
Churches of Chiloé (Chile) No 971bis

1 Basic data

State Party
Chile

Name of property
Churches of Chiloé

Location
Municipalities of Castro, Chonchi, Dalcahue, Puqueldón,
Quemchi, and Quinchao
Chiloé Province
X Región de los Lagos

Inscription
2000

Brief description

The Churches of Chiloé represent a unique example in Latin America of an outstanding form of ecclesiastical wooden architecture. They represent a tradition initiated by the Jesuit Peripatetic Mission in the 17th and 18th centuries, continued and enriched by the Franciscans during the 19th century and still prevailing today. These churches embody the intangible richness of the Chiloé Archipelago, and bear witness to a successful fusion of indigenous and European culture, the full integration of its architecture in the landscape and environment, as well as to the spiritual values of the communities.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report
13 March 2019

2 Issues raised

Background

At the meeting of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee in June 2000, the nomination was referred back to the State Party, requesting the definition of buffer zones around each of the churches and the definition of standards of control over development within these zones. After provision of maps including buffer zones for each of the components, the serial property was inscribed in December 2000 on the basis of criteria (ii) and (iii), by Decision CONF 204 X.C.1. Those original buffer zones consisted, in some cases, in narrow areas that did not completely surrounded the component parts areas.

After the construction of a shopping mall in the town of Castro, where one of the components of the serial property is located, by Decision 37 COM 7B.94 (2013), the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre – ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to address, among other elements, the definition of the characteristics of the wider settings for all component parts, in relation to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and put in place appropriate protection, including the review of the buffer zones and regulatory measures for the protection of the setting of the Churches of Chiloé. The reactive monitoring mission was carried out on 3-6 December 2013; among the recommendations, the mission requested to submit a Minor Boundary Modification for the property, in line with the procedures and requirements set up on the Operational Guidelines, to establish a final proposal for the buffer zones and wider setting for each of the components of the serial property. The documentation should include precise boundaries delimited in maps with the definition of the characteristics of each zone, as well as the related regulatory measures to ensure proper protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property; and protect the surrounding areas, including the immediate zones with vernacular architecture, the buffer zones and the wider setting composed by the natural landscape.

By Decision 38 COM 7B.40 (2014), the World Heritage Committee endorsed the Mission report recommendations, and urged the State Party to finalize the legal definition of buffer zones and visually sensitive areas around each component and establish the appropriate legislative measures to ensure the overall protection of the property. This recommendation was reiterated in 2015 by Decision 39 COM 7B.89 and in 2017 by Decision 41 COM 7B.59.

From 2013 onwards, the State Party has worked on a comprehensive plan for the protection of the surroundings of the churches as a Typical Zones, in the framework of Law 17,288 on Historic Monuments. Preliminary Protection Areas (APP) were defined, as a first step for adequate protection. A participatory process, which included local communities associated to the churches, was implemented to carry out this task. In 2016 and 2018, ICOMOS elaborated technical reviews on the proposed preliminary protection areas.

Modification

In January 2019, the Decrees of protection of the extended buffer zones as Typical Zones were approved for 10 components out of 16, while the others are in the process of approval. The present request for minor boundary modification is addressed to those 10 components for which the protection is in place; these are the churches in Chelín, Chonchi, Colo, Detif, Ichuac, Nercón, Quinchao, San Juan, Tenaún and Vilupulli. During 2019, the State Party will begin the official formalization work of the new Decrees and legal plans,

with the current work standards and the corrected surfaces.

The designation of Typical Zone is intended to protect the environmental and specific character of areas where archaeological sites or buildings designated Historic Monuments are located. The Council of National Monuments must analyse and supervises any intervention within the boundaries of a Typical Zone in accordance with the protected values and attributes. The Council must ensure that each zone has Intervention Guidelines, which are defined as the technical documents that guide the conservation of those zones, in order to guarantee their protection and maintenance over time, according to the Regulation on Typical or Picturesque Zones, which promotes the adequacy of the Communal Regulatory Plans with the Rules of Intervention, in order to harmonize both instruments according to the characteristics of heritage protection.

The criteria for the extension of the buffer zones have been the consideration of environmental cultural landscape units, including coastal edge, hills, mounds, vegetation, natural or anthropic boundaries (streams, gorges, fences, roads); the components of each church (atrium, cemetery, grottos, parish houses, paths, fences); the coastal edge and its elements (docks, ramps, pier, beach); important visual cones for the perception of the church, specifically its tower, from the sea and from the access roads to each locality; the archipelago's architectural and urban characteristic typologies; adequate distance for the perception of the properties' attributes regarding the insertion of the church in the landscape; preservation of the historical urban pattern, as an historical vestige of the settlement; and communal agreement regarding the regulation decisions. In addition, intangible cultural heritage aspects have also been considered, such as religious activities related to the use of the surroundings of the churches by the communities.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed buffer zones can be considered adequate for the following components: Chelín, Colo, Detif, Ichuac, Nercón and Vilupulli; the extended buffer zones are in coincidence with the designation of Typical Zones and respond to previous recommendations on the protection of the surroundings of the churches. In some cases, the designation of Typical Zones coincides with the previous Preliminary Protection Area or have even been extended. For the other components, some observations can be expressed.

