

NOMINATION TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

Name• CALLEJON DE HUAYLAS, CORDILLERA BLANCA, AND HUASCARAN NATIONAL PARK

Identification No• 333

Date received by WH Secretariat• 9.11.84

Contracting State Party having submitted the nomination of the property in accordance with the Convention• PERU

Summary prepared by IUCN (March 1985) based on the original nomination submitted by Peru. This original and all documents presented in support of this nomination will be available for consultation at the meetings of the Bureau and the Committee.

1. LOCATION•

The Huascarán National Park is located in the Cordillera Blanca Range of the Andes Mountains of Peru. Puna Biogeographical Province. The Callejon de Huaylas is an adjacent valley and the Cordillera Blanca is the general name of the mountain range of which Huascarán National Park comprises the major section. All three areas are located within the Ancash Department.

2. JURIDICAL DATA•

Huascarán National Park was established by decree in 1975 and is 340,000 ha in size (approximately 154 km long by 30 km wide). The responsible administrative government agency is the Instituto Nacional Forestal y de Fauna under the Director General. Forestal y de Fauna operational funds come from the Corpacion Departmental de Ancash. The Huascarán Biosphere Reserve is 399,239 ha and includes adjacent human use zones along the north and south boundaries of the park.

The Callejon de Huaylas is mostly private agricultural and urban land.

The Cordillera Blanca is the general name of the mountain range which also includes foothills which are mostly privately owned.

No one administrative body is responsible for the Callejon de Huaylas or the Cordillera Blanca, and no precise definition of their location or size is given.

3. IDENTIFICATION•

The Cordillera Blanca, the highest tropical mountain range in the world, has 27 snow-capped peaks 6,000m above sea level, of which El Huascarán (6,768m) is the highest. The deep ravines contain rushing torrents formed from one of the 30 glaciers, and there are some 120 glacial lakes ranging in size from one to ten million cubic metres of water. The lowest point in the area is the Grand Cataract near the northern boundary at 2500 m. The base rock consists principally of sediments from the Upper Jurassic seas, and of the Cretaceous and Tertiary volcanic deposits which make up the Andean batholiths. There is still some volcanic activity in the area, there are three thermal springs, and this area was affected by earthquake in 1970. Mean annual temperature is about 3 C, the minimum being -30 C. Mean annual precipitation is approximately 884mm (recorded at 3,980m), falling mainly October-May.

The wide topographic range, has lead to a wide range in vegetation types. Vegetation is characteristic of humid montane forest in the valleys, with nival, alpine fluvial tundra, and very wet subalpine paramo formations at higher levels. The distinctive alpine bromeliad Puya raimondii is abundant. Other plants include Bromeliceae, mountain orchids, and relict forests of Polylepis spp. and Gynoxys spp.

The spectacled bear, puma, white-tailed deer and the vicuna are important indigenous species, but all have been heavily hunted in the past. The North Andean huemul, a rare species of deer, is also found here. Among the birds the most noteworthy are the cordillera hawk, the Andean condor, and the giant hummingbird, as well as various species of ducks, including the torrent duck.

The Callejon de Huaylas (not described in the nomination) is a valley containing numerous towns and is intensively used for agriculture, grazing, mining and plantation forestry.

