Coffee Cultural Landscape
(Colombia)
No 1121

Official name as proposed by the State Party
Coffee Cultural Landscape

Location
47 municipalities in Caldas, Quindio, Risaralda, and Valle del Cauca Departments
Zones A, part of F: Department of Caldas
Zones B, C, part of F: Department of Risaralda
Zones D, E, part of F: Department of Valle del Cauca
Republic of Colombia

Brief description
The series of six landscapes and eighteen urban centres extends through some of the coffee producing areas within the foothills of the western and central ranges of the Cordillera de los Andes. The landscapes reflect the growing of coffee in small plots carved out of the high forest over the past one hundred years and the way farmers have adapted cultivation to difficult mountain conditions to produce a high value product. The architecture in some of the urban settlements is a fusion between Spanish cultural patterns and the indigenous culture of the region.

Category of property
In terms of categories of cultural property set out in Article I of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a serial nomination of six sites.

In terms of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (January 2008) paragraph 47, it is also a series of six cultural landscapes.

1 Basic data

Included in the Tentative List
25 April 2001

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination
None

Date received by the World Heritage Centre
1 February 2010

Background
This is a new nomination.

Consultations
ICOMOS has consulted its International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes and several independent experts.

Comments on the assessment of this cultural landscape were received from IUCN on 1st February 2011.

The information was carefully considered by ICOMOS in reaching the final decision and recommendation in March 2011, and IUCN has also reviewed the presentation of its comments as included in this report by ICOMOS.

Literature consulted (selection)

Technical Evaluation Mission
A joint ICOMOS/IUCN technical evaluation mission visited the property from 28 August to 6 September 2010.

Additional information requested and received from the State Party
On 12 October 2010, ICOMOS requested the State Party to provide supplementary information on:

- The possibility of the series being extended in the future to include further sites;
- How the landscape of the nominated sites is an exceptional reflection of these social and economic parameters and how it is different from that of other sites;
- Whether the way coffee is cultivated is specific to the areas nominated and if so how are these specificities reflected are in landscape terms, and what types of production has persisted over time;
- How each of the six sites relates to the overall Outstanding Universal Value proposed for the serial nominated property;
- Whether the industrial heritage has been studied and inventoried;
- The possible start-up of gold mining activities.

A reply was received from the State Party on the 12 November 2010 and this information has been incorporated into the relevant sections below.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report
10 March 2011
2 The property

Description
Since a few decades after settlers from the Antioquian region moved south to the foothills of the western and central ranges of the Cordillera de los Andes in the 19th century, as part of a massive migration, the region’s economy has revolved around coffee. The region is now identified as the Coffee Region (Eje Cafetero) or Coffee Triangle (Triángulo), where 35% of Colombia’s coffee production is cultivated, in the main by small scale farmers. The link between people and coffee in this mountainous region has fostered a strong cultural identity.

The nominated property consists of six landscape areas of cleared forest on the slopes of hills where coffee has been planted, and in some areas intercropped with sugar, corn, beans, plantain etc, and where coffee planting accounts for around 57% of the total area of the farms. Eighteen urban settlements associated with the farms are also included in the nominated area, mostly on the ridges above the farms.

The six rural zones vary in size between 826 ha to 47,406 ha. Overall it is stated that all the zones together contain approximately 24,000 coffee farms, which house around 80,000 people. The urban centres have a collective population of over 220,000 inhabitants.

The landscape areas or zones appear to have been chosen to be representative of the whole coffee growing area (rather than to be exceptional) and also to reflect:

- mountain growing coffee,
- predominance of coffee crops,
- down-slope cultivation (from the settlements),
- ecosystems of environmental interest,
- hydric availability,
- the presence of coffee growers’ municipal committees.

ICOMOS notes that the nomination dossier is somewhat imprecise with the result that the nominated areas cannot be described in any detail.

Coffee Farms
The farm sizes are small, the average being around 4.6 hectares, of which 2.6ha are planted with coffee trees.

All the coffee is grown on steep slopes – up to 50% inclination in places – and this does not allow for mechanisation. The coffee plants are renewed regularly – the average age of the plants is said to be 5.9 years.

The coffee grown is of the *Coffea arabica* species, grown in high altitudes in America and parts of Africa and Asia (as opposed to the *Coffea robusta* species which is grown at low altitudes in southeast Asia and parts of Africa). The coffee produced in Colombia, Kenya and Tanzania is known as High Grown coffee and is subject to wet mill processing - which includes fermentation and yields a mild coffee. Recently a new variety of the coffee plant, *Castilloa*, has been introduced into the nominated farms rather than the Colombian variety.

Traditional coffee cultivation involves the planting of coffee plants within clearings in the forest, leaving enough trees to provide shade. However unshaded coffee enhanced by fertilisers produces higher yields – but has more detrimental effects in environmental terms. These newer methods were introduced in the 1960s (see History and development). In the nominated areas shade systems, semi-shade systems and full-sun exposure systems are all to be found, and are used according to altitude, slope inclination, soil quality, and rainfall patterns. However, it is stated that there has been a positive trend in the last few years to a return to more shaded systems due to the demand for environmentally certified beans and the increasing cost of fertiliser. Shaded systems are mainly found in the Central and Western parts of the nominated area.

What the nomination dossier stresses is that the way in which coffee is grown in agronomic terms, is not specific to the region nominated.

