

## PERU

With regard to the 2004 Annual Report on *Heritage at Risk*, we must report that the greatest threat to the cultural heritage of Peru arises mainly from the deficiencies of a national cultural policy. It gives no attention to the preservation of the nation's cultural property, either by suitable legislation and provisions or by budget allocations to allow for the appropriate direction and management of cultural heritage.

Statute 24047 requires that sites and monuments are declared to be such by the government in order for it to be able to protect them, which is almost impossible in a country such as Peru where there is not even a complete and up-to-date inventory of cultural property. Furthermore, the National Institute of Culture is very much a second-ranking organisation; it has neither the power nor the fund to attend to the defence of the national cultural heritage.

To demonstrate the constant threats to our cultural heritage, we attach some reports to show how an important archaeological site at Trujillo has been destroyed, despite having been previously declared a Protected Zone by the National Institute of Culture. It is in the north of the country and only 5 km from the site of Huaca de la Luna y el Sol, an internationally renowned monument.

Those directly responsible are the Chavimochic Project and the local municipal construction engineers, who have levelled the site and subdivided it with no regard for the important remains dating from 5000 BC to 600 that they were destroying.

Quebrada de Santo Domingo, destruction of archaeological zone



We suggest to call the attention of Peruvian government authorities to the need to strengthen the National Institute of Culture by providing the budgets, legislation and standards necessary to ensure the protection, defence and preservation of the cultural heritage of Peru.

ICOMOS Peru

The following reports by Melissa Massat have appeared on an international website, TRACCE Online Rock Art Bulletin: <http://rupestre.net/tracce/> with another appearing in the local newspaper near the site.

### **Save Santo Domingo**

by Melissa Massat

*In the far north of Peru, about 20 km east of the city of Trujillo is a highly endangered archaeological site located in the Quebrada de Santo Domingo, a very historical and scenic 32 km<sup>2</sup> dry river valley, just west of Alto de la Guitarra. Opening onto the Moche River Valley and cradled by the colourful Cerro Colorado mountain range, it is strategically located between the archaeological complexes of Cerro Oreja (Galinazo Period) and Cerro Arena (Salinar Period), and faces north across an impressive series of Saharan style sand dunes towards the Caballo Muerto/Galindo Complex. Located about 5 km from the well-known Moche Huaca de la Luna and just south of the Chavimochic irrigation canal, the area was designated intangible by the Peruvian Institute of Culture.*

*The archaeological evidence in this valley indicates human ritual activity from the Lithic Period to Intermedio Tardío Period (10,000 BC - 1400) and includes shelters, platforms, canals, ceremonial paths (one very long one of 10 m width), as well as many stone point and tool workshops.*

*Most impressive and most endangered is a dense distribution of geoglyphs dating from 5000 BC to 600 depicting zoomorphs, anthropomorphs, hunting scenes and complex spirals.*

*The archaeological structures, as well as the varied flora and fauna, were up until now very well preserved because of their inaccessibility. However, in the past two years the local Chavimochic Irrigation Canal authorities have clandestinely organised the quarrying, bulldozing, and distribution – even sale – of lots of land in this so-called intangible zone.*

*Strangely enough the inventory, photos or articles relating to this vast archaeological zone have never been published and the INC has turned a blind eye to the illegal exploitation by the Chavimochic and municipal engineers, for lack of funds or political power to protect it. Obviously, once the entire zone is bulldozed, there will be no need to protect it.*

*A local guide, Victor Corcuera, is leading an active campaign with limited resources to alert authorities and the press – but the Trujillo area is already dominated by the Huaca de La Luna (research funded by private donations and foreign scientific organizations) and Chan Chan, an endangered World Heritage monument managed by the INC. The local archaeologists are reticent to protest too loudly the destruction of the zone, because the INC controls their activity and careers, and every archaeologist has*

many 'tales of woe' to lament. The local public is so accustomed to living on old tombs and finding pre-Hispanic pottery on their land that one more archaeological site in their back yard is hardly a surprise.

