

Precolumbian Chiefdom Settlements with Stone Spheres of the Diquís

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage property

Precolumbian Chiefdom Settlements with Stone Spheres of the Diquís

1.2 - World Heritage property details

1.3 - Geographic information table

Name	Coordinates	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
Finca 6	8.911 / -83.479	9.55	65.7	75.25	2014
Batambal	8.968 / -83.474	0.8	11.17	11.97	2014
El Silencio	8.951 / -83.441	6.16	26.16	32.32	2014
Grijalba-2	8.982 / -83.523	8.22	40.39	48.61	2014
Total (ha)		24.73	143.42	168.15	

1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Precolumbian Chiefdom Settlements with Stone Spheres of the Diquís - maps of inscribed property	2014	

1.5 - Web and Social Media data of the property (if applicable)

Comment

www.diquis.org

2. Other Conventions/Programmes under which the World Heritage property is protected (if applicable)

2.1 - Records indicate that your World Heritage property (in whole or in part) is designated and/or protected under the Conventions/programmes shown in the prefilled table below. Please check and amend as necessary.

		The World Heritage property (in whole or in part) <u>is</u> designated and/or protected under this convention/programme	The World Heritage property (in whole or in part) <u>is not</u> designated and/or protected under this convention/programme
2.1.1	International Register of Cultural Property under Special Protection (1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict)		✕
2.1.2	List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection (Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict)		✕
2.1.3	The List of Wetlands of International Importance (The Ramsar List) (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention))		✕
2.1.4	World Network of Biosphere Reserves Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme		✕
2.1.5	Global Geoparks Network UNESCO Global Geoparks		✕

2.2 - Please provide comments on 2.1 if necessary

Not applicable

2.3 - Do your national authorities intend to request the granting of Enhanced Protection (if relevant) under the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict for the World Heritage property in the next three years?

No

2.4 - Do your national authorities intend to designate whole or part of the World Heritage property for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance (The Ramsar List), if relevant, in the next three years?

No

2.5 - Do your national authorities intend to designate whole or part of the World Heritage property as a Man and Biosphere Reserve (if relevant) in the next three years?

Not applicable

2.6 - Do your national authorities intend to apply for whole or part of World Heritage property to be designated as a UNESCO Global Geopark (if relevant) in the next three years?

Not applicable

2.7 - Please indicate the level of cooperation at property level between designations under different Conventions/Programmes

2.7.1	1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict	
2.7.1	There is no contact with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	✕
2.7.2	The World Heritage Site Manager occasionally communicates with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	
2.7.3	The World Heritage Site Manager regularly communicates with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	
2.7.4	The World Heritage Site Manager also manages this designation/programme.	
2.7.2	Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict	
2.7.1	There is no contact with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	✕
2.7.2	The World Heritage Site Manager occasionally communicates with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	
2.7.3	The World Heritage Site Manager regularly communicates with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	
2.7.4	The World Heritage Site Manager also manages this designation/programme.	
2.7.3	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention)	
2.7.1	There is no contact with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	
2.7.2	The World Heritage Site Manager occasionally communicates with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	✕
2.7.3	The World Heritage Site Manager regularly communicates with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	
2.7.4	The World Heritage Site Manager also manages this designation/programme.	
2.7.4	Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme	
2.7.1	There is no contact with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	✕
2.7.2	The World Heritage Site Manager occasionally communicates with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	
2.7.3	The World Heritage Site Manager regularly communicates with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	
2.7.4	The World Heritage Site Manager also manages this designation/programme.	
2.7.5	UNESCO Global Geoparks	
2.7.1	There is no contact with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	✕
2.7.2	The World Heritage Site Manager occasionally communicates with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	
2.7.3	The World Heritage Site Manager regularly communicates with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	
2.7.4	The World Heritage Site Manager also manages this designation/programme.	

2.8 - Please add any further comments on cooperation with the other designation(s)/programme(s)

No comments

2.9 - Are you aware of any elements associated with the World Heritage property that have been inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage?

No

2.10 - Please list any elements associated with the World Heritage property inscribed under the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of which you are aware

None

2.11 - Are you aware of any documentary heritage listed under the Memory of the World Programme associated with the World Heritage property?

No

2.12 - Please list any documentary heritage associated with the World Heritage property listed under the Memory of the World Programme of which you are aware.

None

3. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

3.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property as adopted by the World Heritage Committee

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

The serial nomination of four archaeological sites (Finca 6, Batambal, El Silencio and Grijalba-2) located in the Diquís Delta in southern Costa Rica illustrates a collection of unique stone spheres located in chiefdom settlement structures of the Precolumbian period. The four sites represent different settlement structures of chiefdom societies (500-1500 CE) containing artificial mounds, paved areas and burial sites. Special objects of wonder and admiration are the distinctive Diquís stone spheres, which are rare in their perfection of large-sized (up to 2.57m diameter) spherical structures but are also distinct for their number and location in their original positions within residential areas.

Criterion (iii): The Precolumbian Chiefdom Settlements with Stone Spheres of the Diquís illustrate the physical evidence of the complex political, social and productive structures of the Precolumbian hierarchical societies. The chiefdoms which inhabited the Diquís Delta created hierarchical settlements expressing the division of different levels of power centres, presented by the different serial components. Likewise, the exceptional stone spheres, which continue to leave researchers speculating about the method and tools of their production, represent an exceptional testimony to the artistic traditions and craft capabilities of these Precolumbian societies.

Integrity

The four property components contribute specific elements which allow for the understanding of the chiefdom settlement structures. Finca 6 is the only site retaining stone spheres in linear arrangements, Batambal is the only chiefdom settlement visible from a far distance, El Silencio contains the largest single stone sphere ever found, and Grijalba-2 site is unique for its use of limestone and its distinctive characteristics as a subordinate centre, as opposed to the Finca 6 site, which was likely a principal centre. All four sites show to differing degrees signs of the negative impact of past agricultural development and looting of archaeological sites. However, the material which remains preserved in situ is significant enough to express the different aspects of Outstanding Universal Value.

Batambal site is located in close proximity to dwellings and might be negatively impacted by future urban development. In addition, two large development projects, the Diquís Hydroelectric Dam and the Southern International Airport, are currently being discussed. The State Party has committed to undertaking Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA's) for both projects and given assurances that it will give full consideration and priority to preventing impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value, if either of the projects are to be implemented.