Traditionally, once the ripe berries were picked, the flesh of the berry was removed, in a process called depulping, and the beans were then fermented to remove the layer of mucilage. When the fermentation was complete, the beans were washed with water to remove the fermentation residue. Finally, the beans were dried. Various alternatives were used for the drying process, such as the drying patios, revolving drums known as Guardiolas, and drying trolleys. The drying patios, used on the old coffee farms, were huge structures of 4 or 5 floors with roofs, wood or whicker floors and no walls to allow a flow of air. Guardiolas were large spinning drums – with a door through which the coffee would enter the drum – which was constantly turning on an axis and fed with hot air.

ICOMOS notes that it is not clear if any drying patios survive but some of the old machines are kept on a few farms and in the museum, and some houses have sliding roofs over coffee drying areas – that are not mentioned in the nomination dossier.

Today in the nominated area an almost waterless system of processing is used – a mechanical demulsifier, which deplups the coffee cherry and leaves the coffee bean ready for drying and classification. The drying is carried out on concrete patios or in warm air dryers.

Urban areas
The urban areas are mainly on the flattish tops of hills with the coffee fields running down the slopes. The architecture of the Antioquian colonisation (see History and development) was influenced by Spanish-style building traditions and planning although the grid pattern
had to be adapted to the steep terrain. The traditional building materials were tapia, or cob, and bahareque, plaited cane, which were combined for the walls, and clay tiles for the roofs. In the nominated area some 57% of the walls are still constructed in these traditional materials. At the end of the 19th century, as a result of prosperity in the coffee economy, woodwork and fretwork whose designs reflected local traditions, began to be added to the Spanish style buildings.

The urban areas are said to be in three categories of which the first have traditional structures that conserve their homogenous architectural qualities, such as Salamina. The second category has traditional structures which are not completely homogenous, such as Neira and Montenegro; and the third category is expanding settlements which have modified their original character, such as Anserma and Quinchía. These categories are not defined for all the urban areas.

ICOMOS notes that the descriptions provided in the nomination dossier are not detailed and provide few details of the eighteen towns, nor do they indicate for the different landscape areas the number of farms, the particular characteristics of the coffee husbandry, the types of houses, how the lands are owned, the social structure etc. or how they related to the coffee criteria for selection mentioned above. Rather the areas are said to have attributes that relate to archaeology, festivals and urban structure.

The details provided for each zone are confined to the following which gives very little information on the coffee growing farms:

Zone A: Municipal areas of Riosucio and Supía, department of Caldas
This covers 1,390ha at an altitude of 1,545 metres above sea level. As well as Antioqueño settlers (see History and development) the area also includes indigenous populations of the Embera community and an Afro-Caribbean population linked to mining. The area hosts the Carnival Riosucio.

Zone B: Municipal area of Quinchía, department of Risaralda
This covers 826ha at an altitude of 1,825 metres. As well as coffee, plantain, yucca, sugar cane, blackberry and asparagus are grown. It is said to have great archaeological potential given by the fact that it was inhabited by tribes of Guaqueramaes and Tapascos, who dedicated themselves to the exploitation of alluvial gold and the extraction and commercialization of salt.

Zone C: Municipal areas of Aguadas, Chinchiná, Neira, Palestina, Pácora, Salamina y Villamaría, Department of Caldas
This zone covers 47,406ha at an altitude between 1,500 and 1,900 metres. The economy is based on coffee and tourism. The zone includes the towns of Chinchiná, Marsella, Neira, Palestina, Pácora and Salamina y Villamaría. The historic centres of these towns are arranged according to the Spanish grid layout, which, on the outskirts, become irregular in order to adapt to the region's topographic characteristics and to the towns 'old access paths. The town of Salamina is well known for its decorative woodwork. The historic centre of Salamina is a first category protected area.

Zone D: Municipal areas of Armenia, Calarcá, Circasia, Córdoba, Filandia, Génova, Montenegro, Pijao, Quimbaya and Salento, and rural areas of Pereira, Department of Risaralda; Municipalities of Alcalá, Ulloa, Caicedonia and Sevilla, Department of Valle del Cauca
This zone covers 42,820ha at an altitude between 1,200 and 1,550 metres. The zone is the main tourist area of the region. The region was previously inhabited by the Quimbayas indigenous people, renowned internationally for their fine gold-work—among the most important in Latin America before the conquest—now kept in the Quimbaya museum. It includes the urban areas of Calarcá and Montenegro. This area houses the first park and museum dedicated to coffee.

Zone E: Rural areas of the municipalities of Trujillo, Riofrío, Department of Valle del Cauca
This zone covers 4,008ha at an altitude of 1,370 metres. It has top quality soils and, as a result, presents the best conditions for coffee growing, given that the altitude is also ideal (between 1400-1800 masl). It includes protected natural areas such as the Pacific Forest Reserve. It is also said to have great visual diversity.

Zone F: Rural areas of the municipalities of Anserma, Belalcázar, department of Risaralda; San José, department of Caldas; Apía, Balboa, Belén de Umbría, La Celia and Santuario, department of Risaralda; Municipalities of Ansermanuevo, El Águila, and El Cairo, department of Valle del Cauca
The zone covers 44,670ha at an altitude of between 1,000 and 1,900 metres. It includes the following urban areas: Apía, Belalcázar (in Ansermas country), Belén de Umbría, El Cairo, Risaralda, San José and Santuario. Anserma, named after the indigenous people who used to live in the area, is one of oldest towns of the region. It was founded as “Santa Ana de los Caballeros” in 1539. Anserma was also the epicentre of waves of Antioqueño colonization towards the south and west which produced the founding of towns such as Apía, Santuario, Belalcázar and Risaralda. The area is adjacent to the National Natural Park Tatamá, and presents a high level of biodiversity.

