

# WHV – Between mountain ranges: creation of a route of openness and connectivity between nature and culture through the values associated with the Puente de Occidente

## **Puente de Occidente (Western Bridge), Colombia**

Cultural property inscribed on the Tentative List (2012)

## **PROJECT DATES**

17 June - 28 June 2023

**THE SITE** - The Puente de Occidente is a structure built at the end of the 19th century. It is one of the most important civil engineering works of its time in America and its construction is considered as the initiation of this discipline in Colombia. Its design takes as reference the Brooklyn Bridge in New York, whose construction works had participation from Engineer José María Villa: he introduced variations using materials inherent to the region such as caraway wood in combination with imported steel and iron and achieving an optimal structural construction of special beauty combined with an appropriate rationalization of the elements of its makeup. In 1895, the opening year, it was considered the third largest bridge in the world and the largest in South America of nearly 300 meters long. Today, it is the third largest suspension bridge in Latin America and the eighth worldwide. Its construction marked the start of a new era of land communications and the construction of infrastructure works in this part of the continent. It also contributed to connecting a region of great economic importance, which had been isolated until then.

**OBJECTIVES** - The project aims at promoting the recognition of the architectural characteristics of the bridge, of its historical and symbolic value for the local communities, as well as of the natural wealth, flora and fauna, between both margins of the Puente de Occidente.

**ACTIVITIES** - Volunteers will participate in the elaboration of three video capsules in relations to these elements of valorisation (architecture, history and nature), and will produce a virtual model of the structure through photogrammetry, as well as a social and natural cartography of the area.

**PARTNERS** - Casa de la Juventud de Santa Fe de Antioquia, Santa Fe de Antioquia History Center, SCAN project

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