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REPORT

on the ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission to World Heritage Site

Historic Centre of Mexico City and Xochimilco (Mexico)

23 to 29 November 2002

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My gratitude to all who through their contributions and remarks, documentation, and visits to the sites helped me understand, in the few days of the mission, the specificity of Xochimilco and allowed me to better analyze the problems involved in the management of this important and unique world heritage site.

Many of the criteria presented in the report originated in the concerns and proposals of the persons interviewed, which enriched the abundant documentation provided before the mission was carried out by ICOMOS-Paris.

I am particularly indebted to the Head of the Delegation of Xochimilco and his fellow workers. The mission was successful because of their openness in discussing the problems at hand, the coordination of the different community groups and their warm hospitality, echoed by the Vice-president of ICOMOS Mexico, the Director of World Heritage Mexico and the UNESCO consultant for the Management Plan of Xochimilco.

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BACKGROUND

Xochimilco and the Historic Centre of Mexico City were inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987. The criteria applied for the recognition of the universal values of these two sites included: their bearing testimony to a living cultural tradition; as examples of a historically significant cultural and technological landscape; and because they are an outstanding example of a habitat and land-use that has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change.

Of these two sites, Xochimilco deserves special attention because it is one of the best examples of world cultural heritage. It shows the best anthropic action of ancient Mexican populations on their natural habitat in respectful harmony with the environment. Xochimilco has become a unique example of ancestral knowledge applied to the exploitation of hydraulic resources and of agricultural practices that have survived for thousands of years.

Today, the integrity of this ecological niche is threatened by pressures exerted by the modern city and its urban expansion, by the implementation of Mexican government reforms (the agrarian reform), by industrialization and market pressures, by technological and scientific developments, by communications, etc. At the time it was inscribed on the World Heritage List, the World Heritage Centre had recommended a protection plan – particularly for Xochimilco— and the adoption of measures aimed at ensuring the conservation of the natural and cultural area.

In view of the circumstances and reacting to the many local groups (the Xochimilco community) and other institutions that had voiced their concern on the state of conservation of the site, ICOMOS/UNESCO suggested a monitoring mission to be carried out during the week of November 23 to 29, 2002.

The analysis focused mainly on two aspects: existing legal provisions and administrative aspects of site management, complemented by the population's opinion. Specifically, the mission studied technical reports provided by ICOMOS, legal provisions in force, planning studies and proposals prepared by different government agencies, the mission report prepared by UNESCO consultant Maria Eugenia Bacci on the first seminar on the full recovery of Xochimilco (November 2002) World Heritage, and interviews with persons in charge of the site's management and with organized community groups.

I ANALYSIS OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION

I.1 INSCRIPTION OF THE SITE.

In its 11th session, held in December 1987, the World Heritage Committee considered the application of the Mexican Government to include the Historic Centre of Mexico City and Xochimilco in the World Heritage List. The acceptance of the application and the recommendation for its inclusion in the list considered criteria ii, iii, iv and v ¹. Of these, the last one applies most clearly to Xochimilco, since it refers to "the only remaining testimony of the lacustrine landscape which results from the traditional use of the land prevalent in the lakes of the valley of Mexico City..." Mention was also made of the need for more detailed information on the site's planning, the protection measures for the natural area, and the mechanisms which would make it effective.

II.2 SITE MANAGEMENT

Site management focuses on three aspects:

- Planning tools (plans, programs, and projects) and the rules and regulations that steer such actions;
- The institutional capacity for the implementation of measures for site management;
 and
- Community involvement in decisions, and site management and operation.

II.2.1 NATIONAL AND LOCAL POLICIES FOR THE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF XOCHIMILCO

II.2.1.1 National and Federal Laws

The legal basis that regulates actions aimed at protecting the natural and cultural environment of the country and those that specifically apply to the Federal District are:

- General Law on Ecological Balance and Environmental Protection
- General Law on Human Settlements
- General Law on National Property
- Public Participation Law
- Organic Law of the National Institute of Anthropology and History
- Environmental Law of the Federal District
- Urban Development Law of the Federal District
- Federal Law on Monuments and Archaeological, Artistic and Historic Areas
- Federal Tourism Law
- Organic Law of the Department of the Federal District

^{1 (}ii) Exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design.

⁽iii) Bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared,

⁽iv) Be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates a significant stage in human history, or

⁽v) Be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement or land-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change.

II.2.1.2 Specific Laws, Programs, and Projects for Xochimilco:

a. Presidential decree establishing a zone of historic monuments in the Delegations of Xochimilco, Tláhuac and Milpa Alta, Federal District, in 1986. The decree establishes the limits of the protection area for Xochimilco, which includes 165 blocks of historic buildings and the floating gardens (chinampas) area. Their care and monitoring are assigned to the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) and to the Secretary of Urban Development and Ecology.

b. Director Program for Urban Development in the Federal District.

As of 1987 (07/16), the Historic Centre of Mexico City and Xochimilco are considered as part of the Director Program for Urban Development in the Federal District. The Program determines the boundaries between urban development and ecological conservation areas and presents partial plans for urban development in delegations (Xochimilco). See map with location of Xochimilco within the Federal District.

The basic guidelines of the plan are:

- Control and regulation of the growth of the metropolitan area of Mexico City
- Delimiting this growth
- Reconstruction of the central zone of Mexico City
- Urban rearrangement (physical, economic, and of services) with 8 sectors: centres, subcentres and urban corridors, special zones of controlled development and the Historic Centre
- Environmental conservation (ecological conservation area with special regulations for 36 existing towns)
- Development of planning tools. Amendments to current legislation, urban development law for the federal district, regulations and partial programs, and renovation of the Historic Centre

The plan defines areas for urban development (63,382 hectares = 42.6%) and for ecological conservation (85,554 hectares = 57.4%) out of a total of 148,936 hectares. Of these, Xochimilco has 12,517 hectares (2,505 ha urban area and 10,012 ha ecological conservation), which represent 8.4% of all the territory of the Federal District.

Urban Structure and Ecological Protection.

Within the urban structure, Xochimilco is considered as an urban subcentre (made up of 17 districts or neighbourhoods) to offer services on a lower level as support to urban centres and where maintenance actions must be undertaken.

In the ecological protection proposal: partial plans establish zoning for uses, functions, reserves, population densities, and construction thresholds. Six towns were identified in this area.

The policies and objectives of urban development are to:

- avoid human settlements on the mountainous area of Cuatzin Teultli and on other areas at altitudes over 2,275 meters.
- preserve the historic and cultural heritage of the centre of Xochimilco.
- regenerate the chinampas (floating gardens) zones and the lake and canals system.
- construct sewage treatment plants.
- support the consolidation of Xochimilco as rural subcentre.