ICOMOS notes that what is not clear from the nomination dossier, as few details are given of the specificities of the various zones and particularly about coffee planting, is how each area contributes toward the potential Outstanding Universal Value as a coffee landscape in terms of specific attributes. Such details as are given concentrate on archaeological potential, the
festivals, the town planning and nature conservation – in
only one area is coffee growing mentioned as a key
attribute – that is Zone E which is said to have an ideal
climate for coffee growing.

Some coffee areas have more of a traditional approach
to coffee planting in a way that respects the environment
– but not all; similarly some of the urban areas are said
to demonstrate strong local characteristics in terms of
architecture and planning that have persisted, while
other do not have these characteristics.

In the original nomination dossier, it was stated that the
series might be extended. However, in the
supplementary information provided on 12 November
2010, it is said that this will be unlikely.

ICOMOS considers that the justification for the serial
approach has not so far been clearly demonstrated in
terms of showing how the six areas contribute different
attributes of the potential Outstanding Universal Value.

History and development
As coffee growing only started in the 19th century the
main historical details are those related to coffee. The
nomination provides details on the earlier history that
relates to the indigenous populations, although it is not
made clear how the landscape reflects this earlier history
and indeed the Spanish invasion in the 16th century, led
to the physical and cultural disappearance of most of the
indigenous groups that lived in the Cauca River Middle
Valley.

What shaped the coffee landscape were the mass
migrations of the 19th century. The seeds of this
migration were sown in the second half of the
17th century, when nomadic groups of miners began to
emerge as a result of the decadence of the large mines
granted by the Spanish Crown. The miners decided to
flee the protection of the Spanish and this ultimately led
to a massive migration of the workforce as the scarcity of
land and reduced agricultural productivity generated a
crisis that affected all the productive sectors by the end
of the 18th century.

In response to the crisis, Judge Mon y Velarde adopted
drastic measures and conceded free access to limited
extensions of land for founding agricultural towns and
settlements close to the mining centres, without
consideration of the previous rights enjoyed by the
landowners.

These measures led to the foundation of new towns, and
established a model for the colonization of what were to
become the coffee producing areas such as Aguadas,
Salamina, Aranzazu, Manizales, Pereira, Quindío and
Tolima.

The colonization process was to establish settlements
and their surrounding agricultural zones simultaneously.
By 1819 the area around Salamina, founded in 1825,
had begun to be occupied. In the process there were
also fights between independentsettlers and those who
had received licensed security of tenure through
concessions. During the next 120 years, 86 towns were
founded in an area of over a million hectares. The few
indigenous people who were left were given land in
reservations in Riosucio and Quinchía.

Coffee was ideal crop for the new settlers as it did not
require great capital investments, it combined well with
subsistence crops, and was durable and easily
processed. The forest was cleared to provide land for
the new coffee plantations.

The first Coffee Growers National Congress was held in
1927. Later that year with the support of Colombia’s
Government, the Colombian Coffee Growers Federation
(FNC) was created, dedicated to improving living
conditions for coffee growing communities using
collaboration, participation, and innovation mechanisms.

In the 1960s, there was a marked change in the
cultivation techniques because of the development of
new rust resistant coffee varieties and a search for
greater productivity. A portion of the traditional
plantations, distinguished by long productive cycles, low
density plantations, varieties of tall trees, the use of
shade trees, and low productivity were replaced by
‘technified’ and denser plantations with organised
layouts and smaller trees, less shade, and greater
productivity. Given the greater yield per hectare,
technified systems require more intensive labour and a
greater use of fertilizers. The percentage of technified
plantations increased from 5% in 1970 to 80% in 1993-
1997.

These changes brought about considerable change in
the landscape. Farms became smaller and the number
of farms grew significantly (by 90% in Caldas). The most
dramatic changes were seen in the reduction of
grasslands and the increase of other crops, forests and
weeds. These transformations also created a certain
degree of environmental deterioration. The coffee
institutions are, however, increasingly committed to
making coffee production more environmentally friendly.

3 Outstanding Universal Value, integrity
and authenticity

Comparative analysis
The comparative analysis compares the nominated sites
with coffee growing areas in Colombia and in the rest of
the world and with other inscribed cultural landscapes.

Coffee cultivation is widespread in Colombia and there
are similarities with other coffee growing areas but the
nominated sites are seen as distinctive for their ‘coffee
culture’ with coffee shops, coffee highway and coffee
festivals, and for the fact that most farms are small scale
family operations using manual labour.

358
Little information is given about other Latin American countries. Comparisons are made with the inscribed sites of the Alto Douro Wine Region, Portugal (2001, criteria (iii), (iv) and (v)), the Agave Landscape and Ancient Industrial Facilities of Tequila, Mexico (2006, criteria (ii), (iv), (v) and (vi)), and the Archaeological Landscape of the First Coffee Plantations in the South-East of Cuba (2000, criteria (iii) and (iv)), where few similarities are found. The main similarities are considered to be with the coffee growing areas of Ethiopia, where coffee is also grown in the high forests. No comparisons are made with the coffee growing areas of East Africa or Asia.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis partly justifies consideration of the property on the World Heritage List but that more detailed comparisons are needed with other areas of Latin America and the Caribbean, such as the Jamaican Blue Mountain area, and this is where history shows that coffee entered the Americas through the French Caribbean island of Martinique, in order to demonstrate more clearly how the property is distinctive.