Authenticity

Previous excavations were limited to test sections and most excavation pits have been reburied following the completion of archaeological recording. As a result, the authenticity of the property with regard to design, material, substance, location and workmanship is satisfactory. A challenge for retaining authenticity of setting is the lack of knowledge of the extent of forest clearance during Precolumbian times, which increases the difficulties in judging sight relations between different structures and landscape elements that contribute to the site's original setting.

Finca 6 site also contains a collection of stone spheres confiscated following previous looting, the original locations of which mostly remain unknown. To distinguish those stone spheres which are in their authentic locations from those which have been relocated, it would need to be indicated more clearly that these spheres are no longer presented in their original position.

Protection and Management requirements

The four components are protected as archaeological sites of public interest according to Law No 6703 on National Archaeological Heritage. This constitutes the highest possible protection for an archaeological site at national level. In addition, the stone sphere settlements proposed in this nomination received legal protection in addition to the highest national level through Presidential Decree 36825-C, which highlights their intended future status as World Heritage Sites.

The legislation attributes exclusive legal authority over the archaeological sites to the State, represented by the National Archaeological Commission and the National Museum. The legal protection of the four component sites is exemplary and complete. To ensure equally high legal protection of the buffer zones, their integration in the new Regulatory Plan for Osa County needs to be finalized.

The management of the four site components is overseen and coordinated by the National Museums of Costa Rica. This institution is supported by an Advisory Council for this specific task. The State Party submitted a Management Plan in February 2014, which outlines the vision and strategic objectives for site management for a period of up to 6 years. It is envisaged to complete necessary conservation activities at all four component sites and provide visitor interpretation and presentation as well as facilitate future accessibility to the three sites not yet open to the public, Batambal, Grijalba-2 and El Silencio.

It seems essential for the success of the management plan implementation that the financial and human resources required for the administration and management of all four site components will be available to the National Museums of Costa Rica, to allow for site managers and guardians to be present on site. For the future protection and conservation of the Precolumbian Chiefdom Settlements with Stone Spheres of the Diquís it also seems essential that Heritage Impact Assessments are undertaken for any proposed developments which might have the potential to negatively impact the property.

3.2 - Please list the key attributes of Outstanding Universal Value of your property and give an assessment of their condition. As a guideline, it is suggested to focus on approximately five key attributes (no more than 15 overall).

	Brief identification of attribute	Preserved	Compromised	Seriously compromised	Lost
3.2.1	Matrix and fragmentary material:	✗			
3.2.2	Domestic and funerary cultural features without rock	✗			
3.2.3	Domestic and funerary cultural features with rocks	✗			
3.2.4	Context of spheres and other sculptures	✗			
3.2.5	Archaeological contexts with human and organic remains	✗			
3.2.6					
3.2.7					
3.2.8					

3.2.9					
3.2.10					
3.2.11					
3.2.12					
3.2.13					
3.2.14					
3.2.15					

3.3 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

None

4. Factors Affecting the Property

4.1. Buildings and Development

4.1.1 - Housing

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.1.2 - Commercial development

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.1.3 - Industrial areas

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.1.4 - Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.1.5 - Interpretative and visitation facilities

☒ Relevant	☐ Not relevant
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	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	 Current	 Potential	 Inside	 Outside	 Decreasing	 Stable	 Increasing
 Positive ☒	☒		☒				
 Negative							

4.1.6 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.1 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

Since the declaration, new facilities have been built for temporary exhibitions and administrative offices in the visitor center located at the Finca 6 site. In addition, shelters have been built at the Grijalba 2 and El Silencio sites with restrooms and benches. Also, the signage has been updated at the four sites in the series, with new marked trails and signs with specific information on the attributes of the site.

4.2. Transportation Infrastructure

4.2.1 - Ground transport infrastructure

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.2.2 - Underground transport infrastructure

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.2.3 - Air transport infrastructure

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.2.4 - Marine transport infrastructure

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.2.5 - Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.2.6 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.2 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

The factors indicated have no effect on the declared property

4.3. Services Infrastructures

4.3.1 - Water infrastructure

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.3.2 - Renewable energy facilities

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.3.3 - Non-renewable energy facilities

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.3.4 - Localised utilities

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.3.5 - Major linear utilities

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.3.6 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.3 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

The factors indicated have no effect on the declared property

4.4. Pollution

4.4.1 - Pollution of marine waters

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.4.2 - Ground water pollution

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.4.3 - Surface water pollution

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.4.4 - Air pollution

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.4.5 - Solid waste

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.4.6 - Input of excess energy

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.4.7 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.4 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

None of the factors are having a significant impact in the site

4.5. Biological resource use/modification

4.5.1 - Fishing/collecting aquatic resources

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.5.2 - Aquaculture

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.5.3 - Land conversion

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.5.4 - Livestock farming/Grazing of domesticated animals

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.5.5 - Crop production

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.5.6 - Commercial wild plant collection

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.5.7 - Subsistence wild plant collection

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.5.8 - Commercial hunting

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.5.9 - Subsistence hunting

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.5.10 - Forestry/Wood production

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.5.11 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.5 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

None of the factors are having a significant impact

4.6. Physical resource extraction

4.6.1 - Mining

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.6.2 - Quarrying

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.6.3 - Oil and gas

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.6.4 - Water (extraction)

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.6.5 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.6 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

None of the factors are having a significant impact

4.7. Local conditions affecting physical fabric

4.7.1 - Wind

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.7.2 - Relative humidity

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.7.3 - Temperature

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.7.4 - Radiation/Light

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.7.5 - Dust

Relevant	☒ Not relevant
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4.7.6 - Water (rain/water table)

☒ Relevant	Not relevant
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	Impact	Origin	Trend of impact
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Impact	 Current	 Potential	 Inside	 Outside	 Decreasing	 Stable	 Increasing
 Positive							
 Negative 							

4.7.7 - Pests

Relevant	 Not relevant
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4.7.8 - Micro-organisms

 Relevant	Not relevant
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	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	 Current	 Potential	 Inside	 Outside	 Decreasing	 Stable	 Increasing
 Positive							
 Negative 							

4.7.9 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.7 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

There are some factors that affect all the sites in the series in a general way, for example microorganisms that affect stone structures and objects, while others affect a specific site in the series, for example, the water table decreases and increases throughout the year in the Finca 6 site being a potential threat to the assets present there.