- develop, in the conservation area, land uses that promote farming, livestock, and leisure activities in order to curb urban development.
- preserve and conserve the natural landscape and green areas of the delegation.
- implement the partial programs of towns located in the ecological conservation area.

The plan develops and analyzes legal instruments for urban regulation on territorial control and management.

c. Ecological Rescue Program 1989-1993. More than one thousand two hundred million Mexican pesos were invested in this program which was part of the National Development Plan focusing on water management and the eradication of sources of pollution. To this effect, micro basins management studies were carried out and water quality tests were performed in the lake. New water reserves were established, as well as reforestation projects and restitution projects for ecological reserve zones that increase collection of clear natural waters (direct collection of rain water, recharge water-bearing strata), actions to eliminate residual discharges with a new network for drainage, cleaning, and oxygenation of water, reducing salinity and distribution in order to have a permanent south to north water flow.

All this is complemented by a program of emergent actions, starting with a basic territorial regulation plan that includes geographic information identifying the zones for productive recuperation and control over urban expansion. Dams and artificial lakes are created for water regulation (small and large swamps) and investment projects are developed. (Small enterprises to recycle organic and inorganic waste, to encourage and introduce ecological techniques, to promote agricultural activities and natural area management. Unfortunately, these actions lacked marketing programs.) The "Ecological Park" is created and built, as well as a flower market and sports facilities.

- d. Declaration of Protected Natural Area in 1992 (05/7). The declaration considers Xochimilco as a priority zone for the preservation and conservation of ecological balance. It is declared that the region known as "Ejidos of Xochimilco and San Gregorio Atlapulco" will be classified as ecological conservation zone with a surface of 207 ha. The land-use assigned is: agricultural land and conservation of the chinampas system in order to increase recharge of aquifers and to help control floods and land collapses affecting the region.
- e. Law for the protection of the Urban Architectural Heritage in the Federal District. The law provides for the conservation of canals and chinampas and suggests the creation of a Board in each political Delegation.
- f. Management Program for the Protected Natural Area of " Ejidos of Xochimilco and San Gregorio Atlapulco". 1999. Prepared by the Xochimilco Unit of the Autonomous Metropolitan University.
- g. Development Project for Xochimilco 2002-2003, called "Comprehensive Strategic Project for the Regeneration and Recovery of the Historical Centre of Xochimilco 2002-2003". (Pending approval by the Assembly). Study for the actualization of the 1987 program which states that the lacustrine and chinampas area consists of 189 Km of canals and lined-ditches, 1,000 hectares (21,400 chinampas) of floating gardens representing 37.6% of the area, the mountainous area, forests, and land for recharge of aquifers over a surface of 4,605 hectares (63.4%) and that 178 informal settlements have been identified in the following locations:

- 20 in the chinampas area
- 103 on conservation land in the mountains
- 46 in the partial program
- 8 in the periphery of rural towns
- 1 in the intensive farming area

There are two proposals: one for the ecological and chinampas area and the other for the urban centre.

The first consists of short, medium and long-term actions (2003-2020), beginning with a careful assessment of informal settlements and encouraging their regularization and relocation, and the regeneration of the chinampas for agriculture and ecotourism.

Five strategies are proposed for the urban centre: recovery of the landscape and of the intangible heritage (improving the urban image), reorganization of roads and transportation, public safety and crime prevention, cultural and economic development, reorganizing businesses on public spaces, in line with the objectives of "recovering the public space for the development of the local identity of the people of Xochimilco, using the site mainly for leisure activities for families and for the economic development of its inhabitants, reclaiming the historic space for the citizens and through these actions consolidate the community's identity".

II.2.2 RELEVANT INSTITUTIONS

Many government institutions share the responsibility of the site's conservation. They act according to legal mandates and political and administrative codes, depending on their territorial, cultural and/or environmental nature. There are national, federal, and local government institutions. These are:

National Government

- INHA/INBA. Responsible for the conservation of buildings classified as monuments, archaeological zones, and museums.
- Secretary of the Environment, Natural Resources, and Fisheries. Responsible for the conservation of natural resources and the environment, at a federal level.

• Federal District Government

- Secretary of Urban Development and Housing. In charge of urban development in the Federal District. Grants property titles and opportunities for the acquisition of public housing.
- Secretary of the Environment: Natural Resources Commission of the Federal District (CORENA). Responsible for the conservation of natural resources in the Federal District.
- General Directorate for Pollution Control. In charge of measuring and regulating pollution in the city.
- General Directorate of Hydraulic Works and Operations (DGCOH). Responsible for drainage and drinking water supply to the Federal District and treated water for agricultural and industrial zones.
- Economic Development Secretary (CEDECO). Promotes the economic development of the Federal District.
- SECTUR. Responsible for developing tourism in the Federal District.

• Delegation of Xochimilco and Subdelegations that Control the Rural Zone. Territorial administration of the Delegation. It is interesting to point out that the "Coordinador territorial de los pueblos" (Territorial coordinator), the administrative figure adopted by the administration to control the 18 towns of the territory of Xochimilco, is elected by vote and hired by the district's delegation as a public servant. He/She is in charge of controlling the legislation and acts as intermediary between the community and the district's government. No such administrative position existed before. The Public Participation Law was adapted locally to appoint the Coordinator.

Even if there is a federal and a delegation administration, and in spite of the many legal and planning tools available, the implementation, administration, and operation of the measures proposed in the different planning instruments have not been possible. In part, this is due to the fact that **plans have not analyzed the institutions' capacity** to provide the necessary financial, technical, and administrative resources.

Such was the case with the study prepared in 1999 by the Xochimilco Unit of the Autonomous Metropolitan University whose purpose was to render operational the declaration of a Protected Natural Area. The study "Management Program for the Protected Natural Area Ejidos of Xochimilco and San Gregorio Atlapulco", was not implemented when it should have been and is now outdated offering a limited capacity for planning, control, and management of the area.

Similarly, even if most of the proposals of the ecological recovery program (1989-1993) have been implemented, **the program lacked continuity in its recovery and conservation efforts** and was left incomplete. Many of the works accomplished, like the sports facilities and the flower market, require maintenance and cleaning operations (garbage and vegetation). Weeds and underbrush abound in particular in the tree nursery and in abandoned and deforested areas.

II.2.3 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.

The great cultural and ecological diversity of Xochimilco has generated many different community organizations grouped by common interests and needs. Among the most important, we can mention groups from the historic centre, the lake area, the chinampas and agricultural area of Xochimilco, and external agents (real-estate agents and tourism operators). All these groups demand attention from the local and federal governments.