More comparisons are also needed within the hinterland of the property in order to understand why the six landscapes have been selected and why some towns have been excluded and in order to understand how the nominated sites each contribute to the potential Outstanding Universal Value. Furthermore there is a need to demonstrate why the nominated areas are exceptional rather than being merely typical of the wider coffee growing areas in Colombia and why all are needed.

ICOMOS does not consider that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this property for the World Heritage List at this stage.

Justification of Outstanding Universal Value

The nominated property is considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- It is an outstanding example of human adaptation to difficult geographical conditions, from which came the subsequent establishment of slope and mountain coffee production.
- The human, family, and generational effort put in by the coffee growers and the permanent support of their institutions are an exceptional example of collective action in overcoming challenging economical circumstances and surviving this rough, isolated landscape.
- All this helped to constitute an exceptional productive system that has proven to be sustainable in economic, social, and environmental terms, despite the price cycles inherent to coffee agriculture.
- The evolution of the coffee trade combined with traditional production methods has, for over a century, opened the path for the production of a coffee of exceptional quality.
- The life and essence of this region pivots around coffee which has generated a wealth of cultural manifestations ranging from the musical to the gastronomical, passed down from generation to generation. Coffee also affected human settlement and urban architecture here.
- The property’s cultural heritage is well represented in urban and rural dwellings that adapted to the conditions of the steep territory and provided the functional needs associated with coffee production.
- The Coffee Cultural Landscape (PCC) displays a diversity of cultural values, considered exceptional in a global context. They reflect the close relationship between man and nature in the production of a high quality coffee in the midst of the challenges and opportunities engendered by the steep lands of the Colombian Andes.

The values that are the basis of the proposal for the inscription of the property are stated to be:

1. Human, family, generational, and historical effort put into sustainable production of quality coffee.
2. Coffee culture for the world.
3. Strategic social capital built around its institutions.
4. Combining tradition and technology to guarantee product quality and sustainability.

ICOMOS considers that as what is being nominated is a series of cultural landscapes, there is a need to set out not only what that landscape is but why it is outstanding in terms of the way it reflects various interactions between people and their environment over time, related to coffee growing. Currently much of this detail is lacking.

ICOMOS considers that the mountainous coffee areas with their collaborative way of farming in clearings in the high forest, and their distinctive vernacular buildings, do appear to have the potential to demonstrate outstanding universal value. However, the way the forest landscape has been adapted for coffee growing and the characteristic of that coffee agriculture do need to be described and articulated in detail in order to understand the rationale for the selection of sites. Currently few details are provided to allow an understanding of what has been nominated, in terms of the landscape or in terms of the buildings that provide the functional needs for the coffee producers.

And if the system is a truly sustainable interaction between people and their environment, then the characteristic of this need stressing. From the information provided in the nomination dossier, it is clear that some coffee growing areas are farmed in an environmentally satisfactory way but not where these are. Within the nominated areas are flat lands with extensive sugar production such as between Manizales to Salamina and it is not clear how these contribute to potential Outstanding Universal Value.
Similarly some towns are category 1 and 2 in terms of their distinctive buildings, but it is not clear where these settlements are in relation to the nominated sites, nor is it clear how the other towns contribute to Outstanding Universal Value.

If the nominated sites are to be exceptional manifestations of coffee growing culture, they need to be chosen to manifest outstanding examples of sustainable coffee farming and distinctive urban areas that reflect the best fusion between Spanish planning and local building traditions.

ICOMOS considers that more detailed information need be provided to in order that a clear rationale can be established for what is in and what is outside the nominated sites and how each of them contributes to the potential Outstanding Universal Value.

Integrity and authenticity

Integrity

From the information provided in the nomination dossier, ICOMOS considers that it is difficult to understand how the boundaries of the nominated sites define a distinctive coffee growing area. In the supplementary material provided in November 2010, the State Party states that ‘The six areas of the Coffee Cultural Landscape (PCC) are located in what is known as the Eje Cafetero, or coffee growing region axis. The region has a common territory, legacy and culture and is home to a number of areas that share, in general terms, the physical, social and cultural characteristics of the Coffee Cultural Landscape. In some cases, the PCC also extends to areas in other departments such as the south-eastern parts of Antioquia and the northern region of the Tolima department’. This confirms the impression that the coffee landscape is widespread and covers all areas where coffee is grown. ICOMOS considers that what does not seem to have been established is how the nominated areas are in some way exceptional examples that demonstrate the traditions of coffee growing and their distinctive settlements.

It is therefore difficult to determine integrity in terms of whether all the attributes necessary for Outstanding Universal Value are within the boundaries, nor which attributes might be vulnerable. For individual sites, it is also not possible to comment on the rationale for the boundaries in relation to the attributes, and thus on the integrity, as so little information is provided to describe and define these sites.

Authenticity

Very few details are provided of the many towns and villages and it is not clear how authenticity might apply to them. Certain towns are protected for their architecture and planning – such as Salamina and this clearly reflects a fusion of Spanish and local traditions in its fretwork decoration. But almost no details are provided of the other towns apart from their names.