In Chonchi, the proposed buffer zone includes a large section of Centenario Street, which represents a particular typology of the Chilote urbanism and where, in addition to the church, there are high-value constructions for the area. It also includes an area of 80 meters, from the sea to the coastal edge, incorporating the dock of the town. It is recommendable, however, that the buffer zone includes the area behind the church, where the

topography and vegetation are important as part of the church's setting, as proposed in the Preliminary Protection Area.

In Quinchao, although the proposed minor boundary modification includes part of the surrounding landscape, coastal and sea areas, it is recommended that the buffer zone be enlarged behind the church to include, within the boundaries of the protected zone, the topography and the existing vegetation, as proposed in the Preliminary Protection Area.

In the case of San Juan, the proposed buffer zone includes the esplanade of the church, its associated cemetery and a large sector with housing; it also includes the San Juan estuary area that faces the church and the northeast side of the most immediate hill, in order to protect the views towards the church and the environmental value of the place. It is recommended, however, that the buffer zone includes a larger area of the surrounding landscape, with its topography and vegetation, as proposed in the Preliminary Protection Area.

In Tenaún, the proposed buffer zone includes a section of the main road of the town, with its median strip and its linearly arranged constructions running parallel to the coastal edge; it also includes a sea area 80 meters deep from the highest tide line. It is recommended, however, that the buffer zone includes part of the surrounding landscape, with its topography and vegetation, as proposed in the Preliminary Protection Area.

In the cases of Chonchi, Quinchao, San Juan and Tenaún, the State Party has declared, in the documentation received, that further extensions of the proposed buffer zones will be done at a later stage of the minor boundary modification process, in a work closely connected with the community associated with the churches.

In addition to the proposed buffer zones, the State Party provided a chart rectifying the administrative errors that occurred when inscribing the property, in relation to the extent of the component parts areas. For the component parts of Rilán and Nercón Churches, the areas of respectively 0.64 ha and 0.7 ha were inversely written in the UNESCO website's chart. As regards the Churches of Aldachildo, Detif, Colo, San Juan and Dalcahue, the extent of the "cemeteries" and "ecclesiastic site" were not correctly reported on the registration file.

ICOMOS acknowledges the amendments made by the State Party as regards the extent of the mentioned component parts. However, ICOMOS notes that the table indicating the correct extents still needs to be completed for Churches of Achao, of Castro, of Rilán, of Adalchildo and of Dalcahue, and that it would be necessary to provide the final extent area for each component parts in hectares.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundaries of the buffer zones for the components Chelín, Colo, Detif, Ichuac, Nercón and Villipulli of the serial property Churches of Chiloé, Chile, be **approved**.

ICOMOS recommends that the examination of the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the buffer zone of the component Chonchi of the serial property Churches of Chiloé, Chile, be **referred back** to the State Party in order to allow it to:

- Extend the proposed buffer zone to include the area behind the church, where the topography and vegetation are important as part of the church's setting;

ICOMOS recommends that the examination of the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the buffer zone of the component Quinchao of the serial property Churches of Chiloé, Chile, be **referred back** to the State Party in order to allow it to:

- Extend the proposed buffer zone to include the area behind the church to include, within the boundaries of the protected zone, the topography and the existing vegetation;

ICOMOS recommends that the examination of the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the buffer zone of the component San Juan of the serial property Churches of Chiloé, Chile, be **referred back** to the State Party in order to allow it to:

- Extend the proposed buffer zone to include a larger area of the surrounding landscape, with its topography and vegetation, as proposed in the Preliminary Protection Area;

ICOMOS recommends that the examination of the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the buffer zone of the component Tenaún of the serial property Churches of Chiloé, Chile, be **referred back** to the State Party in order to allow it to:

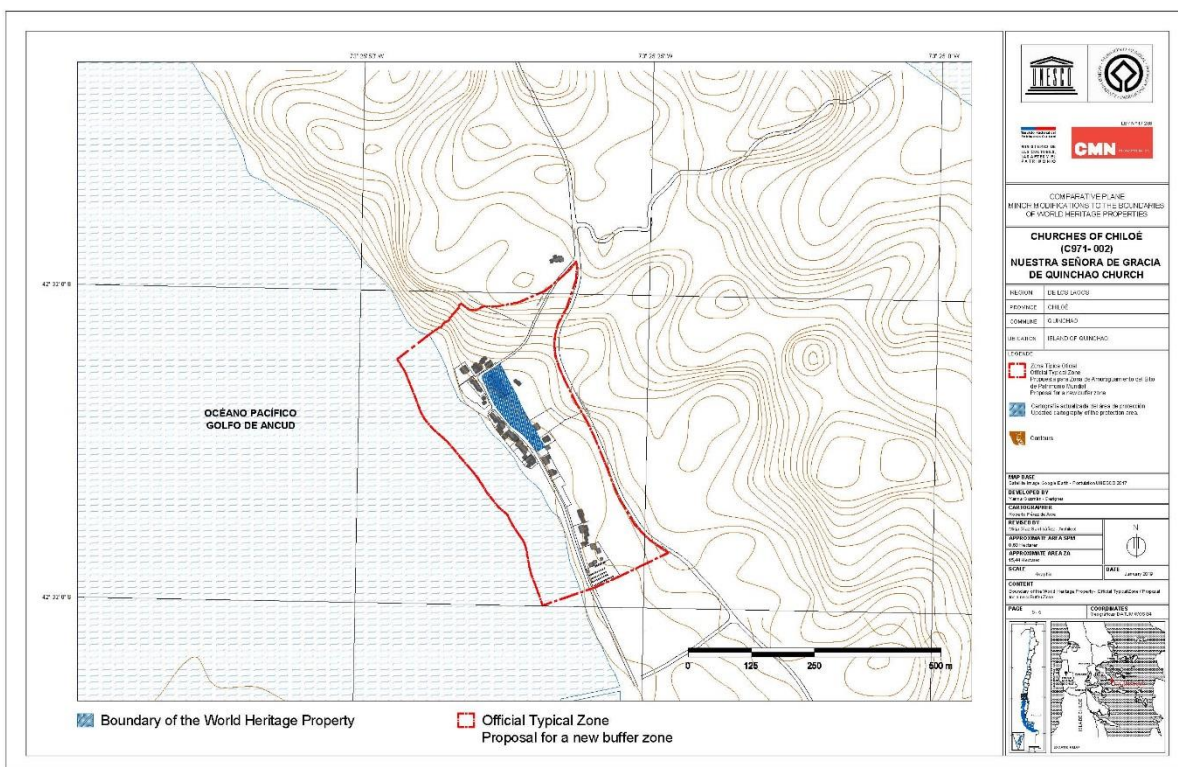
- Extend the proposed buffer zone to include a larger part of the surrounding landscape, with its topography and vegetation;

Additional recommendations

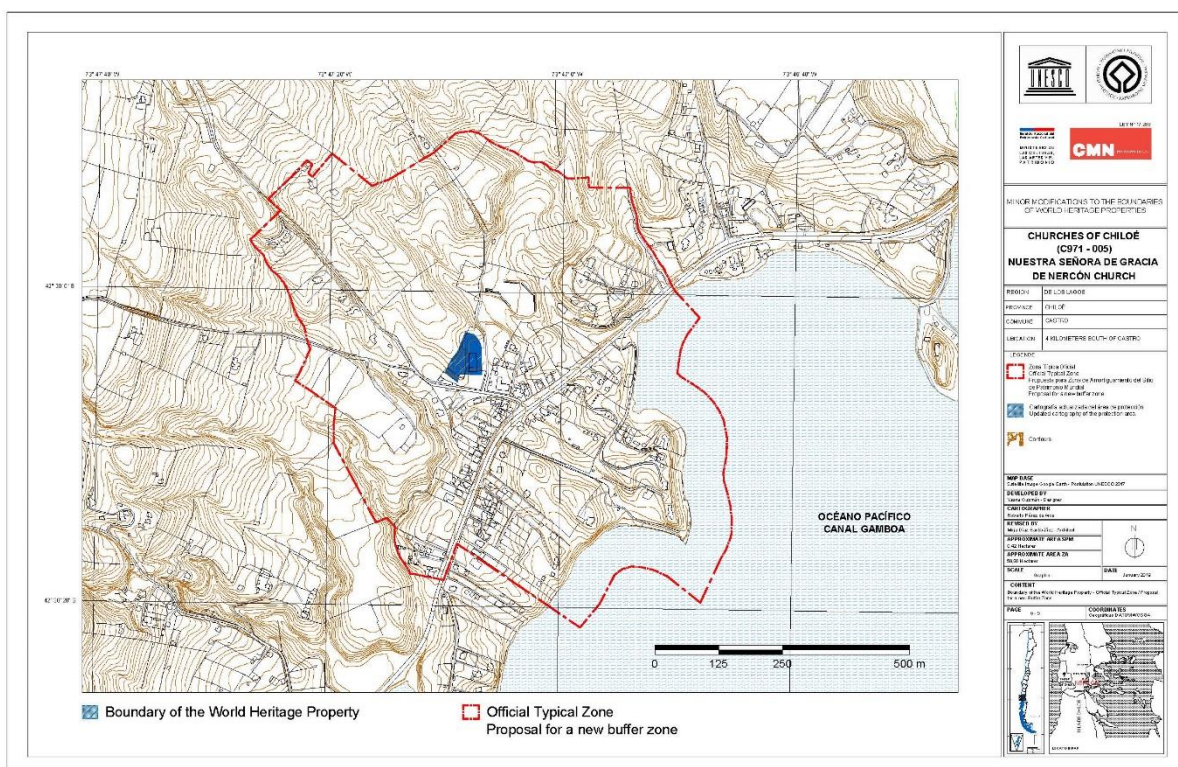
ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) Completing the table showing clearly the exact extent of each component part of the property in hectares,