4.8. Social/Cultural uses of heritage

4.8.1 - Ritual/Spiritual/Religious and associative uses

Relevant	 Not relevant
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4.8.2 - Society's valuing of heritage

Relevant	 Not relevant
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4.8.3 - Indigenous hunting, gathering and collecting

Relevant	 Not relevant
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4.8.4 - Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system

Relevant	 Not relevant
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4.8.5 - Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community

Relevant	 Not relevant
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4.8.6 - Impacts of tourism/Visitation/Recreation

Relevant	 Not relevant
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4.8.7 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.8 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

None of the factors are having a significant impact

4.9. Other human activities

4.9.1 - Illegal activities

Relevant	 Not relevant
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4.9.2 - Deliberate destruction of heritage

Relevant	 Not relevant
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4.9.3 - Military training

Relevant	 Not relevant
----------	--

4.9.4 - War

Relevant	 Not relevant
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4.9.5 - Terrorism

Relevant	 Not relevant
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4.9.6 - Civil unrest

Relevant

✖ Not relevant

4.9.7 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.9 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

None of the factors are having a significant impact

4.10. Climate change and severe weather events

4.10.1 - Storms

✖ Relevant

Not relevant

	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	 Current	 Potential	 Inside	 Outside	 Decreasing	 Stable	 Increasing
 Positive							
 Negative ✖	✖	✖	✖	✖			

4.10.2 - Flooding

✖ Relevant

Not relevant

	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	 Current	 Potential	 Inside	 Outside	 Decreasing	 Stable	 Increasing
 Positive							
 Negative ✖	✖	✖	✖	✖			

4.10.3 - Drought

Relevant

✖ Not relevant

4.10.4 - Desertification

Relevant

✖ Not relevant

4.10.5 - Changes to oceanic waters

Relevant

✖ Not relevant

4.10.6 - Temperature change

Relevant

✖ Not relevant

4.10.7 - Other climate change impacts

Relevant

✖ Not relevant

4.10.8 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.10 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

Since the series is located in a low-lying tropical area, it is exposed to the secondary effects of hurricanes in the Caribbean Sea and seasonal movements of the Tropical Convergence Zone, which cause periodic flooding that can cause damage to the sites and infrastructure, such as Hurricane Nate in 2017.

4.11. Sudden ecological or geological events

4.11.1 - Volcanic eruption

Relevant

✖ Not relevant

4.11.2 - Earthquake

✖ Relevant

Not relevant

	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	 Current	 Potential	 Inside	 Outside	 Decreasing	 Stable	 Increasing
 Positive							
 Negative ✖		✖	✖				

4.11.3 - Tsunami/Tidal wave

Relevant	✕ Not relevant
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4.11.4 - Avalanche/Landslide

✕ Relevant	Not relevant
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	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	🔴 Current	🟡 Potential	🟢 Inside	🟢 Outside	📉 Decreasing	➡ Stable	📈 Increasing
🟢 Positive							
🔴 Negative ✕		✕	✕			➡	

4.11.5 - Erosion and siltation/Deposition

✕ Relevant	Not relevant
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	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	🔴 Current	🟡 Potential	🟢 Inside	🟢 Outside	📉 Decreasing	➡ Stable	📈 Increasing
🟢 Positive ✕	✕			✕		➡	
🔴 Negative ✕	✕			✕		➡	

4.11.6 - Fire (wildfire)

Relevant	✕ Not relevant
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4.11.7 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.11 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

The site is located in a very seismic region, with regular earthquakes. A very strong earthquake is expected at any moment, for which there is a permanent state of prevention. Sites in the foothills (in particular Batambal) can be affected by erosion and landslides that could be caused by a strong earthquake.

4.12. Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species

4.12.1 - Translocated species

Relevant	✕ Not relevant
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4.12.2 - Invasive/Alien terrestrial species

Relevant	✕ Not relevant
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4.12.3 - Invasive/Alien freshwater species

Relevant	✕ Not relevant
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4.12.4 - Invasive/Alien marine species

Relevant	✕ Not relevant
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4.12.5 - Hyper-abundant species

Relevant	✕ Not relevant
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4.12.6 - Modified genetic material

Relevant	✕ Not relevant
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4.12.7 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.12 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

None of the factors are considered of potential impact

4.13. Management and institutional factors

4.13.1 - Management system/Management plan

✕ Relevant	Not relevant
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	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	🔴 Current	🟡 Potential	🟢 Inside	🟢 Outside	📉 Decreasing	➡ Stable	📈 Increasing
🟢 Positive ✕	✕		✕			➡	
🔴 Negative							

4.13.2 - Legal framework

✕ Relevant				Not relevant			
	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	 Current	 Potential	 Inside	 Outside	 Decreasing	 Stable	 Increasing
 Positive ✕	✕		✕			→	
 Negative							

4.13.3 - Governance

Relevant				✕ Not relevant			
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4.13.4 - Management activities

✕ Relevant				Not relevant			
	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	 Current	 Potential	 Inside	 Outside	 Decreasing	 Stable	 Increasing
 Positive ✕	✕		✕			→	
 Negative							

4.13.5 - Financial resources

✕ Relevant				Not relevant			
	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	 Current	 Potential	 Inside	 Outside	 Decreasing	 Stable	 Increasing
 Positive ✕	✕		✕			→	
 Negative ✕	✕		✕			→	

4.13.6 - Human resources

✕ Relevant				Not relevant			
	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	 Current	 Potential	 Inside	 Outside	 Decreasing	 Stable	 Increasing
 Positive ✕	✕		✕			→	
 Negative ✕	✕		✕			→	

4.13.7 - Low impact research/monitoring activities

✕ Relevant				Not relevant			
	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	 Current	 Potential	 Inside	 Outside	 Decreasing	 Stable	 Increasing
 Positive ✕	✕		✕			→	
 Negative							

4.13.8 - High impact research/monitoring activities

Relevant				✕ Not relevant			
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4.13.9 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.13 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

Legal, human and financial resources must be improved for better management of the site. The positive aspect is that there are basic resources and personnel located in the area, but it is not enough to properly serve the four sites in the series. The legislation must be updated to take into account the category of World Heritage.

