, and early 21st century has been a crucial issue for many years. In addition to architectural façades and features (including associated floors), there are numerous modelled stucco decorations that need careful monitoring. The plan initiated high-resolution 3D scanning of the sculptures, followed up by topographic survey with a robotic Total Station to produce 3D models of the entire tunnel system.

As a result of a symposium on the “Conservation of the Tunnels in the Acropolis of Copan” (November 2017), a new comprehensive program coordinated by the IHAH for the conservation of the tunnels is underway. The program combines strategies developed by Harvard University and Kanazawa University. Harvard is working on a backfill strategy – what material to use in the backfill and where to find it, and how to calculate the various risks in leaving each tunnel open so we can pinpoint the areas we should backfill first. Backfill involves delicate reburial too, whenever it needs to be done near a stucco façade. Harvard has developed a reburial technique for preserving the delicate stucco facades that are contained within the tunnels and which can never be shown to the public, due to location and instability. This technique can be employed throughout the tunnel system to protect these monuments, which still retain high relief, polished stucco and their original polychrome painted surfaces.

The program is also developing a cleaning technique for the visitor tunnels, which grow mold and algae at an alarming rate, threatening the respiratory health of visitors and IHAH employees. This would need to be employed twice a year by IHAH.

In the meantime, the program is continuing the documentation and monitoring process, through the Technical Committee for the Conservation of the Copan Tunnels.

3.2. Public use

The IHAH is aware that a balance must be found between the conservation of the property and its use. The strategy is based on the PAMAC Objective 3: Develop and
implement participative politics and strategies of sustainable tourism with a view to preserve the OUV of the World Heritage properties.

3.2.1. Carrying capacity

An analysis conducted by the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Hernandez et al. 2013) calculated the maximum carrying capacity at 1742 visitors at any given time. The current number of visitors does not come close to that maximum except when educational institutions visit the site. The IHAH has now an agreement with the Secretaría de Educación to organize the visits of schools and colleges by way of electronic reservation with a limit of 500 students per day. Such arrangement provides an opportunity to educate young people on Cultural Heritage and especially on World Heritage (see paragraph 3.3.3.)

A new area, north of the World heritage property, has been opened to the public. This area, explored and restored by a Japanese team, allows a wider spread of the visitors and therefore an increase of the carrying capacity.

3.2.2. Visitor management

Visitor management is a means essential for a sustainable tourism program. The annual visitor numbers have been stable over the last five years, ranging between 110,000 and 120,000. As the IHAH seeks an increase in visitor numbers, preparing the control of their flow becomes a necessity. The first step is to analyze the statistics of visitors over the last five years. A book of visitors was started at the end of 2013 which registered the number of people entering the archaeological park, the exact time of their entry, their origin (country or city for nationals), their type of travel (individual, family, association, education institution, travel agency) and the number of nights they spent in the village. These statistics will allow the creation of a pattern of the flow of visitors and their quality over a year. From this model a strategy is being developed to harness the flow of visitors, and thus avoid surpassing the site’s carrying capacity. The model will also serve as a baseline to monitor the increase of tourists.

The IHAH is drawing a policy based on the sustainable tourism program that can be found on the website of UNESCO. The policy promotes broad-based stakeholder engagement in the planning, development and management of tourism in the region, especially through cooperation with the tourist industry (PAMAC Objective 4).
3.2.3. Interpretation

The IHAH is also revising the interpretation program of the site based on the “ICOMOS Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites” and that involves all stakeholders in the region.

The interpretation and presentation of Copan will facilitate the understanding of the significance of the site, its Outstanding Universal Values, and will insist on the preservation of these values. Different trails are being established according to the needs of different types of visitors, with a specific attention to young people.

3.3. Community

The participation of local community is now seen as an essential constituent of site management. The IHAH has improved communication with the local authorities and civil organizations in order to raise awareness leading to a sustainable development of the site.

3.3.1. Communication

Formal relations have been established with the municipality of the village of Copan Ruinas. The agreement includes consultations before any development and joint ventures to develop tourism are pursued. A similar agreement has been established with the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism of Copan, and a covenant has been arranged with the indigenous organizations (CONIMCHH and CONADIMCH) for a genuine collaboration.

