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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL  
ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD  
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**Twenty-seventh session**

**Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XII**

**30 June - 5 July 2003**

**Item 13 of the Provisional Agenda: Implementation of the Global Strategy**

**The nomination of the Qhapac Nan – Camino Inca for inscription on the World Heritage List, an initiative of the Governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru**

**SUMMARY**

Representatives of the Governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru met in Lima, Peru on 1 and 2 April 2003, to advance the initiative to nominate the Qhapac Nan – Camino Inca (the pre-Hispanic Andean road system) for inscription on the World Heritage List. At this meeting the representatives requested the World Heritage Centre to inform the World Heritage Committee of the actions taken by individual States Parties as well as the result of the meeting.

The Secretariat submits this document in response to this request.

The Draft Decision concerning this project is included in document WHC-03/27.COM/13 (Draft Decision **27 COM 13.2**).

**THE NOMINATION OF THE QHAPAC NAN – CAMINO INCA FOR  
INSCRIPTION ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST, AN INITIATIVE OF THE  
GOVERNMENTS OF ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, CHILE, COLOMBIA,  
ECUADOR AND PERU**

**I. Introduction**

1. *The Qhapac Nan – Camino Inca is the denomination of the extensive communication networks of roads that in pre-Hispanic times connected the territories of present day Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina and that found its culmination, as one integrated system, under the Inca rule. The system was composed of the roads themselves and associated architectural and engineering structures (lodging houses, storage facilities, bridges etc.). It connected human settlements, administrative centres, agricultural and mining areas and religious and sacred places. Up to the present day, the road system passes through areas of high cultural value and natural biodiversity.*<sup>1</sup>

2. This document provides information on the initiative of the States Parties concerned to nominate the Qhapac Nan – Camino Inca for inscription on the World Heritage List. It describes the background of this initiative and the actions that States Parties have undertaken to advance, on a national level, in the reflection on and the identification of the Qhapac Nan – Camino Inca on their respective territories. It refers in more detail to the results of the first sub-regional meeting convened by Peru that took place in Lima, Peru on 1 and 2 April 2003 and makes proposals for future cooperation in this endeavour.

**II. Background**

3. In May 2001, the President of Peru launched the initiative to inscribe the Qhapac Nan - Camino Inca on the World Heritage List. This initiative received the support of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Ecuador and the Governments of Peru and Argentina have included the Camino Inca in their respective Tentative Lists.

4. At the World Heritage periodic reporting meeting in Montevideo, in March 2002, the World Heritage periodic reporting focal points from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru prepared a brief document on the process that was proposed for the further development and implementation of the initiative. This included a sub-regional meeting that Peru would convene during the course of 2002, and a scientific meeting that would be convened in 2003 by the World Heritage Centre.

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<sup>1</sup> Specific references to this property as a potential cultural landscape nomination were made at the expert meeting on cultural landscapes in the Andean region (Elias Mujica Barreda, editor, *Paisajes Culturales en Los Andes*, UNESCO Lima, Peru, 2002) and the international workshop on cultural landscapes held in Ferrara, Italy, on 11 and 12 November 2002 (Cultural Landscapes – The Challenges of Conservation, Conclusions of the International Workshop, UNESCO, Ferrara, Italy, 2002)

5. Since then, several countries advanced in the study and identification of the Qhapac Nan - Camino Inca on their territories. A consultation meeting between the World Heritage Centre and the Permanent Delegations of the States Parties concerned took place on 29 January 2003 at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris. The participants agreed with the following conclusions:

- The multidisciplinary and long-term dimension of this challenging project.
- The Permanent Delegations underlined the statement formulated by the Director of the World Heritage Centre, Mr Francesco Bandarin, who confirmed the importance of this project for a trans-boundary multinational nomination, as a reference for the Latin America and the Caribbean Unit, as well as for the rest of the geographical units of the World Heritage Centre.
- The Permanent Delegations firmly expressed the wish that the WHC in Paris would be the general coordinator of the project, defining the calendar and *criteria* for planning the work programme, responsible for the categories and methodologies for the nomination and responsible for the conceptualization of a common trans-boundary multinational proposal.
- The Centre would elaborate a discussion document as well as a questionnaire to orient the discussion for the first expert meeting.
- The Permanent Delegations were kindly invited to send the Centre the list of the national experts and national institutions involved in the project implementation.

6. On 1 and 2 April 2003, the Government of Peru convened a sub-regional meeting with the objective to coordinate concepts and approaches to the Camino Inca World Heritage initiative. A second objective was to present, for endorsement by the other countries, a project profile for a technical cooperation project for submission to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

7. The World Heritage Centre is now in the process of preparing a scientific meeting that will most likely be convened in October 2003.

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

8. Argentina: Argentina organised a first national encounter and meeting of experts on the Caminos Andinos in San Juan in November 2002 and a second meeting with participants from Bolivia, Chile and Peru as well as UNESCO, IUCN and ICOMOS in Jujuy in February 2003. At these meetings, the experts recommended approaches to the identification of representative parts of the Camino in the provinces concerned and institutional arrangements for coordination.