4.14. Other factor(s)

4.14.1 - Other factor(s)

None

4.15. Factors Summary Table

4.15.1 - Factors Summary Table

Name	Impact			Origin	Trend	
4.1 Buildings and Development						
4.1.5 Interpretative and visitation facilities						
4.7 Local conditions affecting physical fabric						
4.7.6 Water (rain/water table)						
						
4.7.8 Micro-organisms						
						
4.10 Climate change and severe weather events						
4.10.1 Storms						
						
4.10.2 Flooding						
						
4.11 Sudden ecological or geological events						
4.11.2 Earthquake						
						
4.11.4 Avalanche/Landslide						
						
4.11.5 Erosion and siltation/Deposition						
						
4.13 Management and institutional factors						
4.13.1 Management system/Management plan						
4.13.2 Legal framework						
4.13.4 Management activities						
4.13.5 Financial resources						
						
4.13.6 Human resources						
						
4.13.7 Low impact research/monitoring activities						
Legend	 Current	 Potential	 Negative	 Positive	 Inside	 Outside

4.16. Assessment of current and potential positive and negative factors

4.16.1 - Assessment of current and potential negative and positive factors

4.1 Buildings and Development

Name	Impact			Origin		Trend
4.1.5 Interpretative and visitation facilities						

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor									
	Restricted								
	Localised								
X	Extensive								
	Widespread								
Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact									
	One off or rare								
	Intermittent or sporadic								
X	Frequent								
	On-going								
Impact - Impact on the attributes									
	Insignificant								
	Minor								
X	Significant								
	Major								
Management response - Capacity of management to respond									
	High capacity								
X	Medium capacity								
	Low capacity								
	No capacity and / or resources								
Trend - Development over the last 6 years									
	Decreasing								
X	Static								
	Increasing								

4.7 Local conditions affecting physical fabric

Name	Impact			Origin		Trend
4.7.6 Water (rain/water table)						
Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor						
	Restricted					
	Localised					
X	Extensive					
	Widespread					
Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact						
	One off or rare					
	Intermittent or sporadic					
X	Frequent					
	On-going					
Impact - Impact on the attributes						

	Insignificant
✕	Minor
	Significant
	Major
Management response - Capacity of management to respond	
	High capacity
	Medium capacity
✕	Low capacity
	No capacity and / or resources
Trend - Development over the last 6 years	
	Decreasing
✕	Static
	Increasing

Name	Impact			Origin		Trend
4.7.8 Micro-organisms						
						

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor	
	Restricted
✕	Localised
	Extensive
	Widespread
Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact	
	One off or rare
✕	Intermittent or sporadic
	Frequent
	On-going
Impact - Impact on the attributes	
	Insignificant
✕	Minor
	Significant
	Major
Management response - Capacity of management to respond	
	High capacity
✕	Medium capacity
	Low capacity
	No capacity and / or resources
Trend - Development over the last 6 years	
	Decreasing
✕	Static
	Increasing

4.10 Climate change and severe weather events

Name	Impact			Origin		Trend
4.10.1 Storms						
						

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor

	Restricted
	Localised
✕	Extensive
	Widespread

Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact

	One off or rare
✕	Intermittent or sporadic
	Frequent
	On-going

Impact - Impact on the attributes

	Insignificant
✕	Minor
	Significant
	Major

Management response - Capacity of management to respond

	High capacity
✕	Medium capacity
	Low capacity
	No capacity and / or resources

Trend - Development over the last 6 years

	Decreasing
✕	Static
	Increasing

Name	Impact			Origin		Trend
4.10.2 Flooding						
						

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor

	Restricted
	Localised
✕	Extensive
	Widespread

Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact

	One off or rare
✕	Intermittent or sporadic
	Frequent

	On-going
Impact - Impact on the attributes	
	Insignificant
	Minor
✕	Significant
	Major
Management response - Capacity of management to respond	
	High capacity
✕	Medium capacity
	Low capacity
	No capacity and / or resources
Trend - Development over the last 6 years	
	Decreasing
✕	Static
	Increasing

4.11 Sudden ecological or geological events

Name	Impact			Origin		Trend
4.11.2 Earthquake						
						

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor	
	Restricted
	Localised
✕	Extensive
	Widespread
Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact	
	One off or rare
✕	Intermittent or sporadic
	Frequent
	On-going
Impact - Impact on the attributes	
	Insignificant
✕	Minor
	Significant
	Major
Management response - Capacity of management to respond	
	High capacity
✕	Medium capacity
	Low capacity
	No capacity and / or resources
Trend - Development over the last 6 years	
	Decreasing

✕	Static
	Increasing

Name	Impact	Origin	Trend
4.11.4 Avalanche/Landslide			

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor

	Restricted
✕	Localised
	Extensive
	Widespread

Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact

✕	One off or rare
	Intermittent or sporadic
	Frequent
	On-going

Impact - Impact on the attributes

	Insignificant
✕	Minor
	Significant
	Major

Management response - Capacity of management to respond

	High capacity
✕	Medium capacity
	Low capacity
	No capacity and / or resources

Trend - Development over the last 6 years

	Decreasing
✕	Static
	Increasing

Name	Impact	Origin	Trend
4.11.5 Erosion and siltation/Deposition			

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor

	Restricted
✕	Localised
	Extensive
	Widespread

Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact

	One off or rare
✕	Intermittent or sporadic

	Frequent
	On-going
Impact - Impact on the attributes	
	Insignificant
✕	Minor
	Significant
	Major
Management response - Capacity of management to respond	
	High capacity
✕	Medium capacity
	Low capacity
	No capacity and / or resources
Trend - Development over the last 6 years	
	Decreasing
✕	Static
	Increasing

4.13 Management and institutional factors

Name	Impact			Origin		Trend
4.13.1 Management system/Management plan						

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor	
	Restricted
	Localised
	Extensive
✕	Widespread
Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact	
	One off or rare
	Intermittent or sporadic
	Frequent
✕	On-going
Impact - Impact on the attributes	
	Insignificant
	Minor
✕	Significant
	Major
Management response - Capacity of management to respond	
	High capacity
✕	Medium capacity
	Low capacity
	No capacity and / or resources
Trend - Development over the last 6 years	

	Decreasing
✕	Static
	Increasing

Name	Impact	Origin	Trend
4.13.2 Legal framework	 		

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor

	Restricted
	Localised
	Extensive
✕	Widespread

Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact

	One off or rare
	Intermittent or sporadic
	Frequent
✕	On-going

Impact - Impact on the attributes

	Insignificant
	Minor
✕	Significant
	Major

Management response - Capacity of management to respond

	High capacity
✕	Medium capacity
	Low capacity
	No capacity and / or resources

Trend - Development over the last 6 years

	Decreasing
✕	Static
	Increasing

Name	Impact	Origin	Trend
4.13.4 Management activities	 		

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor

	Restricted
	Localised
	Extensive
✕	Widespread

Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact

	One off or rare
--	-----------------

	Intermittent or sporadic
	Frequent
✕	On-going
Impact - Impact on the attributes	
	Insignificant
	Minor
✕	Significant
	Major
Management response - Capacity of management to respond	
	High capacity
✕	Medium capacity
	Low capacity
	No capacity and / or resources
Trend - Development over the last 6 years	
	Decreasing
✕	Static
	Increasing