As for the coffee landscape, although in general terms the arrangements of the coffee plants are given, ICOMOS considers that it is not clear what specifically characterises the sites nominated and thus what their specific form is.

ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity have not been met at this stage.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (v) and (vi).

Criterion (v): be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the Coffee Cultural Landscape is an exceptional example of a sustainable and productive cultural landscape; it is the result of the effort of several generations of campesino families who, for more than 100 years, have accumulated knowledge of how to adapt coffee cultivation to small plots of land and to the difficult conditions of their surroundings. They have created a strong, unparalleled cultural identity, not to mention having produced one of the finest coffees in the world.

The rural inhabitants of the zone have also developed exceptional models of collective action forging a social, cultural and productive institutions in the process while, at the same time, they have generated innovative practices in the management of natural resources. Cultural heritage is directly associated to living arrangements and the activities of coffee production like in no other region.

The landscape in the PCC contains settlements which are organized in orthogonal layouts in steep terrain (vertiginous slopes). The natural and tropical conditions present in the climate, altitude as well as the creative methods used to adapt the cultivation of coffee to these conditions has forged a unique landscape in the world.

The architecture is the product of a symbiosis between Spanish cultural patterns recreated with the materials and indigenous culture of the region; the highly ornamental construction techniques used in urban and rural domestic buildings are the result of this cultural mixing and have led to many myths and customs which define their symbolic value. For this reason, the architecture is also a fundamental element which contributes to the unity, authenticity and integrity of the landscape.

ICOMOS considers that the property has the potential to justify this criterion but the nominated areas need to be more clearly defined to reflect the specificities of the
Outstanding Universal Value have been justified at this stage.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified at this stage.

**Criterion (vi): be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance;**

The State Party justifies this criterion on the grounds that the 100 year old coffee tradition makes for an associated culture that is one of a kind and one of the most representative symbols of national culture in Colombia and abroad.

Coffee cultivation has led to a rich cultural tradition of tangible and intangible manifestations in the territory, the architecture, and the landscape that are passed down from generation to generation.

The PCC stands out for its deeply instilled rural culture of exceptional characteristics, with social, political, religious, and artistic referents that are the result of the interrelation of two phenomena: the historical occupation and land exploitation process known as the Antioquian colonization and the development of coffee production as the region’s main productive activity.

The cultural manifestations, associated directly to the PCC, are not limited to the regional culture, but they relate strongly to national identity, defining the Colombian image nationally and abroad. These elements are typified by the Juan Valdez character, his sombrero aguadeño – a traditional style of hat – and the raw hide shoulder bag still used by the coffee producers. The importance of coffee is such that it has given way to a multitude of artistic expressions ranging from music, to painting, writing, and photography.

ICOMOS considers that there is a need to set out what the ideas are that have outstanding universal significance – that is greater than national significance, in order to satisfy this criterion.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified at this stage.

ICOMOS considers that the serial approach has not yet been justified in terms of the selection of sites.

ICOMOS does not consider that the criteria and Outstanding Universal Value have been justified at this stage.

### 4 Factors affecting the property

#### Development pressures

The nomination dossier acknowledges that development – or lack of it – in various forms is a key threat to the area. Coffee farmers are at the mercy of the global markets. Therefore a downturn could lead to small-scale farmers having to give up farming. An upturn on the global markets could mean more changes to the vernacular buildings.

#### Changes to local buildings

The nomination dossier acknowledges that the local population is largely unaware of the value of the local architecture and has therefore introduced alien materials and structures.

ICOMOS considers that uninformed and unsympathetic alterations to the traditional architecture using alternative “modern” material and intervention constitute a significant threat to the traditional architecture within the PCC. Whereas there is legislative protection and financial assistance for listed buildings within the urban context, all other traditional architecture currently remains endangered.

However various programmes have been initiated to train craftsmen. So far however few of the buildings are protected.

#### Negative impacts of agricultural processes

The nomination dossier states that pollution of natural resources and the loss of micro basins and hydric sources, due to inappropriate use of pesticides, fertilizers, and other agro-chemical substances used in farming and coffee growing, are the major risks to the environment in the PCC. Also the waste water from the wet processing of the coffee can pollute streams. However the coffee institutions, through Cenicafé, have designated a significant proportion of resources to researching cleaner production technologies that reduce the negative effects on the region’s ecosystem. It is estimated that around a third of farmers now use an Ecological Post Harvesting Process and Waste Management System.

There appears also to be a negative impact on the environment from full sun planting of coffee without shade trees. The traditional planting left shade trees in the forest clearings in which the coffee was planted and these not only were remnants of the forest but they also provided an ecological corridor. The full sun planting clear fells the areas and separates the plots with small hedges; it also uses more artificial fertilisers.

It is acknowledged that the risk of soil erosion is high. This could be exacerbated by any change in climatic conditions. It is also acknowledged that this can be counteracted through mass incorporation of practices that protect the environment such as shade systems, cross-slope planting, and selective weeding. Some of
these practices are already applied in parts of the property. It is stated that they would be more easily and massively implemented if the region were inscribed.

IUCN notes that “shade grown coffee is the traditional system and supports significantly higher levels of biodiversity. IUCN questions, therefore, why plantations with open grown coffee are included in the nomination”.