I do believe that anyone who has the slightest interest in early human settlements and Rock Art will agree that this particular site is worth saving. Its strategic and well defined geographical position at the crossroads of a large span of pre-Hispanic and colonial settlements so precariously close to uncontrolled urban and agricultural development; its precious treasures of geoglyphs, lithic structures, stone workshops; its wildlife and breathtakingly beautiful scenery which have survived centuries of El Niño's, winds and pillage make it a most valuable natural and prehistoric landscape and thus an important research base for archaeologists, ecologists, geologists, and anthropologists concerned with urban development and the environment.

Peru is a signatory to the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and should be bound to preserve all its archaeological sites. My request for help presumes that international pressure may lead the local people and authorities to realize the treasure they are destroying and includes organizing a petition to send to Peruvian authorities, writing heads-up to international press, mobilising the international community of archaeological professionals and amateurs to learn about and research this spectacular site, and seeking aid and development organisations' help to solve the urban-growth problem which so menaces the historical and natural environment.

While Ulf Bertilsson, President of the ICOMOS International Rock Art Committee, has pointed out 'the crucial issue' of the risk of destruction of Rock Art by tourism, it is imperative to honour the UNESCO Recommendation Concerning the Preservation of Cultural Property Endangered by Public or Private Works which considers "...that cultural property is the product and witness of the different traditions and of the spiritual achievements of the past and thus is an essential element in the personality of the peoples of the world..."

6 December 2003

## Quebrada de Santo Domingo – Save Geoglyphs in Northern Peru

by Melissa Massat

Response is dismay, but also amazement and admiration for the rich archaeological heritage of Peru.

From UNESCO Lima, I have received word that my concerns have been transmitted to the World Heritage Centre in Paris. Another Internet Site has joined the campaign to Save the Quebrada de Santo Domingo: About.com /thanks to Kris Hirst <http://archaeology.about.com/b/a/065997.htm>

But the printed press remains silent.

In a meeting yesterday with the regional directrice of the Instituto Nacional de Cultura, Victor Corcuera was told that Lima is 'buzzing about the Quebrada de Santo Domingo' and that she offers 'carte blanche' or an open invitation to any archaeologist or institution which can come to investigate the site. You probably know that Peru has hardly any funds for research. The local INC doesn't even have the funds to block the entrance or pay a guardian. And it is most doubtful that it will consider undertaking a lengthy judicial process to claim damages from responsible par-

ties. Does anyone know of an organization that has emergency funds at least to help the INC block entrance to the site?

Secondly, the head of the school of Archaeology at the National University in Trujillo has just extended his offer of support to Victor in his campaign to save the site. The site, so close to the city, offers an incredible opportunity for the students to study the evolution of pre-Hispanic civilisation, with vestiges spanning from the lithic to Chimu periods. (Again, support does not mean financing by strapped University authorities.) University staff is mainly involved in the Huaca de la Luna project which receives all its funding from private and foreign academic participation and the University maintains the city's Archaeological Museum with collaboration from foreign governments. Students do their internships guiding at the Huaca and in the Museum.

So in the context of tight competition for funding and recognition, the head of the Archaeological school has offered his support of efforts to save Santo Domingo, which is a positive step – but destruction is rapid.

Scientific and Academic Institutions have the means and influence to generate investigation of this site and possibilities of collaboration with the University there would be so motivating for the Peruvian students and local public. Therefore, developing a program to investigate and protect the Quebrada de Santo Domingo needs to be urgently promoted.

Recommendations appreciated. It seems incredible to have to mention or hear so many times 'lack of funds' when it comes to saving priceless heritage.

