

LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN

PREHISTORIC CAVES OF YAGUL AND
MITLA IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY
OF OAXACA

MEXICO

WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION - IUCN TECHNICAL EVALUATION

PREHISTORIC CAVES OF YAGUL AND MITLA IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY OF OAXACA (MEXICO) - ID N° 1352

IUCN carried out a desk and panel review of this nomination and presented the following comments to the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel. IUCN considered that the nomination did not articulate a convincing case for recognition as a cultural landscape from a natural landscape perspective.

IUCN noted that while the nominated property provides important archaeological evidence of the evolution of man's relationship with nature through the early domestication of plants, such as corn, the present landscape itself is not particularly significant in regard to a contemporary interaction of man and nature.

The area proposed for inscription is mainly dedicated to intensive agriculture and grazing. The more natural landscapes are in the buffer zone on the northern side of the property where a small ecological reserve is proposed to protect a watershed characterized by springs, intermittent streams, and a low lying deciduous forest. The natural values of the area appear to be of local or national significance. It is noted, however, that this portion of the nominated property serves to buffer the larger area from extreme weather events and to protect aesthetic values. The nomination provides little information on the integrity of the site, except to note the progressive encroachment of the urban periphery on the agricultural components of the site.