Gold Mining
The ICOMOS mission was made aware of a possible start-up of gold mining activities in the province of Quindio. This holds the potential to severely damage the integrity of the nominated property. The State Party has confirmed that potential areas of mining interest exist near the buffer zone and that current mining controls mean that licences could be issued subject to regulations within the areas identified – although they could not be issued in National Parks and other areas protected for natural value. It is stated that there are currently mining activities in this region for sand, gravel, gold seam and alluvium gold, and that the AngloGold Ashanti multinational has been granted the necessary permits for prospection and exploration of areas within the central forest reserve, located between Tolima and Quindio.

Tourism pressures
Since the mid 1990s, rural tourism has expanded and the region now receives around half a million visits each year.

ICOMOS notes that there appears to be little tourism strategy for areas outside of the urban and semi-urban environments. Furthermore, within the isolated and rural communities that constitute the heart of the PCC none seems evident, yet road improvements are taking place to encourage tourism development. Other types of infrastructure such as bed capacity, etc., and more significantly training of host communities to handle internal and external visitors appear to be missing.

ICOMOS considers that the greatest negative impact of tourism so far is the way it has distorted land and property values and led to changes in buildings. The State Party acknowledges that this situation threatens the architectural heritage by generating a distorted real estate market.

ICOMOS considers that there is an urgent need for a cultural tourism strategy and programmes that respect the attributes of the cultural landscape in line with ICOMOS principles.

Environmental pressures
IUCN notes that “the natural values of the landscape have been changed and little is left of the original vegetation across most of the area. However, the last remnant natural forest, including bamboo forest, are important for protecting biodiversity while conserving upper watersheds and riverbanks. An important effort has been carried out in the Quindío Department to restore natural forest creating biological corridors among protected areas, which retain natural values within the landscape including ecosystem services. An important collection of flora, located in the Quindio Botanical Garden, comprises most of the threatened plant and tree species as well as others with social and economic value for local stakeholders. The National Center for Bamboo Studies (Centro Nacional para el Estudio del Bambú-Guadua) Center, also in the Quindío Department, holds an important collection of native bamboo species”.

Natural disasters
Attention is drawn in the nomination dossier to threats of landslides, flooding, flash-floods and avalanches, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. Whilst landslides pose the greatest risk to the crops, seismic movements, like the earthquake in 1999 – on the other hand, constitute the greatest risk in terms of the region’s architectural heritage.

In recent years, attention has turned from dealing with disasters to disaster prevention and The National System for the Prevention and Attention to Disaster has been set up through regional offices, and has established a Local Committee in each municipality to be in charge of guarding against disasters, and reporting them when they do happen. The Committees put together Contingency Plans for each municipality, according to the threats they may be exposed to. In addition, regional authorities include in their Departmental Development Plans a “Prevention and Attention to Disaster Sector” to provide their offices with the required instruments.

Impact of climate change
ICOMOS considers that any increase in rainfall would exacerbate the threat of landslides. IUCN notes that “climate change in general is a threat to the values of the landscape and mitigation and adaptation measures should be important components of site management”.

ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are changes to the ecology of the area from full sun planting, changes in materials and form of traditional buildings and the potential impact of gold mining.

5 Protection, conservation and management

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone
The six sites nominated and the buffer zones form a visually contiguous unit with their surrounding landscapes and ICOMOS considers that the rational for their delineation and separation is not always clear. Furthermore, as has been set out above, the justification for the six areas is also not entirely clear in terms of the
specific attributes that they contain. Their boundaries
tend not to coincide with recognisable features in the
landscape and furthermore, do not include the upper
watersheds of the farmland or the natural forests out of
which the coffee farms were carved, and which are
important water catchment and natural conservation
areas, as IUCN also notes.

This last point is also emphasised by IUCN who state
that the proposed boundaries, in most parts of the
nominated property do not consider natural attributes as
protected areas, upper watersheds and remnant natural
forest.

The selection of some towns for inclusion and the
exclusion of others is not justified. The city of Manizales,
which is excluded, still has industrial heritage of the now
defunct Coffee Cable Car system that operated within
the PCC, and some of the cable towers remain. The
historic cable terminal has been restored. ICOMOS
suggests that consideration needs to be given to
whether the links between the landscape of the
communication system that linked it with ports on the
Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean are significant.

These are defined in the nomination dossier as
innovative communications systems such as the
Manizales – Villamaria – Mariquita cable car system
(1922), the Manizales – Aranzazu cable car system
(1929), and the Caldas Railroad (1927), which were
fundamental for the commercialisation of coffee
production, for connecting communities, and for
transporting merchandise.

Other towns are included but no distinguishing features
are provided.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated area or areas
should be a landscape that exemplifies the coffee
system working in harmony with the environment, that
displays traditional architecture, and that demonstrates
the wider links that facilitated the coffee trade. An
appropriate buffer zone to protect the nominated areas
should be contiguous with administrative areas.

ICOMOS considers that the rationale for the boundaries
of the nominated property and of its buffer zone are not
entirely clear in connection with the possible attributes of
the overall coffee landscape, with geographical features
or with watersheds and surrounding natural forests.

Ownership
The majority of the property is in private ownership – a
collection of urban and rural plots. There are some
reserves in public ownership.

Protection
Legal Protection
Legal protection exists for certain buildings in the cities
and the historic centres of Salamina and El Cairo have
been protected at national and local level respectively.
Protection is however absent for buildings in the semi-
urban and rural areas that make up the majority of the
nominated property and for the overall coffee landscape.
The coffee farmers have a degree of protection, in terms of
the use of the land.