Quebrada de Santo Domingo, destruction of archaeological zone



*As Ulf Bertilsson, President of ICOMOS Rock Art committee, has said „Such events should be prevented and can be prevented”. I remember Bamiyan.*

21 February 2004

### **Destruction of archaeological zone at Quebrada de Santo Domingo**

*INC staff and Tourism Administration have confirmed this week that heavy machinery from the Chavimochic project had entered the protected zone at Quebrada de Santo Domingo, Laredo, endangering the area while extracting soil for construction work.*

*On the morning of Wednesday, 3rd of March, the official tourist guide, Victor Corcuera, went by bicycle to Quebrada de Santo Domingo to look for conclusive proof of the destruction of national heritage by dump trucks and power shovels.*

#### **INC is concerned – Barriers have been erected**

*The director of Conservation and Cultural Heritage at the National Institute of Culture, Cesar Galvez Mora, noted that this institution has not neglected to provide protection for the Quebrada de Santo Domingo area (near Ochiputur Hill at Laredo), and confirmed that heavy machinery had been seen there at the time of the most recent inspection.*

*He maintained that various ‘problems’ had arisen during the last week, and that the head of the INC Department of Archaeological Monuments, Jesus Briceno, had gone to the area after receiving a telephone call to report these events.*

Local, Trujillo, 6 March 2004

## **PERU**

Con respecto al Reporte Anual 2004 de Patrimonio en Peligro debemos informar que la mayor amenaza contra el Patrimonio Cultural del Perú deriva principalmente de una inadecuada política cultural del Estado, que no pone atención a la preservación de los bienes culturales de la Nación, ya sea con leyes y dispositivos adecuados o con la asignación de presupuestos que permitan un adecuado manejo y gestión del patrimonio cultural.

La ley 24047 requiere que los sitios y monumentos hayan estado declarados como tales por el Estado para que este pueda protegerlos, lo que es casi imposible en un país como el Perú donde ni siquiera se tiene un inventario completo actualizado de los bienes culturales. Por otro lado, el Instituto Nacional de Cultura de segundo orden; no tiene el poder ni el Presupuesto para intervenir en defensa del Patrimonio Cultural Nacional.

Para ilustrar el constante peligro en el que se encuentra nuestro Patrimonio Cultural, les estamos enviando un CD por correo postal, donde ustedes podrán apreciar como un importante sitio arqueológico, ubicado en Trujillo, al Norte de nuestro país y a solo 5 Kilometros del Sitio arqueológico Huaca de la Luna y el Sol, monumento de prestigio Internacional, ha sido destruido a pesar que fue previamente declarado como Zona Intangible por el Instituto Nacional de Cultura.

Los directos responsables son el Proyecto Chavimochic y los ingenieros de la Municipalidad de la zona, los cuales han nivelado el terreno, y lo han lotizado sin importarles los importantes vestigios que destruyeron, los cuales datan desde los 5000 años antes de Cristo hasta los 600 años después de Cristo.

Les sugerimos hacer una llamada de atención a las autoridades del Gobierno Peruano para fortalecer al Instituto Nacional de Cultura, que se den los presupuestos, leyes y normas necesarias que permitan garantizar la Protección, defensa y conservación del Patrimonio Cultural del Perú.

*(un artículo en español con fotos se encuentra al <http://www.uni-tru.edu.pe/revistas/espacios/turprinc.htm>)*

ICOMOS Perú

Quebrada de Santo Domingo, double spiral web



### **Destruyen zona arqueológica en Quebrada de Santo Domingo**

*El personal del INC y la Policía de Turismo verificó, esta semana, que maquinaria pesada, del proyecto Chavimochic, ingresó a la zona intangible de la Quebrada de Santo Domingo, Laredo, poniendo en peligro el área al extraer la tierra como material de construcción.*

*En la mañana del miércoles 3 de marzo, el guía oficial de Turismo, Víctor Corcuera Cueva, se desplazaba en su bicicleta hasta la Quebrada de Santo Domingo, buscando una prueba contundente de la destrucción del patrimonio cultural con volquetes y palas mecánicas.*