These groups have an extremely limited participation in the vast planning experience. There have been some efforts of community involvement. For example, in 1997 and 1998, the General Directorate of Hydraulic Works and Operations (D.G.C.O.H.) met with all persons involved in the conservation of the lacustrine zone in an attempt to improve water quality and recharge aquifers, and to curb urban development in the conservation area. SEMANARP, with its program "Sustainable Regional Development in the Rural Zone of the Federal District (PRODERS)" tried to obtain multisectorial planning and to promote sustainable development in the rural zones of the Federal District; and community workshops were organized in the XOCHITEPEC mountain. However, these are temporary isolated actions with no follow-up. **Sustainable development processes based on community participation are minimum and scarce.**

II.3 RECENT STUDIES AND ACTIONS.

Along these past three years, the government of the Federal District, the Delegation, and other groups from Xochimilco, have carried out a series of actions aimed at the solving different problems related to the protection and conservation of the natural area. Among the most important, we can mention the following:

II.3.1 Natural area: mountains, lacustrine zone and chinampas, common agricultural zone (ejidos).

• "Leading Management Program for a Protected Natural Area Classified as Ecological Conservation Zone known as "Ejidos of Xochimilco and San Gregorio Atlapulco". July 2002. The study brings up to date the 1999 program prepared by the Xochimilco Unit of the Autonomous Metropolitan University: "Management Program for the Protected Natural Area Ejidos of Xochimilco and San Gregorio Atlapulco". The 1999 study was updated by the Institute of Ecology (INECOL), upon request of the Secretary of the Environment and the Natural Resources and Urban Development (Commission CORENA), in order to find the means and make effective the 1992 Declaration of protected natural area (PNA) that analyzes the environmental (biotic and abiotic), social, economic, administrative, and legal aspects related to the PNA.

The study's objective is to provide the Government of the Federal District with the elements required to orchestrate and render operational the existing Declaration and thereby the protection, conservation, and restoration in the short, medium and long-term of ecosystems in the Protected Natural Area "Ejidos of Xochimilco and San Gregorio Atlapulco" and of its natural resources (water, land, flora and fauna), through sustainable, coherent and programmed management, based on the following:

- Define strategies for a sustainable conservation, restoration, use, and development of the PNA.
- Define, prioritize, and plan the necessary actions for the PNA in areas such as protection, conservation, restoration, public use, scientific research, environmental monitoring, education, legal provisions, regulations, operation, administration, and community involvement, in order to prepare the Leading Management Program.
- Define policies for the use and development of natural resources and the activities carried out in the PNA, as well as policies for the traditional uses of the PNA.
- Propose coordination strategies, agreements, and participation methods in order to:
 - a) guarantee the sustainable management of the PNA;
 - b) bring together the interests of the different actors involved in the use and management of the PNA;
 - c) render operational once again the existing declaration.
- General Guidelines for the Management Plan of World Cultural and Natural Heritage. 1999-2000. This study was prepared for the application submitted to UNESCO requesting technical support to determine the criteria that would justify extending or changing the current declaration by incorporating the chinampas and canals area of Xochimilco with a status of Natural Landscape: Nature created by

men that at the same time serves to "... slow down the accelerated deterioration of the natural environment as well as the local culture, and to guarantee the conservation of the site as living testimony of ancient ways of sustainable agricultural production that are an essential element of mankind's heritage".

The study was commissioned by the UNESCO to ECO RED in order to:

- Define the general guidelines for the preparation of a management plan.
- Obtain a diagnosis of current problems, taking into account the results of the abundant research carried out, as well as the experiences of the population and the practical knowledge acquired by operational entities.
- Determine the responsibilities of the institutions.
- Prioritize problems and suggest alternatives for solutions.
- Define short, medium, and long-term strategies.
- Define strategies for immediate intervention.

According to its authors, this study "is a comprehensive and participative review of the problems encountered in Xochimilco. It defines priorities, essential for strategic planning of actions aimed at solving those problems, and includes major elements that should be incorporated in the extension of the declaration".

Their work is based on reviews of the available bibliography, interviews, and workshops (towns, districts, productive sectors, several community organizations, and governmental institutions).

- First Seminar on the Full Recovery of Xochimilco. World Cultural Heritage "Xochimilco, Spirit and Tradition" November 11-12, 2002. Within the framework of the 30th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, of the Declaration of 2002 as the Year for Cultural Heritage and of the 15th Anniversary of the Declaration of Xochimilco as part of the World Cultural Heritage, the Government of the Delegation of Xochimilco and the citizen's Coordinator organized the event under the auspices of the UNESCO and FAO offices in Mexico, the Xochimilco Unit of the Autonomous Metropolitan University and with the cooperation of several government agencies of Federal District. Its objectives were to:
 - Involve and engage international organisms, the federal government, and the Federal District's government in the preparation of a Master Plan for the rehabilitation of the World Heritage site of Xochimilco.
 - Obtain legal provisions assigning the necessary resources to the implementation of the Master Plan (this may be done by involving the POA of the different government agencies in rehabilitation actions.)
 - Obtain a steady provision of funds from the Government of the Delegation for the recovery of the Historic Centre of Xochimilco and for the expansion of projects in the chinampas area (by creating a specific item in the budget, approved by the Government of the Federal District and its Legislative Assembly, where different concepts for the rehabilitation of the country's cultural heritage may be included).
 - Establish mechanisms for community participation, ensuring the community's involvement from the design stage, to the preparation of the Master Plan, and through its implementation.

The seminar produced a manifest and general agreements, and each work group presented specific contributions. (Annex N.2) The following conclusions were reached.

- Prepare an interinstitutional and multidisciplinary master plan.
- Provide enough resources for the preparation of the master plan and tend to the urgent needs of Xochimilco.
- Review the boundaries of the declaration in order to include all natural and cultural sites.
- Create a world heritage citizens council, interinstitutional, with representatives from Mexico City and Xochimilco for the protection of tangible and intangible heritage.
- Prepare a catalogue of chinampas and register them as historical monuments.
- Create an information centre on the cultural heritage of Xochimilco.

II.3.2 Urban Area: Historic Centre of Xochimilco.

Comprehensive Strategic Project for the Historic Centre of Xochimilco. 2002-2003.

Project developed by the Delegation's Government for the "protection of the cultural heritage of urban properties, which constitute the image of Xochimilco, through strategic actions based on a broad comprehensive vision, in response to the problems identified. The most urgent problems are:

- Fast growing population density.
- Deterioration of rural and natural landscapes.
- Deterioration of public areas, indiscriminately occupied by street vendors.
- Deterioration of buildings for lack of maintenance, worsened in some cases where the land has collapsed due to the extraction of groundwater.
- Expanding informal human settlements.
- Garbage and gravel that cover the canals, wharves, and chinampas near the urban area.
- Inadequate and disorderly public transportation that invades the narrow streets of the historic centre.
- Lack of a comprehensive plan for the rehabilitation and development of the historic centre of Xochimilco, connecting it to the historic centre of Mexico City.
- Lack of a comprehensive catalogue of cultural and natural values.