Protection is implemented at the national government
level, primarily through the Ministry of Culture in
conjunctiion with the Ministry of Environment, Housing
and Territorial Development, and also the Ministry of
Commerce, Industry and Tourism. These collaborate
with Private Sector and Civil Society organisations and
the community to implement protection within the PCC.
Thus there is an integrated protection mechanism
operating at the National, Provincial, Municipal, Sub-
District, and Town Centre levels. Apart from legal
protection, the main protective instruments are land-use
plans and protection of the status of the coffee growing
area that is wider than the nominated property.

The land use plans of the municipalities when revised
will need to take into account the provisions of the PCC
Management Plan.

Traditional Protection
The coffee farmers are the custodians of the landscape
and thus of crucial importance. IUCN notes that "the
basis for protection of some of the area’s natural values
is customary law and governance integrating customary
and formal protection and management in a
complementary and consistent fashion is needed. Local
inhabitants seem to be well prepared to participate
effectively in governance and decision making regarding
their natural landscape conservation".

Effectiveness of protection measures
An effective integrated protection network exists but this
is not underpinned by protection of many of the buildings
or of the cultural aspects of the landscape.

ICOMOS considers that the legal protection in place is
not adequate and should be extended to buildings in the
semi-urban and rural areas and to the overall
landscapes. Protection also needs strengthening in
particular with regard to mining activities.

Conservation
Inventories, recording, research
The property has been described, and documented in
terms of its architectural traditions and associated
intangible cultural heritage. In addition various surveys
have been undertaken on projections for coffee
cultivation. This work began from as early as 1995 when
the idea of the PCC was first conceptualized. There are
a number of publications in the form of posters, flyers,
pamphlets, journal articles, books, and multimedia
presentations for the interpretation, conservation and
development of the natural and cultural patrimony of the
PCC, including its associated intangible heritage. However, ICOMOS notes that there is no inventory of coffee farmhouses and buildings or of the urban architecture.

Present state of conservation
The present state of conservation is generally good for traditional architecture, urbanism and cultural components although the waning use of traditional materials and craftsmanship is an issue for buildings and for the landscape. ICOMOS notes that there are issues connected to the lack of environmentally friendly practices in terms of landscape conservation related to the use of fertilisers associated with full sun cultivation.

Active Conservation measures
These relate to programmes to support the coffee farmers and their working practices and to restore protected buildings. There appears to be little active conservation of the overall cultural landscape.

However in places the coffee production process has been adapted to use minimal water quantity and water treatment systems are placed in most farms. Several certifications schemes are used, including seven “sustainable coffee labels”, which require that the coffee is cultivated without the use of chemicals or emphasize social aspects or a combination of both. An emphasis is put in the production of special coffees which integrates the environmental conservation, economic equity and social responsibility concepts. IUCN notes the positive trend in terms of conservation of coffee production across some of the property.

Maintenance
This is carried out by private owners apart from the few buildings in State ownership.

Effectiveness of conservation measures
The conservation measures undertaken by owners are generally adequate where traditional materials are used on buildings – but this is not generally now the case.

ICOMOS considers that there is a need to undertake an inventory of the farmhouses, and buildings associated with the coffee farms and of the urban architecture and to continue the training and encouragement for traditional craftspersons and the use of traditional materials on buildings, and to encourage environmentally satisfactory processes in coffee farming.

Management
Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes
A Management Committee has been established consisting of the Ministry of Culture, the Colombian Coffee Growers Federation (FNC), the Governors of Caldas, Quindío, Risaralda and Valle or their delegates, and a Regional Technical Committee brings in representatives of the Coffee Growers Committee and the universities. The State Party has appointed an Executive Director to oversee the implementation. There is therefore a structure in place that can begin to provide an overall management framework for the property.

Policy framework: management plans and arrangements, including visitor management and presentation
A Management Plan has been drawn up for the conservation and development of the landscape as a plan to establish the changing conditions of the landscape and not its immutability. The Management Plan was developed with the support of the Centre for Regional, Coffee and Business Studies (CRECE) based on the guidelines proposed by the technical teams from the Caldas, Quindío, Risaralda and Valle del Cauca departments. The FNC, the Ministry of Culture, and the National Planning Department also contributed to the Plan. The Management Plan is made up of three main sections:

(I) Characterisation
(II) Instruments for the management of the PCC
(III) Strategic guidelines

Guaranteeing environmental sustainability is an integral part of the PCC Management Plan and the nomination dossier states that approval of the nomination will undoubtedly help to secure this.

However IUCN stresses the need for management to respect an active series of national and local protected areas within the region and in the property boundaries holding a rich biodiversity, specially related with birds.

IUCN considers that an integrated management system, including the local environmental authorities (Corporaciones Regionales Autónomas), would be required to ensure that there is an effective overall approach to the management of the property natural assets. Protection of the natural values of the property should be a central objective in the management system for the property.

Risk preparedness
The National System for the Prevention and Attention to Disaster, has established a Local Committee in each municipality to be in charge of guarding against disasters.

The Committees has put together Contingency Plans for each municipality according to the threat they may be exposed to. In addition, regional authorities include in their Departmental Development Plans a “Prevention and Attention to Disaster Sector”. The National Government has also established certain special laws, such as the Ley del Ruiz (created due to the volcanic eruption in 1986), the Ley Páez (due to the flooding of
Involvement of the local communities

Local communities are fully involved in the management arrangements.