Name	Impact			Origin		Trend
4.13.5 Financial resources						

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor	
	Restricted
	Localised
	Extensive
✕	Widespread
Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact	
	One off or rare
	Intermittent or sporadic
	Frequent
✕	On-going
Impact - Impact on the attributes	
	Insignificant
	Minor
✕	Significant
	Major
Management response - Capacity of management to respond	
	High capacity
✕	Medium capacity
	Low capacity
	No capacity and / or resources
Trend - Development over the last 6 years	

	Decreasing
✕	Static
	Increasing

Name	Impact	Origin	Trend
4.13.6 Human resources	 		
	 		

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor

	Restricted
	Localised
	Extensive
✕	Widespread

Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact

	One off or rare
	Intermittent or sporadic
	Frequent
✕	On-going

Impact - Impact on the attributes

	Insignificant
	Minor
✕	Significant
	Major

Management response - Capacity of management to respond

	High capacity
✕	Medium capacity
	Low capacity
	No capacity and / or resources

Trend - Development over the last 6 years

	Decreasing
✕	Static
	Increasing

Name	Impact	Origin	Trend
4.13.7 Low impact research/monitoring activities	 		

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor

	Restricted
✕	Localised
	Extensive
	Widespread

Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact

	One off or rare
--	-----------------

	Intermittent or sporadic
	Frequent
✕	On-going
Impact - Impact on the attributes	
	Insignificant
	Minor
✕	Significant
	Major
Management response - Capacity of management to respond	
	High capacity
✕	Medium capacity
	Low capacity
	No capacity and / or resources
Trend - Development over the last 6 years	
	Decreasing
✕	Static
	Increasing

4.17. Serial inscriptions (national or transnational)

4.17.1 - If your property is a serial inscription (national or transnational) please identify which components of the property are impacted by each factor

The components of the series are similarly affected in most aspects, for example those related to the conservation of stone objects (microorganisms). At the same time, there are some aspects that affect particular sites, for example, flooding and sedimentation affect more the Finca 6 site due to its location on a plain, while landslides are a threat at the Batamabl site due to its location in the piedmont.

4.18. Prediction of the state of conservation at next cycle of Periodic Reporting.

4.18.1 - Please predict what the state of conservation of each attribute will be approximately 6 years from now (at the time of the next cycle of Periodic Reporting)

	Attribute	Preserved	Compromised	Seriously compromised	Lost
4.18.1.1	Matrix and fragmentary material	✕			
4.18.1.2	Domestic and funerary cultural features without rock	✕			
4.18.1.3	Domestic and funerary cultural features with rock	✕			
4.18.1.4	Context of spheres and other sculptures	✕			
4.18.1.5	Archaeological contexts with human and organic remains	✕			

5. Protection and Management of the Property

5.1. Boundaries and Buffer Zones

5.1.1 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The boundaries are **adequate to maintain** the property's Outstanding Universal Value

5.1.2 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property known and recognised?

The boundaries **are known by both** the management authority and local communities/landowners

5.1.3 - Are the buffer zone(s) of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The buffer zones **do not limit** the ability to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value but they could be improved

5.1.4 - Are the boundaries of the buffer zones known and recognised?

The buffer zones of the World Heritage property **are known and recognised** by the management authority **but are not known** by local communities/landowners

5.1.5 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to boundaries and buffer zones of the World Heritage property

The legal framework and administrative regulations remain the same since the declaration of World Heritage. In the current legislation there are no specific provisions about the buffer areas and that must be considered for future changes. The adoption of measures at the local level pass through an adequate information strategy for the political and administrative actors who make the decisions.

5.2. Protective Measures

5.2.1 - Protective designation (legal, regulatory, contractual, planning, institutional and/or traditional).

5.2.2 - Please list any legislation and other measures (regulatory -including spatial planning- contractual, institutional or traditional) not included in 5.2.1 and indicate the category

5.2.3 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and/or regulation including spatial planning) adequate for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and/or Authenticity of the property?

An **adequate legal framework** for maintaining of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the World Heritage property exists **but there are some deficiencies in implementation**

5.2.4 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and/or regulation) adequate in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and/or Authenticity of the property?

An **adequate legal framework** in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the World Heritage property exists **but there are some deficiencies in implementation**

5.2.5 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and/or regulation) in the broader setting of the World Heritage property adequate for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and/or Authenticity of the property?

An **adequate legal framework** exists for the broader setting of the World Heritage property, **but there are some deficiencies in implementation** which undermine the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the property

5.2.6 - Can the legal framework (i.e. legislation and/or regulation) be enforced?

There is **acceptable capacity/resources** to enforce legislation and/or regulation in the World Heritage property but some deficiencies of enforcement remain

5.2.7 - Please provide a short summary of how the legislation, including spatial planning and other regulation, works in practice

Most of the patrimonial legislation is of national scope and is applied by the corresponding authorities in a general way without establishing different categories of protection. For this reason, this legislation does not contemplate the categories of World Heritage and Outstanding Universal Value, for which it must be updated for a better protection of the property.

5.2.8 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations about the information related to the measures taken to protect the World Heritage property

There is a national legal framework that is oriented to cultural heritage in general, but it must be updated to take into account the categories of World Heritage and Outstanding Universal Value for a better protection of the sites in the series.

5.3. Management System/Management Plan

5.3.1 - Please check the box which most closely match the character of the governance and management system of the property

Public management system at national level

If 'Other', please specify

5.3.2 - Management System: Please indicate which of the various management tools listed below are used to help protect the property.

A management plan

An annual work plan or business plan

A disaster, climate or conflict risk management plan

A visitor/visitation management plan

An environmental management framework

5.3.3 - Please give a brief description of the management system currently in place at your property

There is a management plan, which has been recently updated and has yet to be approved by national authorities. Until now, the updates made have been adequate, but there is room for improvement in aspects related to promote the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The results of the periodic report will be included in the final version of the management plan to be approved.

5.3.4 - Management Documents

Comment

The Management Plan was updated in 2022, and is in the process of being validated by the Administrative Board of the National Museum of Costa Rica. The plan will incorporate the needs and tasks identified in this report in its final version.

5.3.5 - Has any use been made of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape in developing policies and best practices for the protection of this property?

No use has been made of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape

5.3.6 - If the Historic Urban Landscape Recommendation has been used at this property, please describe briefly what has been done.

None

5.3.7 - Has any use been made of the Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties at the property?