Five strategies have been drafted to overcome these problems: 1. Recovery of the landscape and intangible heritage. 2. Reorganization of the roads and transportation network. 3. Public safety and crime prevention. 4. Economic and cultural development. 5. Reorganization of commercial establishments on public roads.

Their implementation has been started with a project considered as emblematic, interconnecting the program's axes: the **rehabilitation of the old Town Hall** (**Palacio Municipal**). It had been demolished in 1972 with the consequent symbolic loss of a historical and functional centre. The government of the Delegation seeks to recover this symbol and the public area, today held and occupied by informal vendors. The new building will house the administrative offices of the Delegation.

Recovery of the landscape and intangible heritage. Facades are being painted and other maintenance activities are under way; improvement works have started on streets, sidewalks and pavements, and on the infrastructure (new underground electricity and telephone cables).

Road and transportation network. Mini buses, and similar vehicles, are being relocated outside the first perimeter of the historic centre. Bus lines and bus stops are being changed, and fewer buses will work in the historic centre. Geometrical adjustments of streets and avenues, vertical and horizontal signs, traffic lights.

Public safety and crime prevention. A monitoring system will be implemented (video cameras). Coordination efforts between the police and neighbourhood committees of the Historic Centre. Creation of a navigational police force for the chinampas and tourist area.

Economic and cultural development. Promotion of cultural tourism (artistic activities in open spaces), new activities related with tourism and ecotourism, creation of small and medium enterprises for agricultural activities, handicrafts, and ecotourism.

Reorganization of commercial establishments on public roads. Reaccommodation of commercial establishments, negotiations with street vendors for their relocation (installing lines of credit or a system of trusts), presence of representatives of the Delegation in public areas.

Until now, 40 million pesos have been invested in works in the Historic Centre. These represent only 5% of the general budget. According to the Delegate, negotiations are under way for 150 million pesos to implement the other measures described on public safety, transportation, rehabilitation of public roads, refurbishment of the museum, and construction of a protection fence for the archaeological zone.

II.3.3 Rural Area: 18 Towns of Xochimilco. (See Districts Map)

Planning actions contain no specific proposals for these populated areas. Interventions come as a result of the population's demands and/or political interests, and are therefore limited, isolated actions.

In the visits to some of the towns, I observed a strong building renewal, lack of maintenance of public spaces, and unattended monuments (churches, convents) with the resulting loss of image and alteration of the constructed landscape.

The archaeological area of CUAILOMA, under the care of INHA, is in a bad state of conservation and neglected, evidenced by the abundant vegetation (weeds) and the precarious protection measures for the petroglyphs. The petroglyphs are in danger since the only way to access some of the illegal settlements in the mountains is through the archaeological zone. The Delegation has planned to include the petroglyphs in tourist visits and is building a wall to protect them.

CONCLUSIONS

ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE NATURAL AREA

All the studies analyzed indicate that ecological protection areas including its most important remnants, Xochimilco's Ejidos and San Gregorio Atlapulco, (agricultural areas and chinampas), are being affected by **serious pollution and environmental impact problems** in the region and in the Protected Natural Area, caused by urban and industrial activities and the lack of adequate financial administrative management. See photographs of the impact to the chinampas area (Photographs 1-4)

Among the problems identified, the following are the most important:

- Excessive exploitation of groundwater.
- Lower water levels in the chinampas area.
- Surface and phreatic water pollution by sewage-disposal.
- Changes in land-use, occupation of agricultural and forest land by informal settlements, approximately 1 hectare per year.
- Desiccation of water bodies, canals, and lined ditches.
- Inadequate techniques for water level control.
- Plagues in the chinampas area.
- Sanitary risks, such as epidemics in the chinampas area and in the informal settlements, due to contaminated water in canals and lack of sanitary installations.
- Collapsing land.
- In the irrigation area, environmental conditions have been altered by large deposits of gravel caused by the 1985 earthquakes, built up by individuals who want to change the agricultural use of the land.
- High concentrations of niter in the soil make reforestation difficult and the decline of the site's fauna.
- Construction of housing, paths on dams, greenhouses.
- Cattle introduced in wetlands and in the chinampas area.

In spite of the above and even after the environmental impact, **the zone still preserves its biotic**, **abiotic**, **and cultural characteristics** and still is one of the most important ecological reserves of the Federal District.

ON COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

One of the mayor problems, maybe the most important, is **the lack of common coordinated interests**. Differences in opinions between the actors involved in the ecological recovery of Xochimilco are many, varied, and contradictory, sometimes resulting in true conflicts of interests.

Private investors demand highly lucrative projects (tourism, recreational, housing projects). Farmers prefer to recover agricultural activities and the population wants to preserve traditions and traditional property and land-use. All of which make very difficult the task of the local administration.

ON PLANNING

Planning studies focus more on urban development. Conservation zones fall under the programs of the Secretary of Urban Development and Housing and have little to do with the Natural Resources Commission and the Secretary of the Environment; therefore, proposals tend to give less attention to the management of natural resources and the economic development of agricultural and forestal activities.

Many of the studies carried out are too specialized with a partial approach and narrowed down to one subject. Consequently, they suggest isolated and short-term answers, focusing on solutions for the Federal District, especially on issues related to the water supply and the sewage-disposal system.

Cultural and specific aspects of the site are not analyzed, only mentioned. As a result, solutions are the same and problems are treated similarly as in any other urban or natural zone of the Federal District. Issues such as the agricultural and livestock activities of the chinampas related to hydraulic management, the strong presence of the "niñopa", the historical and functional town centres, the ancestral knowledge on the conservation of natural resources, and other cultural expressions are not dealt with and no one is responsible for their conservation and development.

ON INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS

The presence of many uncoordinated institutional actors and huge gaps in responsibilities in the administration of urban and natural environments and monuments result in duplicated efforts and wasted financial resources in the implementation of programs and projects and in the relations established with the community concerned.

The limited administrative power of the **Delegation**, which depends on the Federal Government, prevents it from undertaking administrative actions in the territory. Such is the case with the control over public areas (relocation and eviction of informal vendors) and the lack of budget autonomy since it cannot obtain credit nor implement policies for service providers, or other actions related with the site's management and administration.

Political changes every three years and the constant renewal of administrative and technical executives, the lack of financial resources, and the lack of support from the National and Federal Government obstruct the sustainability of programs and projects.

Financing sources are not identified and the mechanisms for urban management provided for by the legislation, such as selling environmental services or transferring the soil's potential in protected areas to other zones in the delegation, are not applied. Consequently, delegations depend financially, to great extent, on Federal Governments.

ON INFORMATION

There is no public information policy for conservation plans and projects and the development of Xochimilco. It is even worse regarding the public awareness of natural and cultural values that would consolidate the identity and culture of the people of Xochimilco. Information efforts focus more on tourism promotion.