Resources, including staffing levels, expertise and training

Funding for the implementation of the management plan comes from a variety of sources including national and regional authorities and this is said to make consolidation of the medium terms projection of the plan difficult. Nevertheless all the authorities have some funds available for cultural heritage and the Ministry of Culture co-finances work on protected buildings.

A wide range of professional staff are attached to the Ministry of Culture and to Cenicafé, many of whom are well qualified in tangible and intangible heritage. Extensive training programmes exist, some linked to universities, for capacity building skills related to landscape management.

Effectiveness of current management

The management plan is detailed and comprehensive. Its aim is to manage change in the landscape. ICOMOS considers that what needs strengthening is a clearer articulation of the attributes of the coffee landscape that need sustaining as a framework for sustainable development as these are not set out clearly in the nomination dossier or in the management plan. Cultural landscapes change and evolve over time – but that does not mean all elements can change if their perceived value is to be maintained. In the case of the coffee landscapes the attributes that define their specific characteristics need to be much more clearly defined. In turn the management system and resources and training need to be directed at sustaining these attributes.

ICOMOS considers that the management system for the property is adequate but it needs to be focused on a clearer understanding of the attributes that need to be sustained.

6 Monitoring

A wide range of indicators have been developed related to the social structure of the coffee farms in order to monitor the resilience of the industry. Indicators also relate to archaeology, the implementation of the management plan and the number of protected buildings. ICOMOS considers that it would be desirable to augment these indicators with others related to the traditional building construction, and to the practices of coffee cultivation and the landscapes that these produce.

ICOMOS considers that the indicators developed are detailed and wide ranging but should be augmented to address traditional building technology and practices of coffee cultivation.

7 Conclusions

This nomination has been prepared systematically and with the full support of the local community over a considerable period of time. This has allowed for there to be strong local support for its aim to strengthen the coffee growing community. ICOMOS considers that it is however short on details of the built or landscape features of the six areas.

It is made clear that coffee cultivation methods in the nominated areas are not distinctive nor are they all traditional. Some practices such as full sun cultivation, (where all the trees are cleared, rather than the traditional shade grown systems where the coffee farms were carved out of the forest but leaving standing trees between the coffee plants to provide shade), are less environmentally sensitive than full shade cultivation. Further the way the coffee is processed is now done using modern methods and thus few structures exist, apart from drying methods and thus few structures exist, apart from drying roofs, that are distinctive to the coffee cultivation.

What is characteristic about the larger region is its mountain landscape and the small scale of the farms, which in recent years seems to have become more fragmented.

However, as few detailed descriptions are provided of the individual areas in terms of landscape and settlements, ICOMOS considers that it is not clear why the nominated areas are exceptional amongst the very large tracts of land dedicated to coffee farming. The nominated areas include three comparatively large areas and three quite small areas, one of which is some way from the others. What is not clear is the rationale for the choice of these six areas and precisely why certain areas have been nominated, how the areas relate to their hinterland or why certain towns have been included and others excluded. The nomination dossier lists criteria for the choice of landscapes related to coffee production and social systems, but at the same time the attributes associated with the chosen areas are said to be related not to coffee farming and its impact on the landscape, but to archaeology, festivals and urban planning.

Many towns have been included in the nominated areas but without in some cases a clear rationale for their inclusion in terms of how they manifest distinctive sentiments related to the coffee growing processes.

ICOMOS considers that the special qualities of the coffee landscape need to be better articulated and described as a basis for defining a nominated area or
areas that are outstanding in relation to their wider surroundings in terms of cultural and environmental parameters, related to the way they manifest the exceptional impact of coffee production processes over time. And the areas nominated need to be described in detail and provided with adequate protection, particularly from mining activities.

There is furthermore a need for the nominated areas to be seen as exemplars in terms of their farming practices and the way these respect the environment and are sustainable over time. ICOMOS, in line with IUCN, considers that shade grown coffee as the traditional system that encourages soil stability, minimise the use of fertilisers and supports significantly higher levels of biodiversity should be the dominant system in the nominated areas.

Recommendations with respect to inscription
ICOMOS recommends that the examination of the nomination of Coffee Cultural Landscape, Republic of Colombia, to the World Heritage List be deferred in order to allow the State Party to:

- Augment the comparative analysis with other areas of Latin America and the Caribbean and within the hinterland of the property in order to justify the distinctiveness of this area and the selection of sites;

- Define more clearly the distinctive qualities of the cultural landscape in cultural and environmental terms, in order to demonstrate how a nominated area or nominated areas can be seen as exceptional examples of a cultural landscape shaped over time by coffee production in relation to their surroundings;

- Define boundaries within which shade grown coffee is the dominant process, and which encompass discrete landscape areas that respect watersheds and remnant natural forests; and define buffer zones that relate to geographical features and administrative areas;

- Undertake an inventory of the farmhouses, and buildings associated with the coffee farms and of the urban architecture;

- Put in place adequate protection for both cultural and natural parameters, including for buildings in the semi-urban and rural areas and for the overall landscapes, and, in particular, strengthen regulations to prohibit mining activities.

ICOMOS considers that any revised nomination would need to be considered by an expert mission to the site.
Map showing the boundaries of the nominated properties
Typical cultivated landscape of the Coffee Country

Coffee farms, Valle del Cauca department
Slope coffee plantations, Caldas

Labour-intensive traditional method still used in coffee production
Traditional house in the PCC

Typical architecture of towns and villages