9. Chile: The Tentative List of Chile, submitted in the year 2000, already included a number of sites that are related to the Camino Inca. In response to Peru's initiative, the

Council of National Monuments decided, in 2002, to establish an interdisciplinary team to participate in and advance the Camino Inca World Heritage initiative. The approach is that of a cultural landscape.

10. Peru: An inter-institutional National Commission has been established with the National Institute for Culture as the executing agency. Presently, a team of archaeologists is working to identify and investigate the Camino Inca –Qhapaq Nan- in Peru. At the same time, the Government of Peru prepared and submitted a project proposal for sustainable socio-economic development along the Camino Inca to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

11. IUCN: IUCN developed a project proposal for a pre-feasibility study for a system of protected areas along the Camino Inca. IUCN will present the project to the World Parks Congress in South Africa in September 2003.

#### **IV. The First Regional Technical Meeting Qhapaq Nan – Camino Inca (Lima, Peru, 1-2 April 2003)**

12. Participants from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, UNESCO and the Inter-American Development Bank attended. The meeting consisted of two parts: the first part was dedicated to the Qhapaq Nan - Camino Inca World Heritage initiative and the second part to the Technical Cooperation project for submission to the IDB.

13. The delegates adopted two documents: one on the Qhapaq Nan – Camino Inca World Heritage and one on the IDB Technical Cooperation project.

#### **14. *The Qhapaq Nan - Camino Inca in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru and its inscription on the World Heritage List***

The delegates agreed that, while recognizing the different national conditions, it was convenient to aspire to a process of regional cooperation that would lead to one single nomination for inscription on the World Heritage List.

The delegates adopted the following recommendations:

- (i) That the Heads of State of the Group of Rio, in their meeting in Cusco in May 2003, express their support for this initiative.
- (ii) That the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session be informed of the actions undertaken by States Parties and the results of the sub-regional meeting in Lima in order to define possible technical and financial cooperation. In this sense, it was recommended that the World Heritage Centre provides the coordination and follow-up of the project.
- (iii) That it was essential that States Parties that had not yet done so should inscribe the Qhapaq Nan – Camino Inca in their respective Tentative Lists.

- (iv) That the World Heritage Centre organises a scientific meeting to establish joint guidelines, criteria, concepts and a timetable for the preparation of the nomination documents.
- (v) That complementarity be sought between the World Heritage inscription and other initiatives, programmes and technical and financial projects whose objectives are concordant with the nomination process.
- (vi) That the World Heritage Centre explores the possibilities to establish a virtual discussion forum to ensure a permanent exchange of ideas between the parties involved.
- (vii) That the World Heritage Centre, by means of a questionnaire, identifies the available human, technical and financial resources as well as the specific needs of States Parties with the view to establishing multidisciplinary teams to facilitate cooperation among countries.
- (viii) That full use be made of valuable and relevant experiences in countries in the identification, management, inventorying and participation of communities.

**15. *Project profile for technical cooperation with the Inter-American Development Bank for the Qhapac Nnan-Camino Inca Regional Project***

Peru submitted a project profile to IDB for a Technical Cooperation project for the preparation of an Action Plan for the Development of the Qhapac Nnan – Camino Inca. The project would consist of four components: identification of the archaeological and cultural heritage, conservation of natural heritage, development and empowerment of indigenous people and local communities, sustainable tourism. The draft project profile proposed that the regional coordination would be the responsibility of the Peruvian National Commission for the Qhapac Nnan and that the executing agency would be UNESCO, through its representation in Peru.

Having analysed the draft project profile presented by the Government of Peru, the representatives of Bolivia, Chile and Ecuador expressed their support for this project. To this effect, they signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the representative of the IDB. The Representatives of Argentina and Colombia informed that they would have to transmit this project proposal to the competent authorities for consideration.

All delegates agreed on the following recommendations:

- (i) That a consultation process be initiated through the respective ministries of foreign affairs to explore the possibility that the Heads of State of the Group of Rio in their meeting in Cusco in May 2003, express their support for this project.
- (ii) That, on the basis of the project profile, the IDB, together with the countries concerned, develop a Plan of Operation for early implementation of the project.

- (iii) That in the framework of the regional project, specific attention be paid to particular national conditions and requirements for institutional development and resources.
- (iv) That the executing agency of the project be UNESCO.
- (v) That, considering that this is a project of integral development that complements and broadens the World Heritage nomination process, this project contributes to the objective to inscribe the Qhapac Nan – Camino Inca on the World Heritage List and that the results of the scientific meeting that World Heritage Centre will convene be taken into account in the preparation of the Action Plan.

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

16. The Heads of State of Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru met in Cusco, Peru on 23 May 2003. On this occasion, they signed a Joint Declaration on the Qhapac Nan – Camino Principal Andino Project in which they expressed their full support for its implementation.

17. The Heads of State consider the *Qhapac Nan – Camino Principal Andino* of outstanding universal value and commit themselves to pursue its inscription on the World Heritage List. They also expressed support for the Technical Cooperation with the IDB as a first step in the materialization of the project.

18. The Heads of State clearly place the project in the context of regional development and integration and the improvement of the living conditions of the indigenous populations and the people of the countries.