ON CONTROL MECHANISMS

Studies carried out lack the indicators required for the implementation of a follow-up and monitoring system of the site's management and for the future evaluation of the factors affecting the site, in order to correct or strengthen the interventions and carry out an objective analysis of the achievement of goals and objectives.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

On the World Heritage Declaration

The criteria for the declaration of Xochimilco as a world heritage site must be reviewed. The site's characteristics define it as a cultural landscape where an ensemble of living activities and traditions have survived.

The areas and their boundaries must be precisely delimited to coordinate the different protection laws for protected natural areas, monuments, and world heritage sites. The world heritage area should include the mountains, the inventory of chinampas and the cultural and natural heritage identified in the new formulation of the declaration. (See the last map with the delimitation of the World Heritage Declaration).

Distinct management strategies must be established for the Historic Centre of Mexico City and for Xochimilco. Even if historically they are contemporary and must definitely be understood together, the characteristics of each site require a particular management and administration.

On the Master Plan

The first seminar for the full recovery of the world heritage site of Xochimilco is the first step in a coordination and management process for the site; this initiative must be supported and encouraged.

The master plan must overcome the limited and exclusive treatment of the natural and urban area and must cover areas such as responsible institutions, administrative (government) and intercultural factors that will guarantee the conservation and development of Xochimilco. The finished product will be a comprehensive management plan for the natural environment, the living culture, and the urban historical heritage that will include all the territory of the Delegation of Xochimilco, with financing strategies, legal and administrative provisions and, above all, which will establish its relationship with Mexico City and its historic centre on its functional aspects and political and administrative relationships.

It would be desirable to have representatives of the IUCN (for the natural area) and of tangible and intangible heritage participate in the discussion of the master plan, since the site's characteristics as cultural landscape must be considered and reinforced as development strategies for the comprehensive management of the site.

On Responsible Institutions

UNESCO's office in Mexico could actively participate in the establishment of a Master Plan and could act as facilitator in negotiations on interests and conflict solution. UNESCO's office has the capacity to convene, the leadership, and the credibility among community actors (expressed by those interviewed) to guarantee a sustainable process and an efficient and transparent management of resources (permanent concern of the community).

Government agencies should be requested to include the comprehensive conservation of Xochimilco in their development agendas and to give it the same attention and similar resources to those allotted to the historic centre of Mexico City.

One of the seminar's resolutions was the creation of the Cultural Heritage Council. Besides the members established for its constitution during the seminar, the Council should include experts in natural areas, tangible and intangible heritage, and allow for an interdisciplinary coordination.

Interinstitutional coordination efforts will be necessary for the preparation of the Plan and actions must also be coordinated. It has been suggested to name one project manager who will be in charge of the coordination between institutions, will mediate between administrative agencies and community groups and will appoint the basic technical interdisciplinary team in the Delegation for the preparation of the Master Plan and its follow-up.

Conservation Actions

- Request the government of the Delegation and the INHA to finish, urgently, the Town Hall works in order to recover the esplanade occupied by informal vendors and change the city's image (dangerous and dirty).
- Draw up regulations to control the height and appearance of buildings (facades) and to maintain the urban characteristics associated with public areas (green areas, parks, church porches, sidewalks, etc.) in the centres of the 18 towns.
- Ask the INHA to provide maintenance for monuments.
- Propose and establish measures for the reorganization of traffic and transportation and control of informal vendors.
- Stronger measures for solid waste disposal in the canals (tourist and ecological zone) and in the urban area in general.

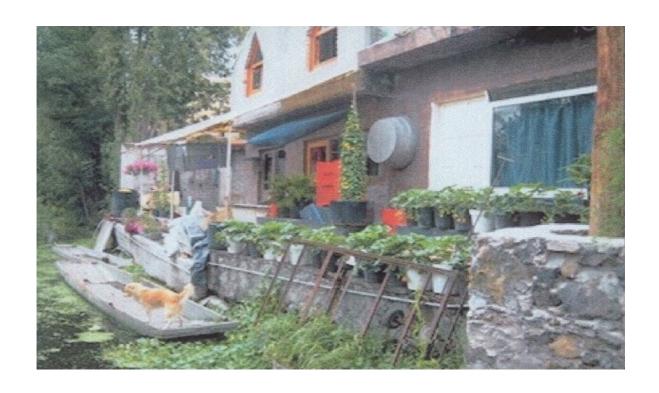
AFFECTED AREAS IN THE CHINAMPAS ZONE



Photo 1 Central chinampas Area with collapsing land and flooding



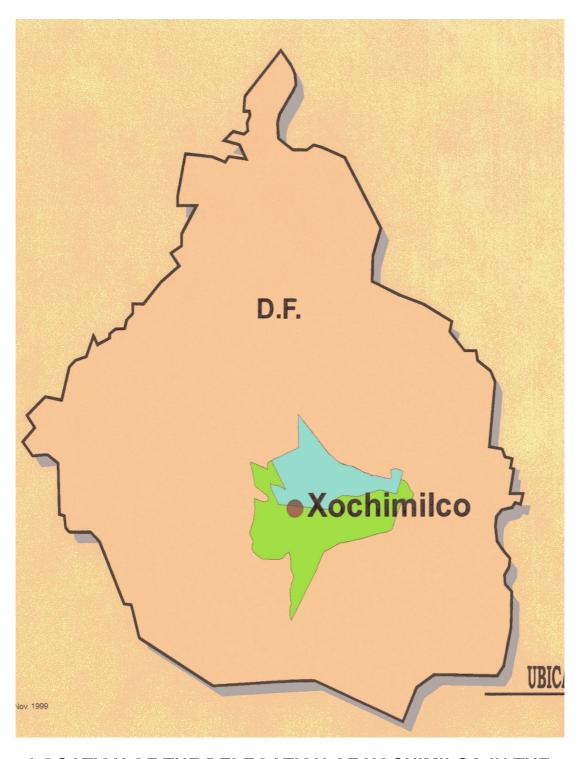
Photo 2 Southern chinampas Area with low water level