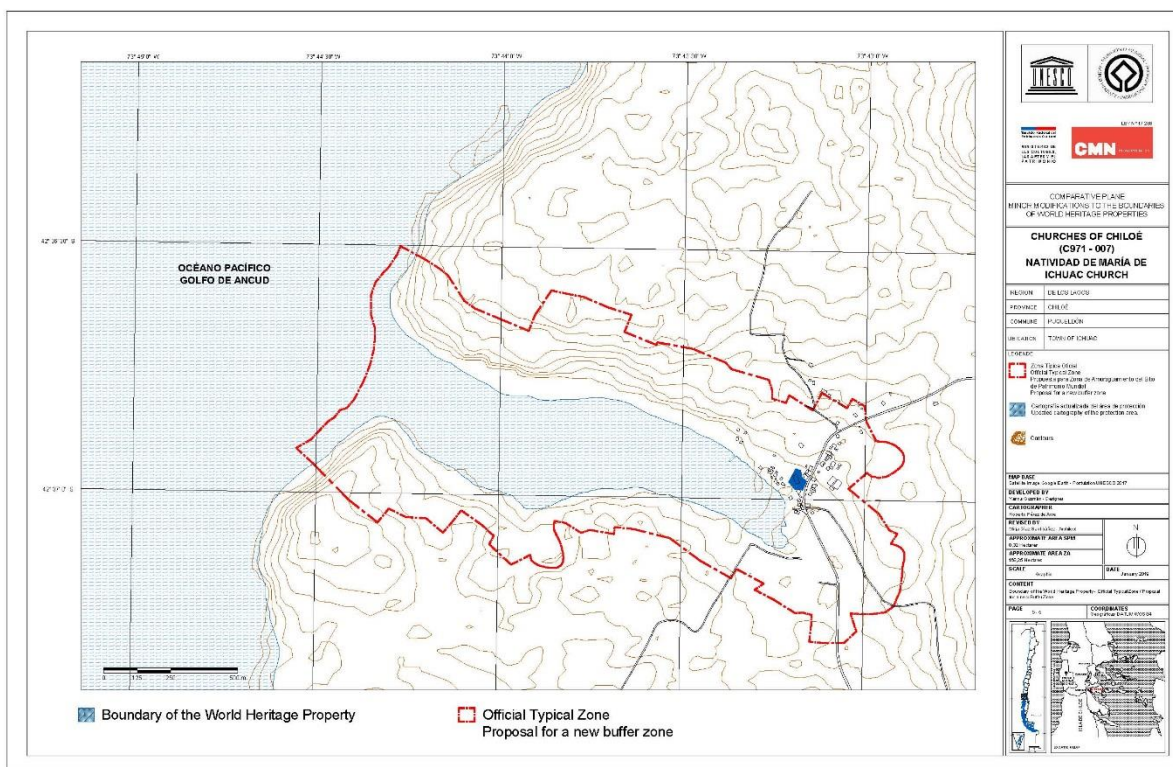
- b) Finalizing the identification of buffer zones around the remaining churches of Castro and Caguach and conclude the process for the churches of Achao, Rilán, Aldachildo and Dalcahue,
- c) Providing the Intervention Guidelines for all Typical Zones of the property,
- d) Urgently establishing a Management Plan for the property, the proposed Buffer Zones and the wider setting;



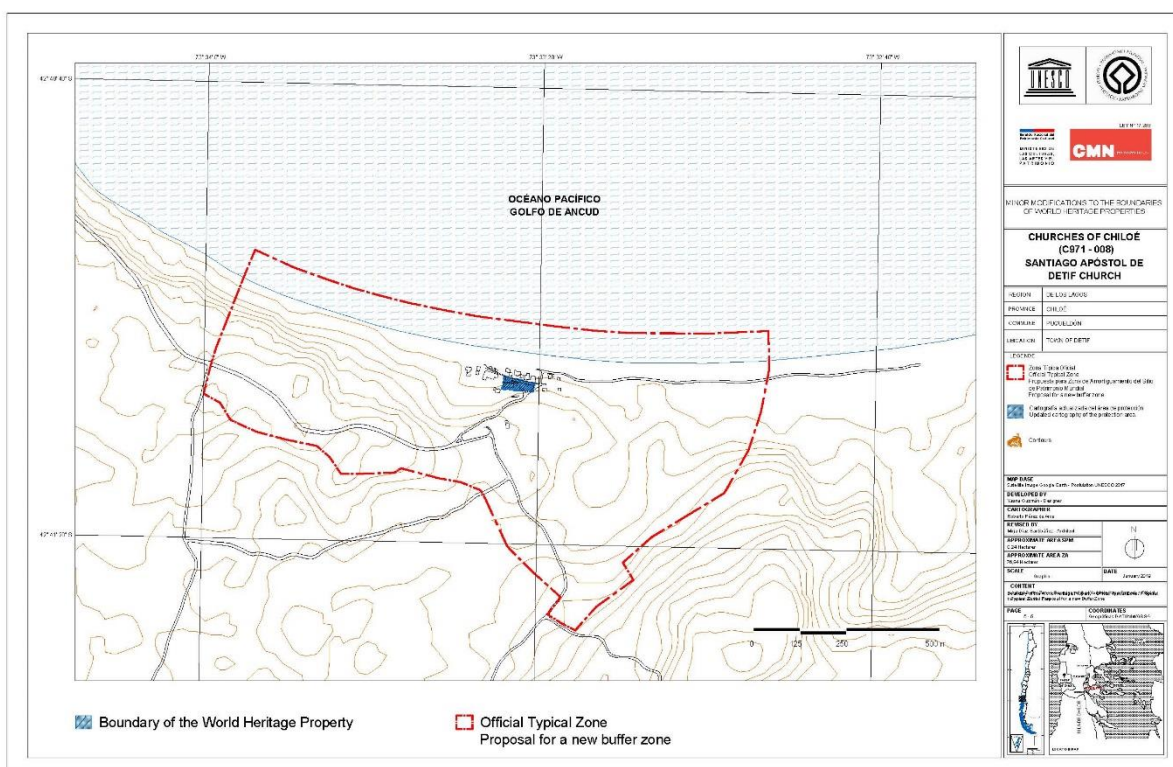
Map showing the proposed buffer zone of the component 002, Nuestra Señora de Gracia de Quinchao church