Follow-up action: creation of a mechanism of coordination and consultation that will include all stakeholders.

3.3.2. Awareness-raising

Thanks to these promising new relations, progress towards a permanent awareness-raising program is being developed. Both government authorities and local people are becoming legitimate stakeholders in the management of the archaeological park. However, there is still room for improvement through community outreach in order to achieve greater awareness, in particular in the understanding of the Outstanding Universal Value.

With the support of the Japanese embassy the IHAH and the municipality have remodeled an old school into a modern community museum which is a showcase for the benefits that the community may receive from its cultural and natural heritage. It displays interventions that have saved heritage from destruction as well as the history of interaction between the ruins and the community, showing how a proper management of the cultural heritage may lead to prosperity for all.
An example of successful awareness-raising is the “Macaw in liberty” program that released about 50 macaws in the archaeological park and its surroundings. The macaw was a sacred bird for the ancient Mayas. This program included an educational segment to avoid the killing of the birds by the population and to warn the authorities when a bird is seen in danger. Subsequently, these birds are now seen flying all over the valley without harm by locals.

Follow-up action: program of awareness-raising through the local TV channels and local radios.

3.3.3. Education

Awareness-raising must start with young people. To this effect a children’s museum, “Casa Kinich”, has been set up and is run by the Asociacion Copan in an old military compound refurbished by the same Asociacion in agreement with the municipality through financing by the World Bank. A guide for teachers has been published by the Asociacion Copan with a financial backing of the Santander Program. The entrance is free for all children.

Another valuable activity concerns the education program and dissemination of results through community projects. The Rastrojon Educational Program, coordinated by a teacher and member of the indigenous Chorti community under the auspices of the Santander Program, organizes visits and some practices for the local schools with the aim to raise awareness about the importance of cultural heritage.

The IHAH intends to set up an agreement with the Secretaria de Educación to make the visits to the archaeological park by schools and colleges more efficient in terms of education. These visits are indeed a magnificent opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of cultural and natural heritage in the minds of young people, and especially to explain the notion of Outstanding Universal Values of the Maya Site of Copan. The UNESCO kit for children would serve as the basis for this educational project. Also, the input of IARPACUNA (a research institute of UNAH) will be essential to this program.

3.3.4. Participation of local people

Participation of local people in the management of the site is (1) direct by employment in the administration and the research projects, (2) indirect through the municipality, the Chamber of Commerce and the indigenous organization.

3.3.4.1. Direct employment

All people working at the archaeological park and with the research projects are from the villages of Copan Ruinas and Santa Rita and especially from the rural zones. Altogether,
some 100 persons are employed. Beside the regular income provided to the families, all these workers are aware of the importance of cultural heritage and they transmit that awareness to those around them.

About 30 tour guides, all from the village of Copan Ruinas, have been trained by the IHAH. A permanent training program is underway to enhance their collaboration in the visitor management process.

3.3.4.2. Indirect employment

The Municipality and the Chamber of Commerce work in agreement with the IHAH to promote tourism in Copan.

The indigenous organizations:
Facilities for the sales of indigenous handicraft are being provided by the IHAH, and events will be organized to promote the immaterial heritage of Maya culture. As an example, indigenous women have prepared a medicinal plants lexicon with the help of a professional biologist.

3.3.4.3. Participative Management project

A project of participative management with the local community is part of the PAMAC objectives (Objective 3). The main objectives of the project are:

1. To involve the local community in the protection and management of the Site;
2. To understand expectations of local communities (including indigenous people) regarding the development of the Site and secure their engagement to mitigate impacts;
3. To promote dialogue between different stakeholders from national and local institutions and local communities involved in the conservation and management of the Site in order to develop the mechanisms for their inclusion;
4. To develop mechanisms of management based on successful practices related with community participation that guarantees the sustainable conservation of the Site and the protection of the interests of the local communities;
5. To establish some mechanism for periodic communication and interchange with the local communities about projects and regulations in order to involve them in the decision-making process;
6. To set up indicators to monitor activities between institutions and local communities.
3.3.5. Sustainable development

The expected result of the collaboration between the IHAH and the community is sustainable development. The combination of communication, awareness, education and participation will lead towards a sustainable development whereby the community can reach a decent level of prosperity without harm to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Property.