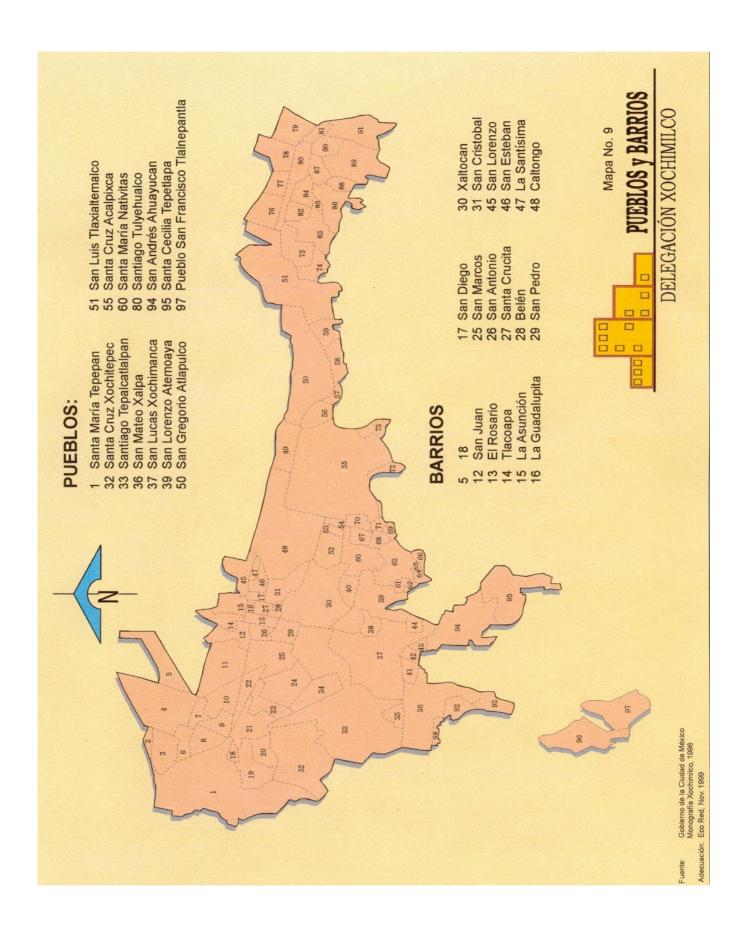
Informal settlements along a canal

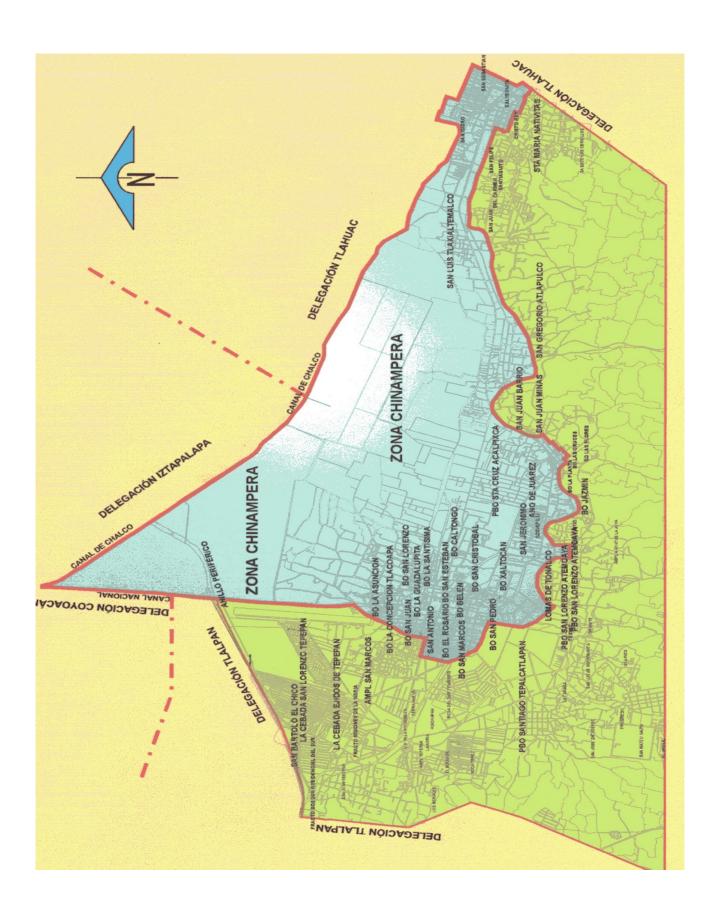


Greenhouses built on chinampas for intensive farming (Pictures taken from the study on guidelines for the management plan)



LOCATION OF THE DELEGATION OF XOCHIMILCO IN THE FEDERAL DISTRICT





ANNEXES

ANNEX N.1 WORK AGENDA

ANNEX N.2 CONCLUSIONS OF THE FIRST SEMINAR ON THE FULL RECOVERY OF XOCHIMILCO. WORLD HERITAGE. MEXICO, NOVEMBER 2002

ANNEX N.3 INTERVIEWS

ANNEX N.1

WORK AGENDA

Sunday, November 23, 2002

Arrival at Mexico City, Federal District

Monday, November 24

- 10:30. Meeting with Architect Francisco López Morales. Director, World Heritage, INAH
- 14:00 Meeting with Dr. Gonzalo Abad. Director, UNESCO Mexico.
- 15:00 Meeting with Archeologist Niklas Schulze. UNESCO Consultant in charge of Xochimilco's Management Plan and responsible for the first Seminar on the Full Recovery of Xochimilco, World Cultural Heritage.

Tuesday, November 25

9:00 Meeting with Architect Francisco Villalobos. Vice-president, ICOMOS Mexico 10:30 Meeting with Soc. Sergio Méndez. Consultant to the Delegate of Xochimilco 11:00/16:30 Visit to the archaeological zone, museum, and the ecological zone of the chinampas

16:30/ 19:00 Meeting with the Delegate of Xochimilco

Wednesday, November 26

Review of documentation

Thursday, November 27

9:00 Visit to the monuments area: districts, churches, intervention works on public spaces, infrastructure

12:30 Meeting Trust for the Historic Centre of Mexico City.

19:00 Interviews with community groups:

- Xochicopalli Milchihua. Grupo cultural pro Xochimilco
- Patronato Autónomo de Xochimilco A.C.
- Patronato del Parque Ecológico de Xochimilco A.C.

Friday, November 28

10:00/15:00 Interviews with community groups:

- San Luis Tlaxialtemalco (Unión de cooperativas Chinampa florícola)
- Frente Emiliano Zapata / Alianza zapatista de San Gregorio Atlapulco
- Comisariado Ejidal de Xochimilco

16:00 Visit to the ecological park. Meeting with Director Dr. Edwin Stephan Otto

Saturday, November 29

Return trip

ANNEX N.2

CONCLUSIONS OF THE FIRST SEMINAR ON THE FULL RECOVERY OF XOCHIMILCO. WORLD HERITAGE. MEXICO, NOVEMBER 2002

ANNEX N.3

INTERVIEWS

Institution: Unión de cooperativas Chinampera florícola. San Luis de Tlaxialtemalco

Name of the person interviewed: Civil Eng. Guillermo Ramírez Negrete / Pedro Geliciano

Position: Coordinator

Address: Calvario N.2 .Telef.: 58433482/58434275 Date of meeting/interview: November 28, 2002

A. Characteristics of the institution: planning, control, development programs and projects and relationships with other institutions.