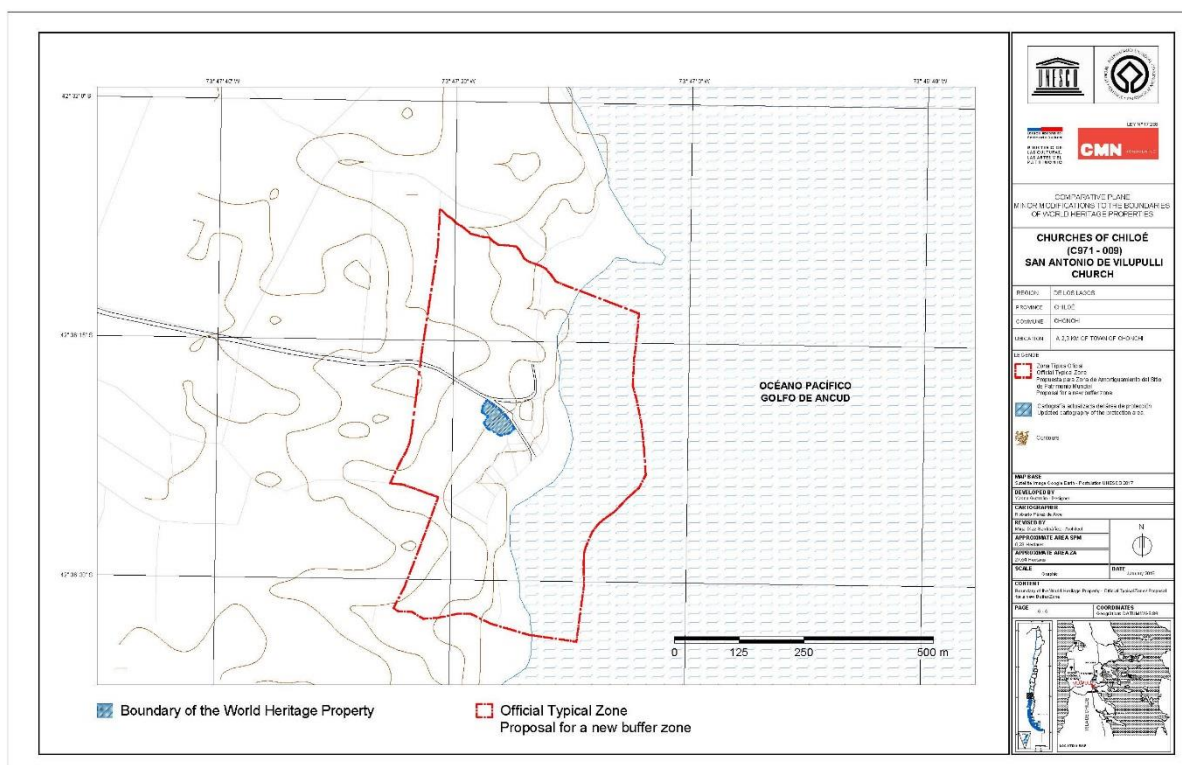
Map showing the proposed buffer zone of the component 005, Nuestra Señora de Gracia de Nercón church