**INC no es indiferente – Se colocarán barreras**

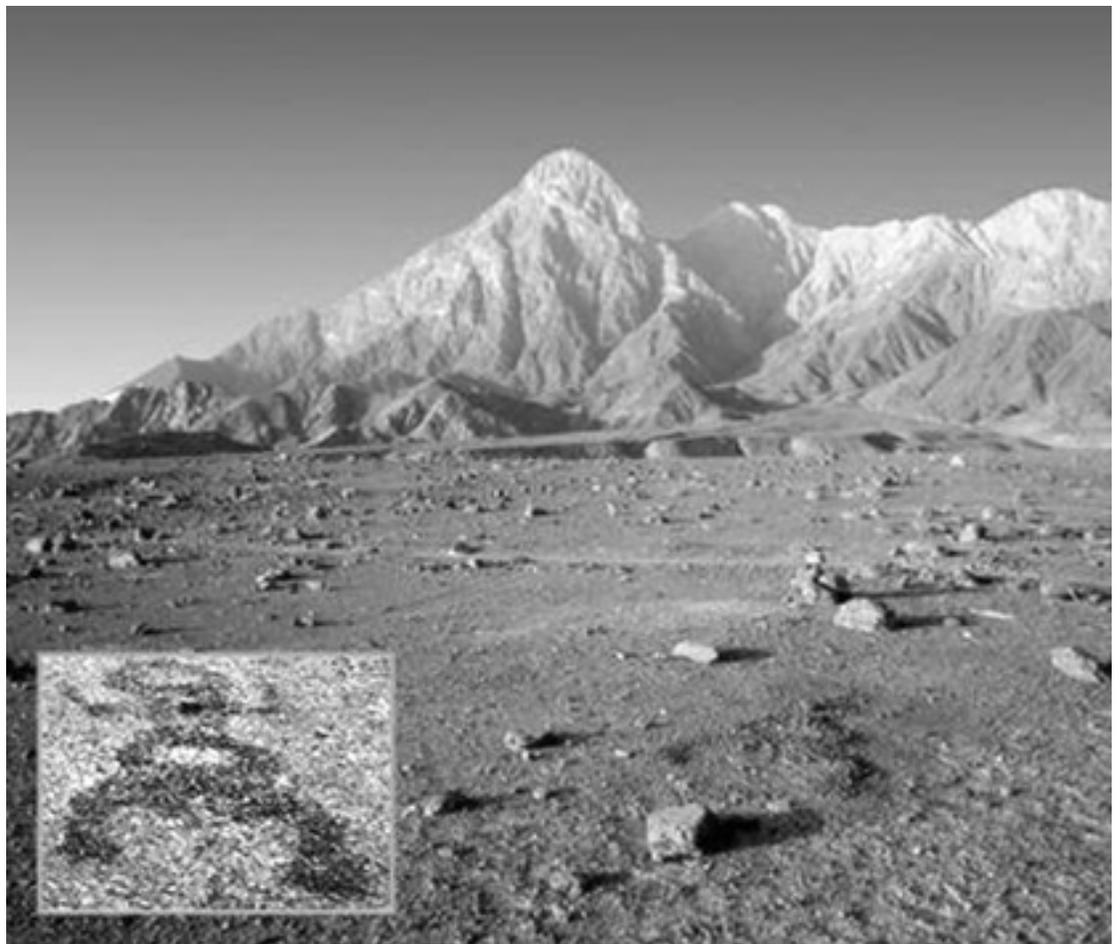
*El director de Conservación y Patrimonio Cultural del Instituto Nacional de Cultura, César Gálvez Mora, anotó que su institución no se ha cruzado de brazos en la protección del área de la Quebrada Santo Domingo (en las cercanías del cerro Ochiptur de Laredo) y confirmó que en la última inspección se verificó la presencia de vehículos pesados en la zona.*

*Sostuvo que durante la última semana se constataron algunos „problemas“ y el jefe del departamento de Monumentos Arqueológicos del INC, Jesús Briceño, acudió a la zona en respuesta a una llamada telefónica que denunciaba el hecho.*

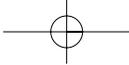
Local, Trujillo 6 de Marzo del 2004



Quebrada de Santo Domingo, triple spiral



Quebrada de Santo Domingo, mujer view



Quebrada de Santo Domingo, destruction of archaeological zone



What will be the outcome of this destruction?