The environmental, economic and social dimensions are regarded as the three “pillars” of sustainable development. The alliance between the IHAH and the Municipality will preserve the significance of the site and its surroundings. The agreement with the Chamber of Commerce will promote an economic development without harming the cultural and natural values of the World Heritage property and the buffer zone. The covenant with the indigenous organizations will promote social equity and the preservation of the rural area.

A project of sustainable development is part of the PAMAC objective (Objective 4). The Project involves four groups of protagonists: (1) the authorities, (2) the local communities, (3) the private operators, (4) the visitors. The objectives are:

1. Capacity building of national and local authorities to promote sustainable tourism through adequate regulations that preserve the Outstanding Universal value of the Maya Site of Copan and respond to the expectations of local communities regarding their participation and benefits;
2. Capacity building of the communities for their inclusion in sustainable tourism and stimulate quality products and services;
3. Encourage strategic alliances with private operators that promote best practices of sustainable tourism through quality products and services that consider the preservation of the OUV of the site and the participation of local communities;
4. Explain to the visitors the transcendence of the OUV of the Site so they behave responsibly and recommend products and services of the local communities that follow the principles of sustainable tourism;
5. Create mechanisms to arrange periodic interchanges between authorities, local communities and the private sector to make sure the principles of sustainable tourism are respected and to organize the equitable repartition of benefits.

The expected results of the project:
1. Commitment of all stakeholders to promote sustainable tourism for the protection of the OUV of the Maya Site of Copan, the participation of all stakeholders in tourism projects and the equitable repartition of benefits;
2. Improvement of communications between authorities, local communities and private operators;
3. Understanding of the expectations of local communities about their participation in the sustainable tourism programs and their benefits;
4. Inclusion of local communities in sustainable tourism development;
5. Alliances organized between participants: authorities, local communities and private sector;
6. Mechanisms of cooperation for the participative planning and management of sustainable tourism project, involving local communities;
7. Progress indicators to measure participation of communities in sustainable tourism and the growth of their benefits.

3.4. Administration

3.4. 1. Capacity building / staff training

The management of the Copan Archaeological Park needs human resources with various levels of qualification: professional archaeologists, qualified technicians in fields such as site management, conservation, restoration, museum exhibition, collections and archives management, topography and mapping, maintenance of natural environment, and also workers properly trained to bring support to the archaeologists and the qualified technicians. All the staff of the IHAH in Copan is from the two villages of Copan Ruinas and Santa Rita, close to the Copan Archaeological Park

All archaeological projects are an opportunity to train local people for the benefits of the site and the community. The research contract includes a clause that requires employing local people and providing the proper training.

The Santander Program is training highly qualified technicians in the preservation of sculptures, artifact restoration and the management of collections and archives. They are all from the village of Copan Ruinas.

A program of the National University called IARPACUNA (Instituto de Arqueoastronomia, Patrimonio Cultural y Natural) is training local people in Geographic Information Systems
and Virtual Reality with a view to enhancing the management of cultural and natural resources.

The employees with simple tasks of maintenance are regularly trained to understand the importance of their daily routine in the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the site.

While the human resource in conservation is becoming adequate to the task, there is a deficiency in qualified professional cultural heritage managers. Capacity building for managers is thus a high priority of the IHAH. A syllabus has been prepared that includes planning, implementation and monitoring as the basic topics but also include others such as Impact evaluation, community outreach and youth education for two years, the IHAH has not been able to set up the training program because of a lack of funding. It is hoped to start the program next year (2019) with the backing of the University of San Pedro Sula.

3.4.2. Law enforcement

Enforcement of the law for the protection of cultural heritage has considerably improved over the last two years, thanks to more efficient cooperation with the local authorities and more awareness of the civil society.

The IHAH is defining a set of rules to be followed before any change in the cultural landscape is made. These rules, based on the UNESCO-ICOMOS document of 2011 ICOMOS 2011), drawn in agreement with the judicial authorities, will be enshrined as the legal process for the Heritage impact assessment preceding a potential development.

In accordance with the PAMAC recommendations (Objective 4), Heritage Impact Evaluations are being enforced to preserve the Outstanding Universal value of the Maya Site of Copan. This issue was already addressed by the Management Plan of 2014-2020: Annex 4 of that plan, based on “Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties” (ICOMOS/UNESCO 2011) explains the steps to be followed in such assessments.