Institution	Role	Responsibilities	Remarks
Cooperative of floriculturists of the chinampas	Floriculturists	In charge of programs and projects related with the use of the chinampas	18 months of existence, expects results in three years. A plan was presented to CORENA. Has the support of the University of Jalapa (interdisciplinary group: doctors, economists, accountants, business administrators, biologists, mechanics)
CORENA/DELEGACIÓN/ SAGAPA (NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE)	Planning/Develop- ment Program	Rehabilitate the cultivation of flowers in the open. Reforestation, cleaning and reopening canals, maintenance of the natural area.	Very big project. Coordination between authorities is required.

Conclusion: The group works independently from the Plan. Limited knowledge of heritage, and its values need to be clarified. Proposals seek production.

B. State of conservation of the site

Threatened by urban development.

Conurbation. Settlements have been established (strong migration), the demand for housing reduces the productive area. Constructions bordering the canals.

The community discharges aquifers. Rural settlements established in the high area have made water wells.

Xochimilco is in danger, it will be lost if no action is taken; it can become an example to the world of the consequences of neglecting an ecosystem.

The chinampas zone has collapsed: new work methods use greenhouses, horticulture has been changed to floriculture, use of chemicals.

Potential impact of projects and developments

Water extraction

Ecological project to recover the spring

Reactivation of the chinampas zone, actions to recover the chinampas, not in the original form

Efficiency of legislation, planning, and management

Contradictions between interests of CORENA and protected areas

Current limits Problems related to the above

C. Analysis of the declaration's values

Xochimilco's culture is firmly rooted on its religious feasts, architecture. The community maintains its colonial and pre-Hispanic values. The chinampas create jobs.

Analysis of values for which it was inscribed in the world heritage list. The zone has preserved its colonial structure; has not grown; keeps its traditions.

Recommendations and actions that should be implemented.

A joint action is necessary, without producers.

Training program for production cohabitation without altering the landscape and for the implementation of new forms of production; change fertilizers; change of crops to increase income.

Leveling flooded chinampas; study alternatives to choose the best option New installations with organic production

D. Observations the government or the community might want to share with the World Heritage Committee.

Areas where support is needed: information on the area's conservation; technical support for soil control, water quality, technology transfer, experience exchange, practical demonstrations for farmers, no technical jargon.

Institution: Comisariado Ejidal de Xochimilco Distrito Federal

Name of the person interviewed: Victor Velasco, Teodoro Castillo, Horacio Trejo y Zarco,

Rosalva Serralde

Position: President, Secretary, Treasurer, President of the Vigilance Council Address: Calle Margaritas N.29. Bo. San Lorenzo. Telef.celular: 044 1904 7146

Date of the meeting/interview: November, 28 2002

A. Characteristics of the institution: planning, control, development programs and projects and relationships with other institutions.

Institution	Role	Responsibilities	Remarks
Comisariado Ejidal de Xochimilco	Agricultural production in the ejido zone.	Authentication of the ejido property in parcels for 2,226 beneficiaries	Conservation work on 211 hectares as part of the general parcelling plan of Xochimilco's irrigation district. 207 ha of productive projects. 4600 m of tomatoes
CORENA	Technical assistance	Support to agricultural activities	

B. State of conservation of the site:

1. Chinampas Zone:

- Reduction of 289 Km of canals. The chinampas are being abandoned because the activity is not profitable.

The water-bearing strata are contaminated by sewage with the resulting extermination of fish and native species of the fauna, even though the situation has improved with the work accomplished by the Delegation, ecological groups, and CORENA.

Lack of awareness from tourists and the community

Lack of attention from politicians; lack of resources to maintain the chinampas

Lack of control and increased designation of means by politicians (for example use of public space for parking)

Growth of the urban area, suffocating land invasions

Loss of the area's green lungs; a protected area is violated

2. Constructed urban zone:

- The esplanade is occupied by informal vendors
- Trash
- Insecurity, prostitution
- Energy stolen

Potential impact of projects and developments

Overexploitation of water has affected production; 150 wells have been built.

Efficiency of the legislation, planning, and management

- Lack of control; politicians allow indiscriminate occupation of the land; laws are not being enforced; corruption.

C. Analysis of the declaration's values

Xochimilco is in danger; it may disappear.

Recommendations and actions that should be implemented.

Take into consideration the precarious situation and old age of many inhabitants of the district, and present projects for this population group.

The government should direct its actions to those who truly need them and justice should be for all.

Speed up the administrative process for property deeds.

Be aware that water is used for the Federal District; it is not only a matter of conservation.

Request compensation for the pollution (environmental services).

D. Observations the government or the community might want to share with the World Heritage Committee.

Draw attention to Xochimilco so that it may once again be as it was before. Rehabilitate productive activities in the chinampas, sustainable activities, farmers should return to the land.

Institution: Grupo cultural pro Xochimilco Xochicopalli Milchihua A.C.

Name of the person interviewed: Henry Mantez Troncoso/Joaquin Praxedis

Position: President / Member of the association

Address: Pedro Ramírez del Castillo N.29. Bo. San Pedro. Telef.: 5676 4756/5653 1935. email:

<u>praxedix@prodigy.net.mx</u> / xochicopalli@hotmail.com Date of the meeting/interview: November 27, 2002

A. Characteristics of the institution: planning, control, development programs and projects and relationships with other institutions.

Institution	Role	Responsibilities	Remarks
Xochicopalli Milchihua	Pro Xochimilco	Community work in	Agreement with the INBA
A.C.	cultural group. Work	projects: protection of	(1988) for heritage
14 years of existence	jointly with govern-	monuments, town	awareness.
	ment agencies to	squares, historical	
	increase public	sites, vegetation.	
	awareness.	Save traditions.	
		Work with children.	

B. State of conservation of the site:

Inadequate conservation of the chinampas due to urban development.

Housing and settlements have replaced production.

Loss of intangible heritage: traditional techniques are being eliminated for lack of productivity.

Potential impact of projects and developments

Government actions or land being purchased in the mountains.

Purchase of chinampas for housing units.

Efficiency of the legislation, planning, and management

Planning does not take into consideration heritage concerns.

Lack of mechanisms to ensure site conservation and community involvement.

Is not being applied; measures are taken in good faith.

Ignorance of the law.

Current limits Contradictions between the legal provisions on chinampas and urban boundary

C. Analysis of the declaration's values

Recommendations and actions that should be implemented.

Review the limits of the conservation area; the perimeter between the chinampas and constructed areas should be extended.

Laws should be applied with exemplary measures

Implement follow-up for measures

Make proposals for conservation programs

Incorporated architecture and monuments

Establish long-term management programs (20 years)

D. Observations the government or the community might want to share with the World Heritage Committee.

Implement a monitoring program for follow-up.

Publicity

The management plan should include information campaigns on people who live in the centre.