No use has been made of the World Heritage Policy for Climate Change

5.3.8 - If the Climate Change policy has been used, please briefly describe what has been done along with any research on the impacts of Climate Change on the property:

None

5.3.9 - Has any use been made of the Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage Properties at the property ?

No use has been made of the Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage Properties

5.3.10 - If the Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage Properties has been used, please briefly describe what has been done

None

5.3.11 - Rate the coordination between the various levels of administration (i.e. national/federal; regional/provincial/state; local/municipal etc.) involved in the management of the World Heritage property

There is **coordination** between the range of administrative bodies involved in the management of the property, **but it could be improved**

5.3.12 - Is the management system/plan adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The management system/plan is **fully adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

5.3.13 - Is the management system being implemented?

The management system is being **fully implemented and monitored**

5.3.14 - Is there an annual work/action plan and is it being implemented?

An annual work/action plan **exists and many of its activities** are being implemented

5.3.15 - Does the management system include formal mechanisms and procedures that ensure participation and contribution of the following groups, living within or near the World Heritage property and/or buffer zone in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the property?

		Not applicable	No mechanisms for participation	Some participation	Direct participation	Transformative participation in all relevant decision processes
5.3.15.1	Local communities			✗		
5.3.15.2	Local authorities			✗		
5.3.15.3	Landowners in the property and the buffer zone		✗			
5.3.15.4	Indigenous peoples			✗		
5.3.15.5	Women			✗		
5.3.15.6	Other specific groups	✗				
	If you selected, 'Other specific groups' please specify					

5.3.16 - Please rate the cooperation/relationship between the World Heritage property managers/coordinators/staff and the following groups

		Not applicable	Non-existent	Poor	Fair	Good
5.3.16.1	Local communities				✗	
5.3.16.2	Local/Municipal authorities				✗	
5.3.16.3	Indigenous peoples				✗	
5.3.16.4	Landowners			✗		
5.3.16.5	Women				✗	
5.3.16.6	Youth/Children				✗	
5.3.16.7	Researchers				✗	
5.3.16.8	Local Visitors/Tourists				✗	
5.3.16.9	National/International tourists				✗	
5.3.16.10	Tourism Industry				✗	
5.3.16.11	Local businesses and industries			✗		
5.3.16.12	NGOs		✗			
5.3.16.13	Other specific groups	✗				
	If you selected 'Other specific groups', please specify					

5.3.17 - Please rate the extent to which the management system of your property contributes towards achieving the objectives of the World Heritage Committee's Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention

		Not applicable	No contribution	Limited	Significant	Full achievement
5.3.17.1	The management system of the property contributes to gender equality			✗		
5.3.17.2	The management system of the property provides ecosystem services/benefits to the local community (e.g. fresh air, water, food, medicinal plants)			✗		
5.3.17.3	The management system of the property contributes to social inclusion and equity, improving opportunities for all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status			✗		
5.3.17.4	The management system of the property integrates a human rights-based approach			✗		
5.3.17.5	The management system of the property contributes to fostering inclusive local economic development, and to enhancing livelihood			✗		
5.3.17.6	The management system of the property contributes to conflict prevention, including respect for cultural diversity within and around the World Heritage property			✗		

5.3.18 - Please provide further details on the ratings of the management system given in the table above

The management system needs to be improved to address specific issues in more detail, such as gender equity, ecosystem services, and local economic development. It is also necessary to include a larger number of stakeholders in the public programs and decisions taking.

5.3.19 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to the management system/plan

The management plan should address specific issues (Sustainable Development Goals in particular) in more detail. The results of the periodic report will help in the ongoing update of the management plan.

6. Financial and Human Resources

6.1. Funding

6.1.1 - If your funding sources do not exactly fit those shown, put the relevant amounts against the funding type that most closely represents your situation, and use the comment box below to provide more details.

		Project costs	Running costs
6.1.1.1	Multilateral funding (GEF, World Bank, etc.)	%	%
6.1.1.2	Bilateral international funding	1 %	1 %
6.1.1.3	World Heritage Fund (International Assistance)	%	%
6.1.1.4	Contribution from other conventions and programmes	%	%
6.1.1.5	International donations (NGOs, foundations, etc.)	%	%
6.1.1.6	Governmental (national/federal)	99 %	99 %
6.1.1.7	Governmental (regional/provincial/state)	%	%
6.1.1.8	Governmental (local/municipal)	%	%
6.1.1.9	In-country donations (NGOs, foundations, etc.)	%	%
6.1.1.10	Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, toilets, parking, camping fees, etc.)	%	%
6.1.1.11	Commercial activities (e.g. merchandising and catering, filming permit, concessions, etc.)	%	%
6.1.1.12	Other	%	%
		Total 100 %	Total 100 %

6.1.2 - Please comment here on any other aspects of funding sources not covered in the table above

It is necessary to apply to other funding sources for a more appropriate management of the site. Most of the budget comes from the government, but there have been some contributions of international private and official agencies for specific purposes, such as conservation and community participation. A private foundation for the support of the National Museum has helped to manage external funds and could play a more active role.

6.1.3 - Is the current budget sufficient to manage the World Heritage property effectively?

The available **budget is acceptable** but **could be further improved** to fully meet the management needs

6.1.4 - Are the existing sources of funding secure and likely to remain so?

The existing sources of funding are **secure over both the medium- and long-term**

6.1.5 - Comments, conclusion, and/or recommendations related to finance and infrastructure

Funding must be diversified from sources different to national government. There are multiple needs that must be addressed, since there are four archeological sites to be managed. The assistance for alternative sources related to heritage management would be of great help. Mechanisms for channeling assistance must be improved to comply with country legislation.

6.1.6 - Estimate the distribution of men and women involved in the management, conservation, interpretation of the World Heritage properties and the extent to which they are drawn from local communities.

		From local communities %	From elsewhere %
6.1.6.1	Men	50 %	45 %
6.1.6.2	Women	50 %	55 %
		Total 100 %	Total 100 %

6.1.7 - Are available human resources adequate to manage the World Heritage property?