3.4.3. Disaster risk preparedness

A Disaster Risk Management plan is being drawn by the IHAH in conjunction with the Municipality and the Fire Brigade of the village of Copan Ruinas.

A draft of a plan has been drawn up, based on the UNESCO manual “Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage” and the PAMAC document (Objective 5 above). The plan
identifies 5 risks: (1) fire, (2) storm/ flooding, (3) earthquake, (4) Climate change, (5) armed conflict, and considers three phases: (1) preparation before the disaster, (2) response during the disaster, (3) recuperation after the disaster.

Awareness-raising, training and swift reactions are the keys to mitigating disaster impact. A workshop with the fire brigade and the municipality is in preparation. Its priority is to raise awareness and understanding among stakeholders of disaster risk management, then to build capacity to prepare and respond efficiently to disaster and build a capacity to recuperate the outstanding values of the World Heritage property after the disaster.

The Risk Preparation project based on the PAMAC Objective 6 is being developed along the following points:

1. Identification of natural and anthropical factors that constitute a threat for the Maya Site of Copan, and assessment of the levels of risks: primary (with immediate effects), secondary (with slow and progressive effects), probability to succeed (High, medium, low) and gravity of consequences;
2. Record of the attributes of the OUV of the Site that are vulnerable to each one of the identified threats with potential impact on the value of the sit: vulnerability map (GIS);
3. Organization of a program of preparation and procedures to respond to each one of the risks: prevention before, mitigation during and recuperation after the disaster;
4. Training and capacity building of a “Risks Team” that includes a coordinator, site employees, the fire brigade, health services, municipality, police, COPECO (Honduran national agency for contingencies), and volunteers from the community;

The expected results:

1. The Maya Site of Copan has a Risk Preparation Plan that gives clear, flexible and practical instructions to be followed in case of emergency;
2. The Plan defines the steps to be followed by the authorities with the adequate measures to be applied before and during the disaster;
3. The procedure of the of the recuperation phase after the disaster is clearly defines to mitigate any impact to the OUV of the Maya Site of Copan
4. A team has been organized and trained to handle the Risk management plan, that includes experts in disasters, authorities, site employees and volunteers from the community;
5. Periodic rehearsals are performed to test and improve the emergency plan and the mechanisms of cooperation between the members of the risk team.
6. The Risk Management Plan has been socialized and incorporated within the Management Plan of the Maya Site of Copan and within the Regional System of Contingencies.

3.4.4. Monitoring program

The deficiency in trained managers has led to a deficiency in the implementation of management plans and obviously in the monitoring of implementation. In fact, while monitoring of the conservation program is properly monitored with adequate indicators, it is the most deficient component of the management process, due to inadequate training, resources and capacity. The general management is not using indicators to measure the efficiency of its activity.

Improvement of the monitoring process requires training, more commitment from the highest management levels, and more engagement of all the stakeholders, including the political decision makers. A long time will be needed to create an efficient team of managers at all levels, so an assessment system can be developed as a standard part of everyday management. Then a permanent monitoring program will be developed, starting with a baseline and defining simple indicators that the managers will be able to handle. After proper training these indicators will be refined and put into practice:

Follow-up action: An annual agenda will be established to control the progress of implementation and monitoring.

Conclusion of Chapter 2

The IHAH is aware of the problems to be solved but knows how to tackle them. The problems are in management, not in conservation. The key to solve them is in capacity building in order to assure consensus building as well as a proper implementation and monitoring. A comprehensive program of capacity building is scheduled to start in February 2019.

The final version of the Management Plan is expected to be ready for the end of the year 2020 in order to be implemented from the year 2021.
Chapter 3

Decision 7: Also requests the State Party to keep it informed of further developments in the design and testing results of the protective structure of the Hieroglyphic Stairway.

The protective structure of the Hieroglyphic Stairway

Figure 7: The Hieroglyphic Stairway without shelter

The project of protective structure of the Hieroglyphic Stairway is a component of the Santander Program (see Chapter 2).