4. STATE OF PRESERVATION/CONSERVATION.

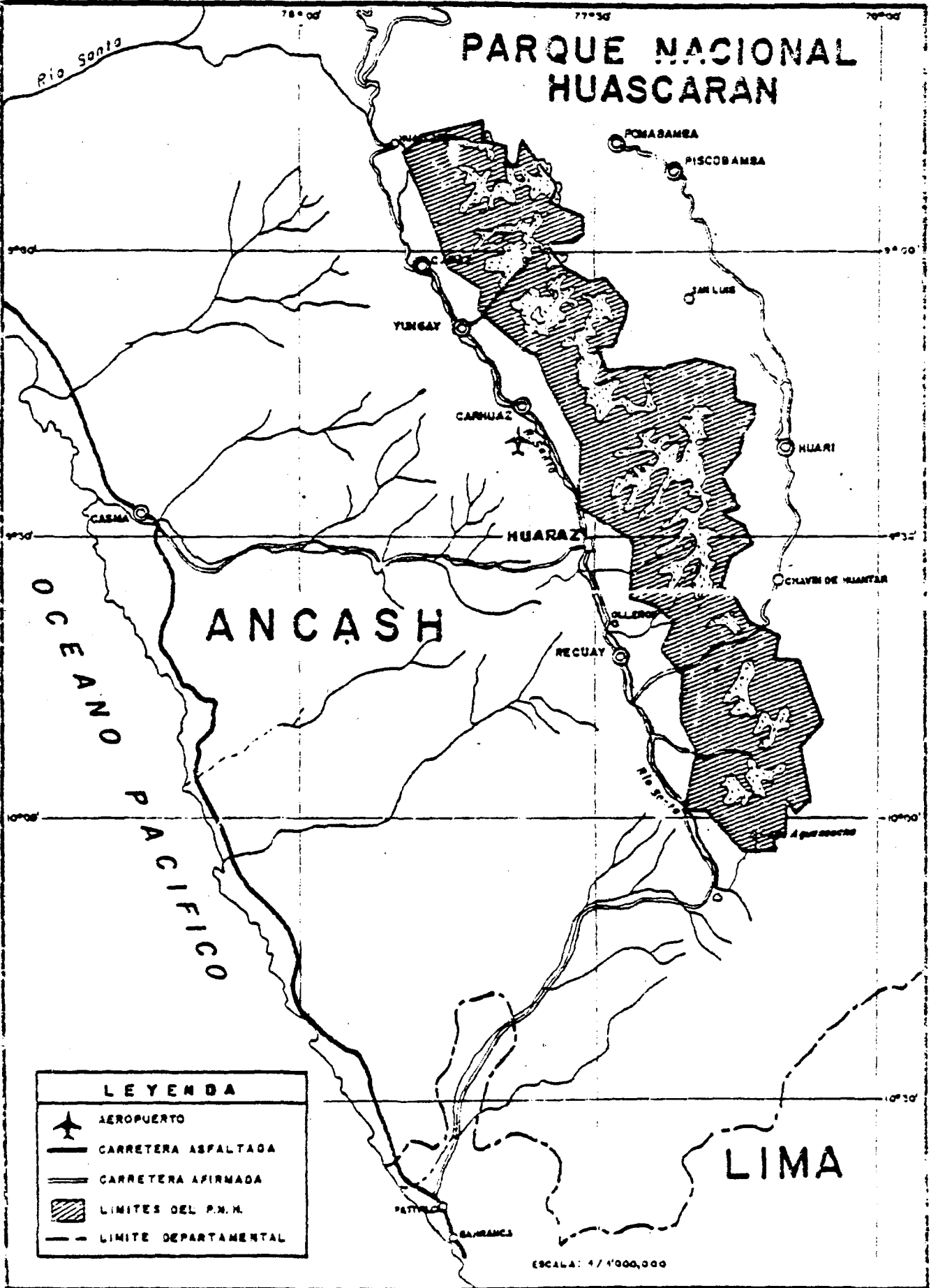
The Huascaran National Park is a clearly and legally demarcated area which takes in the major part of the Cordillera Blanca range. Several attempts to complete a management plan have been made but no officially approved document has been completed. Guard-posts, a small visitor centre, hostel, campsite, and trails have been built in the park. The park has a small staff which is assisted in patrol duties by a detachment of the Forest Police. Seven small farming communities are located inside the park. There is a small mine inside the park that exists due to a concession made previous to park establishment, but it is not causing significant damage. Removal of ice from several of the park glaciers is also done but effects are not serious. Through an agreement with local communities, some lowlands of the park are used for native livestock grazing (alpaca and llama). Sheep are reported to be illegally brought into the area under this agreement. The major management issue is the proposal to build a road through the park to connect the Callejon de Huaylas in the east and the Callejon de Canchucas in the east which would detract from scenic qualities and increase the poaching risk. Minor damage is caused by the effects of recreational uses but these are largely under control. There is no formal research or monitoring programme, though some scientific studies have been undertaken.

5. JUSTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST.

The Government of Peru has presented the following justification for the area's designation as a natural World Heritage property.

- (iii) Superlative natural features, exceptional natural beauty. Huascaran is the second highest park in the South American Andes and is at the centre of the highest tropical mountain range in the world. The high puna plateaux, glaciers and cluster of peaks over 6,000 m make it one of the most scenic of all mountain regions.

PARQUE NACIONAL HUASCARAN



LEYENDA



AEROPUERTO



CARRETERA ASFALTADA



CARRETERA AFIRMADA



LIMITES DEL P.N.H.



LIMITE DEPARTAMENTAL

ESCALA: 1 / 1'000,000

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1. DOCUMENTATION

- (i) Nomination form
- (ii) IUCN Data sheet and biosphere reserve data sheet
- (iii) Consultations: Marc Dourojeanni, Manuel Rios
- (iii) Literature Consulted: -- References contained in (i) and (ii)[Dourojeanni and Ponce, 1978. Los Parques Nacionales del Peru. INCAFO[and Bartle, J. 1985. Parque Nacional Huascarán. APECO. Lima. 41 p.

2. COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS

Within the Puna Biogeographical Province, there are few other protected areas that compare to Huascarán. The Ulla-Ulla National Park in Bolivia is primarily high altitude puna plateau without the scenic attributes of Huascarán. The Lauca National Park in Chile is similar in this regard as is the Pampa Galeras Nature Reserve in Peru. The Sangay World Heritage Site in Ecuador is focussed on a single volcanic cone and not a glacial landscape as is Huascarán. The Torres de Paine National Park of Chile and Los Glaciers World Heritage Site of Argentina in the southern Andes are comparable in terms of scenic features but have a distinctly different species assemblage. Aconcagua, the highest mountain in the Andes, is not in the tropical zone and does not have protected area status.

In summary, there is no other region of the Andes mountains that has the number of high peaks and concentration of features and species as the Cordillera Blanca group. Huascarán encompasses the majority of this area within its boundaries and thus is the South American equivalent of the Canadian Rockies property in the North American Cordillera.

3. INTEGRITY

The management problems being faced by the park are discussed in the nomination summary (item 4). None of these are individually serious but collectively they suggest that a greater investment in operation and maintenance of Huascarán are required if the threats are to be contained in the long term. An updated and officially approved management plan would be basic to this requirement.

4. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

The nomination as presented by Peru indicated three separate names for the property, two of which are inappropriate (Callejón de Huaylas and Cordillera Blanc) and are not considered in this evaluation. It should be made clear that the property being considered is the site currently designated and legally demarcated as Huascarán National Park. The adjacent archaeological site known as Chavín de Huántar is of great cultural significance.

5. EVALUATION

Huascarán National Park is one of South America's most outstanding protected area encompassing the most spectacular portion of the Andes Mountains. Classic illustrations of glacial and geological processes (criteria ii) are found here as well as exceptional natural beauty (criteria iii). It also contains habitat for several vulnerable species but is not outstanding in this regard.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Huascarán National Park should be inscribed as a natural property on the World Heritage List. The Committee should encourage the Government of Peru to intensify its efforts in management of the park to maintain its natural values in the long term.