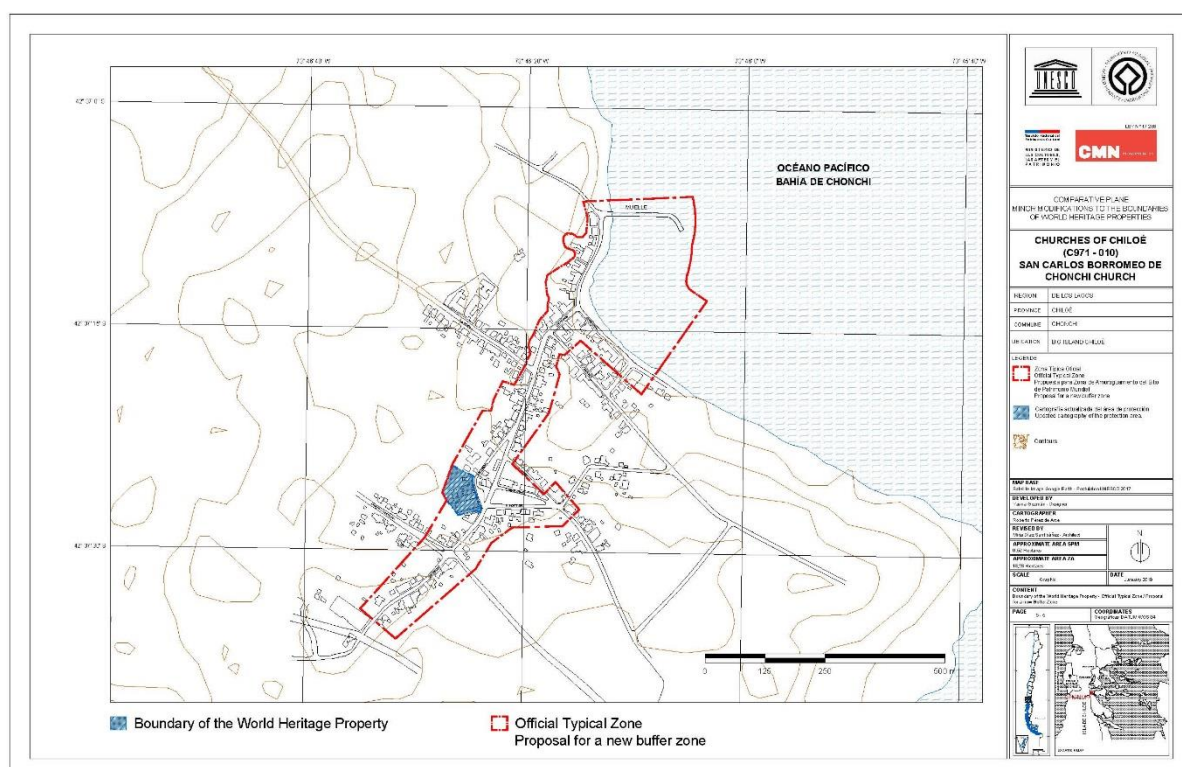
Map showing the proposed buffer zone of the component 007, Natividad de María de Ichuac church



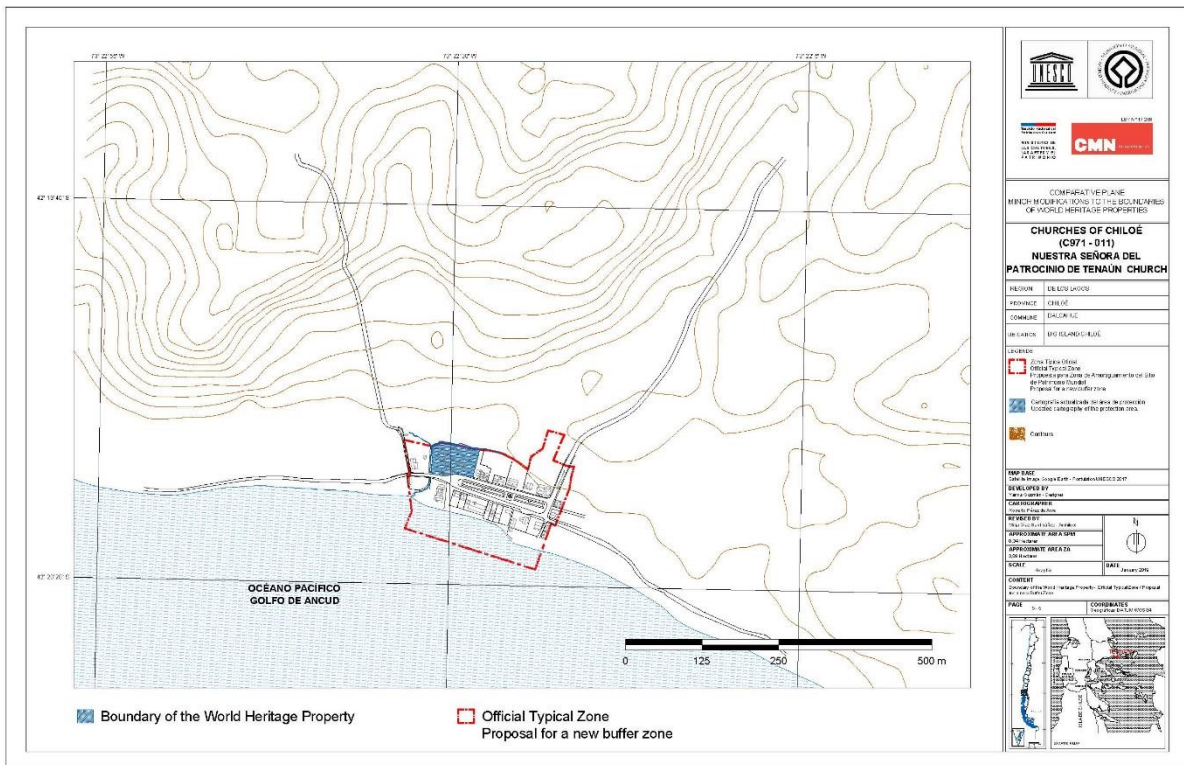
Map showing the proposed buffer zone of the component 008, Santiago Apóstol de Detif church