Maintenance and upkeep of the stairway inscription and sculptures continues to be under the supervision of IHAH. A condition report for the inscription and sculptures is scheduled for 2019 to be carried out by members of the Harvard University Santander Program’s local project—Conservación, Educación, y Desarrollo de Museos de Copan/COEDMAC—using on-site resources of the Laboratorio de Conservación de Escultura de Copan/LACEM.
History

Discovered in 1895 by Alfred Percival Maudslay, the Hieroglyphic Stairway was cleared by the Peabody Museum in 1893 and the lower section excavated. The reconstruction by the Carnegie Institution, started in 1937, was completed in 1942. Already in 1946, some deterioration was noticed, and when Copan was declared a World Heritage site in 1980 with the Hieroglyphic Stairway as the most significant feature of its Outstanding Universal Value, such deterioration became the most important issue of conservation.

In 1983, a meeting of experts on stone deterioration recommended sheltering tests among other proposals. A large canvas tarpaulin sustained by three main cables was then installed over the Stairway before the 1985 rainy season. As part of its maintenance the cover was replaced regularly every three years, each time with some improvements based on accumulated experience.

Figure 8: The tarpaulin over the Hieroglyphic Stairway

In 1999 the Getty Conservation Institute undertook a three-year project to analyze conditions of the Stairway and to determine the actions to be taken for its conservation. The study recognized that the protective shelter had provided for stability of the stairway blocks, keeping the stone surfaces dry, reducing the daily environment variations, and drastically limiting microbiological growth. However, it was noted that heat was trapped at the top of the monument by the current design, and that aesthetically it would be preferable to create a shelter where the monument was visible beyond the shelter.
Among other proposals, the final report recommended to continue the use of a protective shelter, either a modified version of the current system with some improvements, or a new, permanent shelter. Four design concepts for a new protective shelter were proposed by architect Gionata Rizzi who has broad experience on shelters for monuments and sites around the world. Experts favored the so-called “Cascading Sails” design for its simplicity and its apparent efficiency.

The Cascading Sails design

A modified and updated 1:5 scale prototype of the design recommended in the Getty Conservation Institute report by the original architect, Gionata Rizzi, was installed in 2011. The place was selected to recreate similar conditions as those of the Hieroglyphic Stairway: facing west, close to the river, and surrounded by trees. The prototype used three different materials (acrylic, fiberglass and polyvinyl) of different thickness and colors. The model demonstrates how the new shelter will make repairs less cumbersome, be longer-lasting, allow for better air flow, and improve environmental conditions, which will benefit the sculpture and the site’s visitors. Seven years of observation and
environmental research have concluded the concept will work efficiently for preservation of the ancient monument. The design concept was sent to engineers to take to the next level of tensile structural development in 2016. A meeting will be held in 2019 to discuss their specification options and approve a set of renderings for fundraising efforts.

Follow up action: The next step will be to proceed with a schedule for construction and estimated installation dependent on funding.
Chapter 4

Decision 7: Also requests the State Party to keep it informed of ............ any other development projects that may have an impact on the property;

Reconditioning of Road CA11

The road CA11, from La Entrada to the Guatemalan border, is being reconditioned, including the segment that goes across the Buffer zone. The reconditioning consists of a new layer of cement on top of the old asphalt surface. This had obviously no impact on the cultural heritage of the Maya Site of Copan. However, it was necessary, for road security reasons, to enlarge the road in two places: (1) the side of the road opposite to the entry to the Archaeological Park (less than 2 meters, figure 10) and (2) the inner side of a turn at the western edge of the Buffer zone (3 meters, figure 11).

Map showing the two places (1 and 2) where the road has been widened

Both places were inspected by a technician of the IHAH through visual examination and test pits. A small structure located near the road was rescued but has not been impacted
by the machinery. A stela located near the road was duly protected from the vibrations of machinery (figure 12).

The negative impact on cultural heritage has been insignificant, and the Outstanding Universal Value of the Maya Site of Copan has remained intact, as well as the integrity and authenticity of the cultural heritage. On another hand, the reconditioning of the road provides an important improvement of security for vehicles and pedestrians.

Figure 10: side of the road opposite to the entrance of the Archaeological Park

Figure 11: Enlarged Inner side of the turn on the western edge of the buffer zone
Figure 12: Protection of Stela from vibrations
Conclusion

The Buffer zone complies with the norms of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (paragraph 104): effective protection of the World Heritage Property and inclusion of areas that are functionally important as a support to the property and its protection.