Institution: Patronato autónomo de Xochimilco C.A.

Name of the person interviewed: Sergio Palacios Mayorga

Position: Vice-president

Address: Teja N.157 Col. Jardines del sur Xochimilco. Telef.: 5622 4286 ext 145 / 5622 4287 ext

166 / Fax 5676 4116. email: palacios@servidor.unam.mx Date of the meeting/interview: November 27, 2002

A. Characteristics of the institution: planning, control, development programs and projects and relationships with other institutions.

Institution	Role	Responsibilities	Remarks
Patronato autónomo de	Cultural	Rehabilitation of	Create an independent
Xochimilco C.A.	development	chinampas through	observation group.
(corporation, members		training and education.	They have a proposal for
offer their free time, private		(chinampas school)	a plan to establish a
contributions)		Involve young univer-	school (under the current
		sity students in pro-	laws they cannot receive
		ductive development	donations).
		projects	•

B. State of conservation of the site

No measures have been taken to stop urban development. The natural area is disappearing. Mountains are being neglected. The increasing amount of human settlements is affecting the valley with the construction of roads and land occupation.

Lack of adequate technical personnel in the administration for project management.

Potential impact of projects and developments

Efficiency of legislation, planning, and management

A protected natural area, on a federal level, allows for more studies related with water use to avoid discharge (fight deterioration).

Current limits

Analysis of the declaration's values

If the chinampas area of Xochimilco is not taken care of, it will lose all its cultural value, since it is artificially created land, the most important system created by men. Inefficient management of the chinampas has reduced production.

The chinampas are being abandoned; knowledge on construction methods will be lost.

Recommendations and actions that should be implemented.

Xochimilco must be approached from different points of view, with a multidisciplinary approach and with the necessary resources.

A citizens forum should be created, apolitical, to allow the public to express opinions on the development of proposals.

The government should have an open attitude.

Observers groups should be constituted to commend or protest, and to support the government as technical consultants.

Xochimilco has a future, if the government and the community work together. The community should contribute with projects, and doing what administrative institutions cannot do.

D. Observations the government or the community might want to share with the World Heritage Committee.

Eventual economic support should not be granted to a government agency in order to ensure the continuity of projects.

Scientific proposals should be presented for a productive agricultural activity.

UNESCO should provide moral support and recognize community groups.

Institution: Patronato del Parque ecológico de Xochimilco C.A Name of the person interviewed: Dr. Erwin Stephan Otto

Position: Director

Address: Periférico Oriente N.1 Col. Ciénega Grande. Telef.:5673 7890/5673 8061/5673 8139/

Fax 5673 7653. email: garciaa@servidor.unam.mx

Date of the meeting/interview: November 27, 2002

A. Characteristics of the institution: planning, control, development programs and projects and relationships with other institutions.

Institution	Role	Responsibilities	Remarks
Patronato del Parque ecológico de Xochimilco C.A. (Corporation)	Cultural development and conservation of public spaces	Research	5 years of existence, self- financed

B. State of conservation of the site

Zone at risk, but not in danger. Informal street vendors, lack of identity, services for tourist activity result in illegal constructions; lack of control; urban proposals should orient growth to less populated areas; decline and loss of traditional agricultural activities; growing urban demands; lack of financial resources to take measures for a better quality of life. Deterioration of green areas in general.

Bad management, lack of resources, very low land tax.

Potential impact of projects and developments

Efficiency of the legislation, planning, and management

Lack of responsible institutions; incapacity to maintain planning strategies; community in conflict with authorities.

Lack of uniform legal provisions (urban, urban protection, and environmental law).

Current limits The limits of the protected area, declared world heritage, and those of the ecological reserve are not clear.

Analysis of the declaration's values

There is a certain ambiguity in the Heritage concept. The declaration is the same for the Historic Centre of Mexico City and for Xochimilco, focusing on monuments. The chinampas have another meaning related to the natural environment and to cultural practices.

Recommendations and actions that should be implemented.

There must be two different types of management for the protected areas. Xochimilco carries more weight in environmental management. The environmental services it renders should be recognized and should generate resources.

The seminar's proposal should be implemented:

A council (coordinating body)

Long lasting

Economically productive

With a recognized structure for its moral authority

Draw up a plan that takes into consideration the different actors and interests.

D.	Observations the government or the community might want to share with the	е
	World Heritage Committee.	

UNESCO should support the formation of the council and provide follow-up to counterbalance political changes.

Institution: Frente Emiliano Zapata / Alianza zapatista de San Gregorio Atlapulco

Name of the person interviewed:

Position: Coordinator

Address: Calvario N.2 .Telef.: 58433482/58434275 Date of meeting/interview: November 28, 2002

A. Characteristics of the institution: planning, control, development programs and projects and relationships with other institutions.

Institution	Role	Responsibilities	Remarks
Frente Emiliano Zapata / Alianza zapatista de San	Defend ejido lands and the chinampas		Made up of 670 ejido system beneficiaries
Gregorio Atlapulco	and the enmanipae	agricultural activity	System beneficialise

B. State of conservation of the site

The chinampas are flooded; land has been lost and the possibility to plant; pollution due to waste from Cerro de la Estrella and tourist activity. Land and agriculture have been abandoned. Land has slowly collapsed endangering the stability of houses and the lives of inhabitants.

Potential impact of projects and developments

The site has been forgotten. Lack of attention, urban development, gravel deposits.

Efficiency of the legislation, planning, and management

Totally inefficient. Stronger juridical ground is needed to achieve objectives.

The plan prepared with the support of the Autonomous Metropolitan University for the construction of dams and opening of the canals has been partially implemented due to political conflicts. Lack of response from the government.

Current limits Lack of planning. Changes in land-use.

C. Analysis of the declaration's values

Heritage in danger: canals are closed, loss of flora and fauna.

Chinampas have been slowly sinking (50 to 60 cm) with the resulting loss of land and production options.

Recommendations and actions that should be implemented.

The authorities should assume their responsibilities and enforce environmental laws.

Local, state, and national authorities: if the chinampas are not saved, the productive and social consequences will be fatal. The city needs Xochimilco to be sustainable. If nothing is done in Xochimilco, it will be a disgrace, close to a catastrophe.

The government should do things right. It must help immediately the officially registered population of ejidos and chinampas.

The government should request aids from other institutions and governments.

The vicious circle of not having money to satisfy the needs must come to an end.

Accept only disinterested help.

D. Observations the government or the community might want to share with the World Heritage Committee.

Request UNESCO to support the conservation of history, tradition, culture, nature, and resources.

It should be a long-term process and it should be monitored; it must not be neglected and forgotten.

If donations are given; use of such resources must be controlled.

Request UNESCO to contribute to the completion of the plan's actions; procedures must be drawn up to guarantee the work is successfully completed.