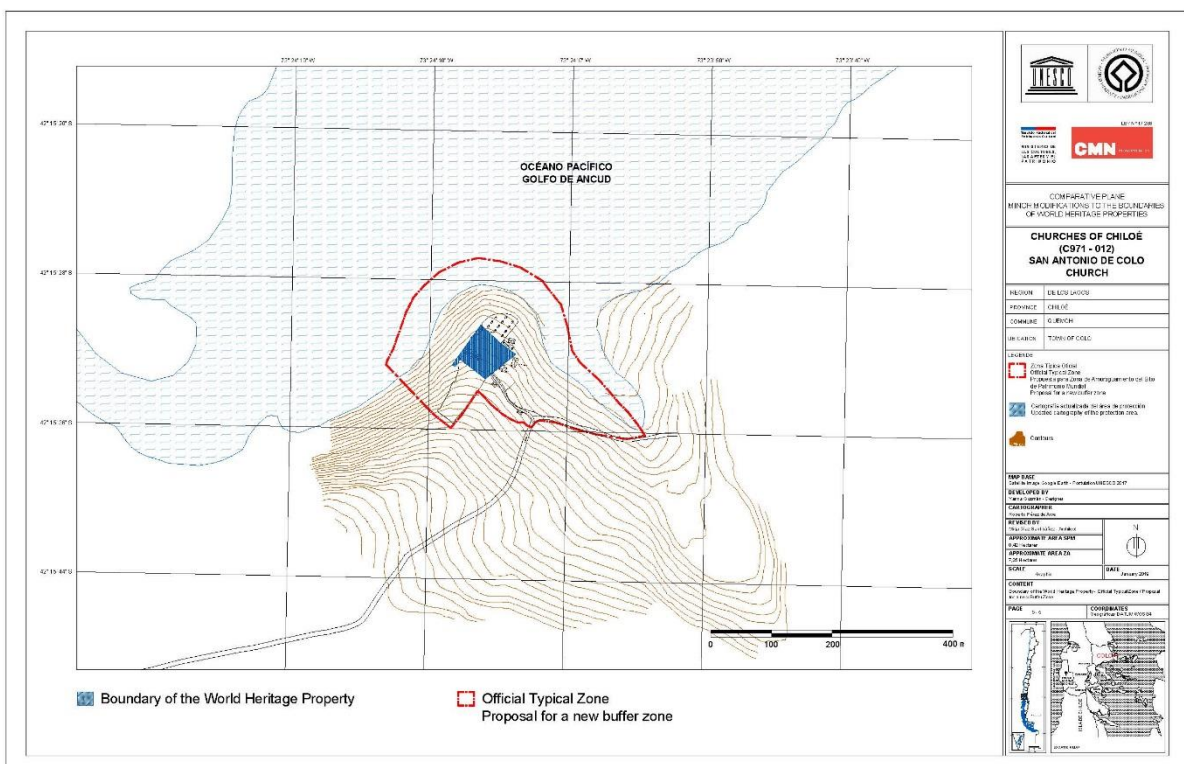
Map showing the proposed buffer zone of the component 009, San Antonio de Vilupulli church