The reconditioning of the road across the buffer zone has not affected the effectiveness of that zone and has not affected the Outstanding Universal Value of the Maya Site of Copan.

The Conservation Programs are on target, efficiently implemented and monitored. The Laboratory of Preservation of Sculptures and Plaster is now fully operational and fulfills its objectives. The last details for the protective structure of the Hieroglyphic Stairway will be defined during a meeting of experts scheduled in mid-2019. The conservation of the red of tunnels in the Acropolis is being tackled by a Steering Committee coordinating inputs of the IHAH, Harvard University and Kanazawa University.

While Conservation is adequate, the Management of the site still has deficiencies is the Implementation of the Plan and the monitoring. The main reason is a lack of trained personal. A capacity building program will start in 2019, starting with a course on Management of Cultural Heritage. The course will also focus on consensus building to promote the participation of the local community.

Despite all the hindrances, the Maya Site of Copan is maintaining its Outstanding Universal Value, its integrity and its authenticity.

A new Management Plan will be presented at the end of 2020, integrating the objectives of the PARALC (Programa de Accion Regional para America Latina y el Caribe) and the PAMAC (Programa de Accion para Mexico y America Central).
References

UNESCO – WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE
Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World heritage Convention

UNESCO – ICCROM – ICOMOS
2013 Managing Cultural World Heritage
2010 Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage

ICOMOS
Chapter 4 Addendum

Conservation issues

1. River dredging near the Archaeological Park

The river was dredged over 200 meters south of the Archaeological Park downstream between points B and C of the Buffer Zone (see map 4A-1). The dredging, operated with a backhoe to recover sand and gravel for use in the reconditioning of road CA11, lasted only for three weeks as the material removed did not meet the required quality.

The IHAH authorized the operation under strict conditions, asking especially that all material recovered had to be accumulated on the riverside for inspection by technicians assigned by IHAH before its removal. A few large stones from collapsed buildings were effectively recovered. There has been no impact whatsoever on the significance of the Maya Site of Copan.

2. Construction of a building near Sepulturas

The IHAH allowed the construction a building at about 100 meters from the eastern limit of the area of Sepulturas (map 4A-2), outside the buffer zone. The construction was actually part of a larger project financed by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, and meant to house facilities for the Archaeological Project of Kanazawa University (laboratories and conference rooms). The counterpart of Honduras was to provide the land.

All the area was surveyed and tested by a Japanese team before the construction. No archaeological vestiges were found, and the IHAH allowed proceeding with the project. It has been suggested that the IHAH reduced the Buffer Zone in order to allow the construction of the building; that is not correct. The Buffer Zone was revised for the reasons expressed in chapter 1 of this report, including the absence of significant archaeological features east of Sepulturas, and the impact assessment before the construction confirmed such absence of archaeological vestiges. The land was bought at a bargain price and its proximity to Sepulturas allows the IHAH to combine security for both the archaeological area and the building. There has been however a failure on the part of the IHAH not to socialize the project with the local community, leading to misunderstandings.

3. Looting

Looting archaeological structures dispersed in the valley has been a recurrent problem for years. Law enforcement in such a large area is not an easy task, especially with the limited resources of the IHAH. Such looting however is not widely spread and does not affect structures of cultural significance. There is no evidence of an organized “treasure hunting” scheme. The Buffer Zone is not affected. In the Area of Influence (see Chapter 1), an incidental looting may happen during some house construction in the village or road repair in the rural area, but it is very limited. The IHAH is constantly trying to get the cooperation of established authorities to curb such incidents.
4. Some explanations

Chapter 2 of this State of Conservation mentions the lack of trained administrators for the Maya Site of Copan. The situation got worse between January and September 2018 as no Site Manager had been appointed because the Finance Ministry failed to transfer the budget earmarked for his salary. The result is that decisions were taken to satisfy political pressure without consulting the stakeholders and that originated misunderstandings between the IHAH and the local community. Since September the Site Manager has been reinstated and protocols for decisions are being observed.

A comprehensive training for those who are involved in the administration of the site will start in the first week of March this year.

Attached:

Map 4A-1: Stretch of the river that was dredged

Map 4A-2: Location of the Kanazawa University Building