Human resources **partly meet** the management needs of the World Heritage property

6.1.8 - Considering the management needs of the World Heritage property, please rate the availability of professionals in the following disciplines

Conservation	Good
Environmental sustainability	Fair
Community participation and inclusion	Fair
Risk preparedness	Fair
Capacity development and education	Fair
Administration	Fair
Research and monitoring	Fair
Awareness raising and public information/communication	Fair
Marketing and promotion	Fair
Interpretation	Fair
Visitor management/tourism	Fair
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Fair

6.1.9 - Please rate the availability of training opportunities for the management of the World Heritage property in the following disciplines

Conservation	Fair
Environmental sustainability	Fair
Community participation and inclusion	Poor
Risk preparedness	Poor
Capacity development and education	Fair
Administration	Fair
Research and monitoring	Fair
Awareness raising and public information/communication	Fair
Marketing and promotion	Fair
Interpretation	Fair
Visitor management/tourism	Fair
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Poor

6.1.10 - Has any use been made of the World Heritage Strategy for Capacity Building at the property?

No use has been made of the World Heritage Strategy for Capacity Building

6.1.11 - If the World Heritage Strategy for Capacity Building has been used, please briefly describe what has been done.

The World Heritage Strategy for Capacity Building has not been used, but capacity building must be improved at the local level

6.1.12 - Are there site-specific capacity building plans or programmes that develop local expertise and that contribute to the transfer of skills for the conservation and management of the World Heritage property?

A site-based capacity building plan or programme is in place and partially implemented; some technical skills are being transferred to those managing the property locally, **but most technical work is carried out by external staff**

6.1.13 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

More training opportunities are needed for those managing the sites that make up the series, particularly a site-based plan. There is assistance and training in

administration aspects from the central headquarters for the person based in the Finca 6 visitor center, but this is partial and should be extended to other aspects of research, education and conservation.

7. Scientific Studies and Research Projects

7.1 - Is there adequate knowledge (scientific or traditional) about the values and attributes of the World Heritage property to support planning, management and decision-making to ensure that Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Knowledge about the values and attributes of the World Heritage property is **acceptable** for most key areas but there are gaps

7.2 - Is there a planned programme of research at the property which is directed towards management needs and/or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme** of research, which is relevant to management needs and/or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

7.3 - Are results from research programmes publicly available and disseminated?

Research results **are shared** widely with **active outreach** to local communities and national and international audiences

7.4 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to scientific studies and research projects

Research projects are ongoing and have significantly helped spread knowledge. Archaeological investigations have been carried out at the sites included in the series and at other sites in the Diquis delta. There is also research on natural aspects and specific studies related to conservation aspects of the stone spheres. The results are disseminated through academic and general publications, conferences, news in national and regional newspapers, and online facilities.

8. Education, Information and Awareness Building

8.1 - Please rate the awareness and understanding of the existence and justification for inscription of the World Heritage property amongst the following groups

Local communities	Fair
Local/municipal authorities	Fair
Indigenous peoples	Fair
Landowners	Poor
Women	Fair
Youth/children	Fair
Researchers	Good
Local visitors	Good
National/international tourists	Good
Tourism industry	Fair
Local businesses and industries	Poor
NGOs	Fair
Other specific groups	Not applicable
If you selected 'Other specific groups', please describe	

8.2 - Does the property have a heritage education programme(s) for children and/or youth, that can contribute to a better understanding of heritage, promote diversity and foster intercultural dialogue?

There is a **planned and effective education and awareness programme** for children and youth that contributes to the protection of the World Heritage property

8.3 - Who are the target audiences for education and awareness programmes at your property?

Local communities
Local/municipal authorities
Indigenous peoples
Youth/children
Researchers
Local Visitors
National/international tourists

8.4 - Please rate the adequacy of the following visitor facilities and services at the World Heritage property for education, information, interpretation and awareness building

Visitor centre	Good
Site museum	Good

Information booths	Fair
Guided tours	Good
Trails/routes	Fair
Printed information materials	Fair
Online (website, social media, etc.)	Good
Transportation facilities	Poor
Other	Not needed
If 'Other' is selected, please specify	Not needed

8.5 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to education, information and awareness building

A great effort is being made to implement an adequate education program at the local level (communities close to the property) and regional level (cities in the southern region of Costa Rica through workshops, talks, site visits and online information. Nationally and internationally online information (portal, websites) provides information to potential visitors and students.

9. Visitor Management

9.1 - Please provide estimated annual visitor numbers (including national and international visitors) since the last Periodic Report

4528 / 9839 / 8581 / 7861 / 6680 /

9.2 - What information sources are used to collect visitor statistics?

Entry tickets and registries

9.3 - What is the average length stay of a visitor to the World Heritage property?

One to three hours

9.4 - Please provide the source of information

The data comes from the registration information collected in the visitor center at Finca 6 site

9.5 - What is the approximate average daily visitor expenditure? (Please provide an estimated monetary figure in USD)

50 / 50 / 20 / 7 / 20 / 20 /

9.6 - Please provide the source of information

The data comes from the official expenses table and from the consultation with tour operators about daily expenses of visitors in the area.

9.7 - Does the management system/plan for the World Heritage property include a strategy with an action plan to manage visitors, tourism activity and its derived economic, socio-cultural and environmental impacts?

There is **no strategy** to manage visitors, tourism activity and its derived impacts on the World Heritage property

9.8 - Please provide any comments relating to the answer provided above in question 9.7

At this moment the management plan does not include such strategy. This is an aspect that is necessary to address in accordance with local tourist chambers and the Costa Rican Institute of Tourism to analyze tourism activity and derived impacts.

9.9 - Is visitor use effectively managed to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the property?

Visitor use of the World Heritage property is managed but **improvements could be made**

9.10 - Is the effectiveness of tourism management regularly monitored?

No

If a different system, please specify

9.11 - How does the tourism industry cooperate with the site management to improve visitor experiences and maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property?

There is **contact** between those responsible for the World Heritage property and the tourism industry but this is **largely confined to administrative or regulatory matters**

9.12 - How well is the information on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property presented and interpreted?

The presentation and interpretation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is **acceptable but improvements could be made**

9.13 - At how many locations is the World Heritage emblem displayed at the property?

In **one location** and **easily visible** to visitors

9.14 - How does visitor/tourism revenue (e.g. entry charges, permits) contribute to the management of the World Heritage property?

Fees are collected and make a **substantial contribution** to the management of the World Heritage property

9.15 - Are there locally driven sustainable tourism initiatives?

Not applicable

If 'Yes', please specify

9.16 - Are the benefits of tourism shared with local communities?

Yes

If 'Yes', please specify

Indirect benefits because of visitation, employment and extension programs

9.17 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to visitation/tourism/public use of the World Heritage property

A better strategy should be developed together with the Costa Rican Tourism Institute, local tour operators and local Chambers of Tourism. It would be advisable to also implement the UNESCO Tourism Management Assessment Tool. The area where the property is located is already of greater tourist importance (beach and forest tourism) and there is an increasing visitations to the sites whose impacts must be evaluated.

