

# WHV – Diagnosis of the state of conservation of the Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System

## Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System, Colombia

### PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (2014)

15 May - 15 June 2024

**THE SITE** - This site is an extensive Inca communication, trade and defence network of roads covering 30,000 km. Constructed by the Incas over several centuries and partly based on pre-Inca infrastructure, this extraordinary network through one of the world's most extreme geographical terrains linked the snow-capped peaks of the Andes – at an altitude of more than 6,000 m – to the coast, running through hot rainforests, fertile valleys and absolute deserts. It reached its maximum expansion in the 15th century, when it spread across the length and breadth of the Andes. The Qhapac Ñan, Andean Road System includes 273 component sites spread over more than 6,000 km that were selected to highlight the social, political, architectural and engineering achievements of the network, along with its associated infrastructure for trade, accommodation and storage, as well as sites of religious significance.

**OBJECTIVES** - The project aims at carrying out a diagnosis of the state of conservation of the components of the site in Colombia, understanding the current conditions of the roads in relation to the needs of the local community and allowing the local authorities and the Instituto Colombiano de Antropología e Historia itself to establish a baseline for future management of the site.

**ACTIVITIES** - Volunteers will support the organisation of knowledge meetings, in which people from the local communities will talk about their daily lives living in a World Heritage site and will share the actions they already take to clean some sections of the road, their community tourism initiatives, the archaeological finds they have identified and their report. Project participants will also take part in field work with ICANH professionals and volunteers, inviting the community to learn about conservation, archeology and heritage concepts. Finally, they will be invited to participate in the building a road map for the protection of the archaeological heritage of the road system.

**PARTNERS** - Members and volunteers of the Instituto Colombiano de Antropología e Historia

**Instituto Colombiano de Antropología e Historia - ICANH**

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