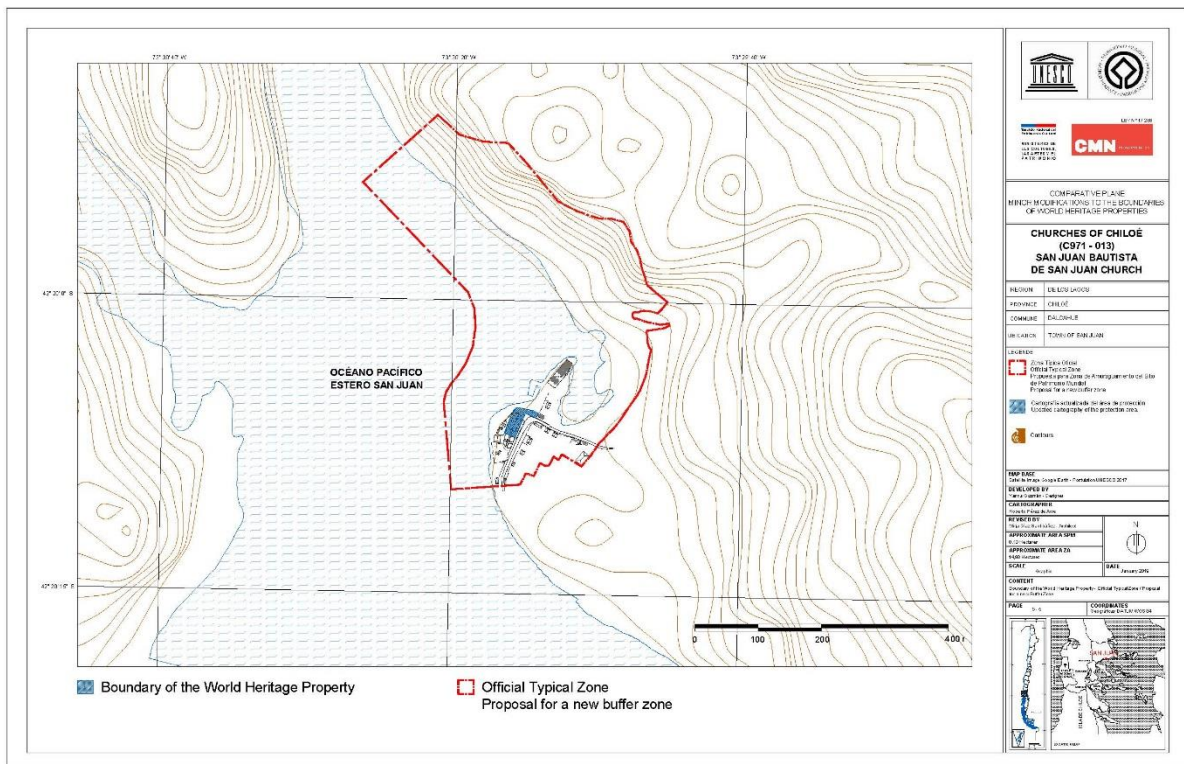
Map showing the proposed buffer zone of the component 010, San Carlos Borromeo de Chonchi church



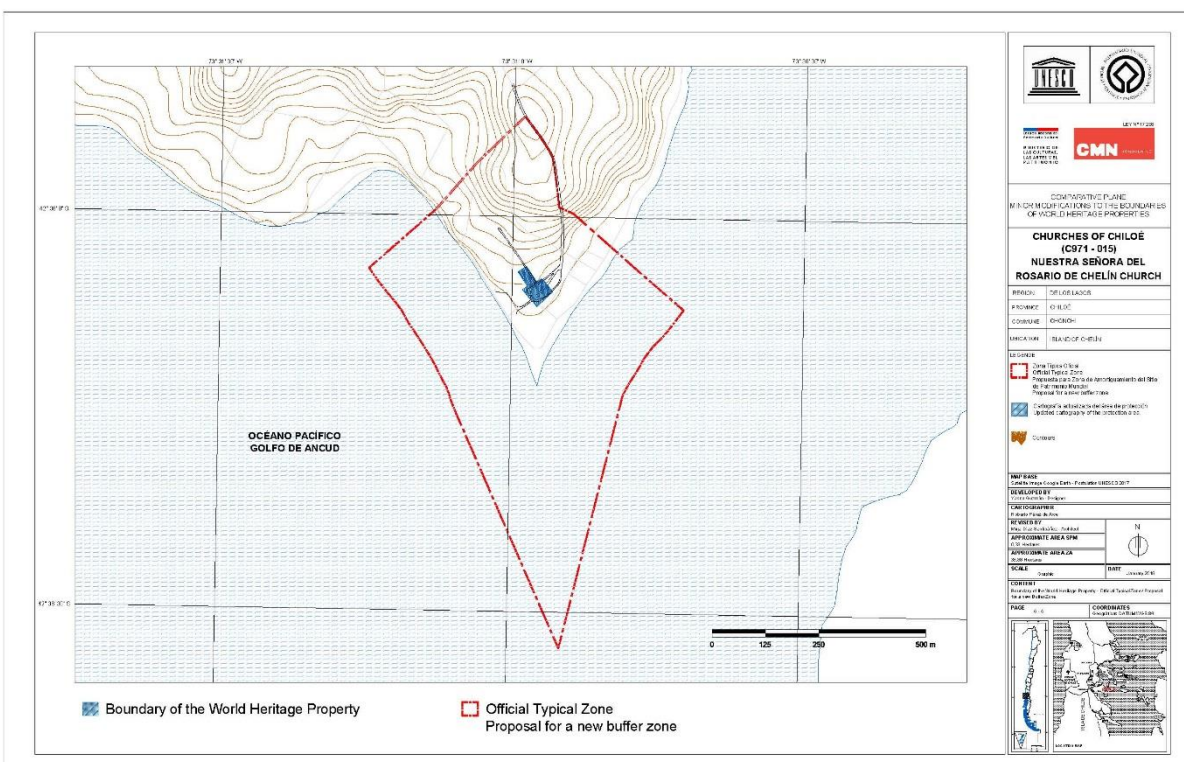
Map showing the proposed buffer zone of the component 011, Nuestra Señora del Patrocinio de Tenaún church



Map showing the proposed buffer zone of the component 012, San Antonio de Colo church



Map showing the proposed buffer zone of the component 013, San Juan Bautista de San Juan church



Map showing the proposed buffer zone of the component 015, Nuestra Señora del Rosario de Chelín church