

ICOMOS

THEMATIC STUDY ON ROCK ART: LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN:

Brief for Contributors

The proposed ICOMOS Thematic Study will divide Latin America and the Caribbean into five zones, as follows:

1. Mexico (including Baja California) and Central America.
2. The Caribbean, including Venezuela and Colombia.
3. Brazil
4. West-north-west South America (north of the Andes, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay)
5. West-south-west and southern South America (Chile, Argentina, Uruguay)

For each zone, Consultants are asked to assemble the following information:

Profile of Zone

Based on defined rock art traditions in relation to distribution in space and time and to archaeological context.

Links with other zones

i.e. overlaps in rock art cultures.

Known sites

Including cultural and natural WHSs; sites on WH Tentative Lists (all these already identified and listed by ICOMOS).

Significant Rock Art Sites

Documentation

Analysis of the current situation including:

- Details of which sites have been inventoried;
- Type of records (eg standard data sheets, physical or digital);
- Photographic records;
- Location of documentation;
- What material is available to help with comparative studies.

Research

How far have rock art sites be researched for their associations to societies both past and present particularly significances which indigenous populations give (or have given) to the decorated sites.

Protection

Existing laws and other official protection systems and mechanisms.

Conservation

As complete and as correct picture as possible to include:

- Information on methods and materials used in practical conservation;
- preventative conservation methods;
- pros and cons of different conservation approaches.

Management: to include:

- Main agencies involved in management
- Management arrangements including a management of rock within sites protected for natural values; which sites have active management
- Do Management plans exist
- Traditional management arrangements
- Links with, and involvement of, local communities
- Contemporary use of rock art sites
- Access arrangements
- Limitations in resources

Main threats

For instance:

- Changes to surrounding vegetation
- Rock fissures/laminations/water ingress
- Climate change
- Limitations in funding
- Lack of management
- Inappropriate uses

Conclusions for the Zone:

Conclusions on:

- Scope and extent of evidence
- Documentation
- Problems with management and conservation as well as good practice
- Threats
- What Pre-Nomination support might be needed
- Potential of Zone to contribute sites to the WH list
- Recommendations for the future