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Presentation by  
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REGIONAL EXPERIENCES ON THE SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEES TO TECHNICIANS AND AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF HERITAGE SITE, LOCATED IN THE COUNTRY AND IN THE REGION

### A. Difficult experiences

One of the most grueling roles that have exercised some ICOMOS National Committees is the accompaniment is given to policies and authorities responsible techniques for safeguarding the heritage sites of humanity in order to counter the global economic pressures they are subjected the leaders of the institutions responsible for protecting the national and cultural heritage.

We've done monitoring the work of management, technical collaboration and validation of environmental impact analysis and asset and public and open complaints to the public and the press about the significant threat to the protection of monuments and their surroundings by performing infrastructure projects promoted by state or private institutions that do not consider the national and international regulations to make decisions on public works.

But apparently those efforts are not working well because the recommendations of the National Committees are non-binding and ultimately not taken into account.

It has been shown that amongst the globalization process, political and economic stakeholders in real estate development made great efforts to convince the makers decisions including experts from the bodies responsible for heritage protection to resume cases on development public infrastructure that endanger conservation and cultural and natural heritage. International experts had been forced to make further assessments of environmental and social impact that resulted ambiguous and inefficient.

### RECOMMENDATION

*"It requires a more hard work by specialists in land planning and management, in pursuit of technical proposals that would achieve define buffer zones around conservation and cultural heritage sites. It should lay down clearly what activities economic and scientific and exploitation of natural resources and service partner can be performed in each buffer zone and what are the patterns and levels of conservation to be seen in every one of them."*

In general, the sites included in the World Heritage List are embedded in regional territories that have a lot human, cultural and natural resources that should be taken into account to attain regional sustainable development. If we conduct a comprehensive land-use planning, where cultural heritage sites are inserted, we

will manage in a more controlled and balanced manner, the conservation of these sites, performing the expected activities: research and conservation, spiritual enjoyment of the experience, and a right visitation control.

ICOMOS Costa Rica has recommended consider a classification of buffer zones for cultural heritage similar to those used by the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC) <http://areasyparques.com/otros/sinac/>  
Cases

Honduras:

“Maya Site of Copan”

This case deals with the efforts made by the ICOMOS Honduras and other authorities in the conservation of Honduran cultural heritage along with civilians and non-governmental organizations to safeguard the site of Honduran World Heritage - Maya Site Copan-against the proposed construction an airfield 17 km. from the archaeological site of Copan (2006-2008).

This case is about the threat posed to the cultural heritage, tourism mishandled when tourism managers do not consider the national and international regulations or expert opinion in making decisions about the development of public works and infrastructure.

The exhibition of this experience occurred in Honduras, around the capricious construction planning of infrastructure projects in sites of cultural and historical value, has been of great importance to Costa Rica, especially to analyze what were the processes of decision making political authorities and its consequences, which must be known forms of effective citizen participation and understand that the assessment of the direct environmental impacts is as important as indirect impacts. The interrelationship of both impacts should combine when issuing recommendations by experts.

Costa Rica:

“Asentamientos Cacicales Precolombinos con Esferas de Piedra del Diquís”

Our collaboration has been directed to carry out monitoring work in collaboration with the UNESCO office in Costa Rica on practices for the conservation of the stone spheres, conducting site interpretation (Ifigenia Quintanilla) and support managers sites, in order to analyze equity impact the different criteria of academics and environmental experts and other institutions interested in the conservation of natural and cultural heritage, on the potential social and environmental impacts of the megaproject hydroelectric Diquís are taken into account and the so-called "Green Airport" near Sierpe wetland, a Ramsar site.

We have also insisted on the need for a National Commission of high inter-agency level to support the efforts of conservation, finding funding for conservation activities, performing activities of broad participatory spectrum to raise awareness and train stakeholders to form. It is also necessary that this high-level commission contribute to urge the local government to expedite the completion of a regulatory plan that delimits the buffer zones surrounding the sites Heritage Site.

B. Satisfactory and exemplary experiences in other countries in the region

Argentina: The enhancement of of “Casa Curutchet”, Patrimonio de la Humanidad, Ciudad de la Plata.

Peru: Development of heritage interpretation workshops to strengthen the capacities of people (local and institutional) responsible for heritage conservation.

Recommendations to be implemented at regional, national and local levels

1. Identify the heritage culture and recognize its value
2. Strengthen the management of sustainable development
3. Investing in culture as a vector of social inclusion and economic

How do I achieve it? . We cite some recommendations suggested by workshops conducted by other international ICOMOS committees.

Strengthen capacities to create curricula for educational programs and awareness that allow integration of heritage preservation programs with the processes of modernization.

Build databases of tangible and intangible to contribute to the planning and monitoring potential impacts heritage.

Strengthen the institutional legal framework with mechanisms to protect the heritage and facilitating sustainable development, making it clear what the powers and responsibilities of the various institutional actors.

Include consideration of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge in different types of urban and regional planning and other regulatory codes.

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