10. Monitoring

10.1 - Is there a monitoring programme at the property directed towards management needs and/or towards improving the understanding of the Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme of monitoring**, which is relevant to management needs and/or improving understanding of the Outstanding Universal Value

10.2 - Is necessary information available in order to define key indicators for measuring the state of conservation and are they used in monitoring how the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is being maintained?

Information on the values of the World Heritage property is **adequate and key indicators have been defined but monitoring of the status of indicators could be improved**

10.3 - Are key indicators defined and in place for the following principal aspects of the property?

	Extend of indicators	Not applicable	No indicators	Indicators have been defined but are not yet in use	Indicators are in place and in use since the last Periodic Reporting cycle
10.3.1	State of conservation				✕
10.3.2	Effectiveness of the management system				✕
10.3.3	Character of governance	✕			
10.3.4	Appropriate synergy with other conservation designations		✕		
10.3.5	Contribution to sustainable development		✕		
10.3.6	Capacity development		✕		

10.4 - Please provide information on relevant key indicators adopted at the property

There are key indicators for some topics, specially conservation and management system, but more work is needed for others such as governance and synergy with other conservation designations. Within the conservation program different indicators have been included related particularly to monitor the condition of stone spheres present in the sites.

10.5 - Please rate the level of involvement in monitoring of the following groups:

World Heritage managers/coordinators and staff	Good
Local/municipal authorities	Poor
Local communities	Poor
Indigenous peoples	Poor
Landowners	Poor
Women	Poor
Researchers	Fair
Tourism industry	Poor
Local businesses and industry	Non-existent
NGOs	Poor
Other specific groups	Not applicable
If you selected 'Other specific groups', please specify	

10.6 - Has the State Party implemented relevant recommendations arising from the World Heritage Committee?

Implementation is underway

10.7 - Please provide comments relevant to the implementation of recommendations from the World Heritage Committee.

The recommendations given by World Heritage Committee in several meetings have been mostly implemented, they have been reported to the World heritage Center in the specific reports. However, some require more time to be implemented, and it is required more active involvement of local authorities and stakeholders, particularly those related with buffer zones that required some legal or administrative measures by the municipality of the Osa canton, where the property is located.

10.8 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to Monitoring

There is a programme of monitoring and development of key indicators, which is relevant to management needs and/or improving understanding of the Outstanding Universal Value, but it must be improved for a more accurate assessment

11. Identification of Priority Management Needs

11.1 - Identification of Priority Management Needs

5.1	Boundaries and Buffer Zones	
5.1.4	The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are known and recognised by the management authority but are not known and recognized by local communities/landowners	✗
5.2	Protective Measures	
5.2.3	An adequate legal framework for maintaining of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the World Heritage property exists but there are some deficiencies in implementation	
5.2.4	An adequate legal framework in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the World Heritage property exists but there are some deficiencies in implementation	✗
5.2.5	An adequate legal framework exists for the broader setting of the World Heritage property and the buffer zone, but there are some deficiencies in implementation which undermine the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the property	
5.2.6	There is acceptable capacity/resources to enforce legislation and/or regulation in the World Heritage property but some deficiencies of enforcement remain	
5.3	Management System/Management Plan	
5.3.5	No use has been made of the Historic Urban Landscape Recommendation to develop policies and best practices for the protection of the property	
5.3.7	No use has been made of the Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties at the property	✗
5.3.9	No use has been made of the Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage Properties at the property	
5.3.11	There is coordination between the range of administrative bodies involved in the management of the property, but it could be improved	
5.3.17	- In a limited manner, the management system of the World Heritage property does contribute to gender equality - In a limited manner, the management system of the World Heritage property does provide ecosystem services/benefits to the local community (e.g. fresh air, water, food, medicinal plants) - In a limited manner, the management system of the World Heritage property does contribute to social inclusion and equity, improving opportunities for all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status - In a limited manner, the management system of the World Heritage property does integrate a human rights-based approach - In a limited manner, the management system of the World Heritage property does contribute to fostering inclusive local economic development, and to enhancing livelihood - In a limited manner, the management system of the World Heritage property does contribute to conflict prevention, including respect for cultural diversity within and around the World Heritage property	✗
6.1	Funding	
6.1.3	The available budget is acceptable but could be further improved to fully meet the management needs of the World Heritage property	
6.1.7	Human resources partly meet the management needs of the World Heritage property	✗
6.1.10	No use has been made of the World Heritage Strategy for Capacity Development at the World Heritage property	✗
6.1.12	A site-based capacity building plan or programme is in place and partially implemented; some technical skills are being transferred to those managing the property locally, but most technical work is carried out by external staff	✗
9	Visitor Management	
9.7	There is no strategy to manage visitors, tourism activity and its derived impacts on the World Heritage property	
9.9	Visitor use of the World Heritage property is managed but improvements could be made	
9.11	There is contact but this is largely confined to administrative or regulatory mattersThere is contact between those responsible for the World Heritage property and the tourism industry but this is largely confined to administrative or regulatory matters	
9.12	The presentation and interpretation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is acceptable but improvements could be made	✗
10	Monitoring	
10.2	Information on the values of the World Heritage property is adequate and key indicators have been defined but monitoring of the status of indicators could be improved	

Please select 2 more issues.

☒ Please save this question to reflect changes

12. Summary and Conclusions

12.1. Summary - Factors affecting the Property

12.1.1 - Summary - Factors affecting the Property

4.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric						
4.7.6	Water (rain/water table)	Integrity of buried remain,s because of the high variation of water table and rain precipitation through the year ,must be assessed through technical studies for better management decisions	Specific studies	Monthly	2017-2022	National Museum of Costa Rica, Costa Rican Metereological Institute	There is specific monitoring by the Costa Rican Metereological Institute with an station at Finca 6
4.7.8	Micro-organisms	Integrity of stone structures and objects (particularly stone spheres) in archaeological contexts could be affected by uncontrolled growth of micro-organisms	Studies by specialists in micro biota (Fungus, algae, lichens, bacteria) are in process	Annual	2016-2022	National Museum of Costa Rica/ Cellular and Molecular Biology Research Center of University of Costa Rica	There has been an specific study by the Cellular and Molecular Biology Research Center of University of Costa Rica since 2016 to study the stone spheres and develop solutions (such as biocides) that have to be yet proved
4.10	Climate change and severe weather events						
4.10.1	Storms	Integrity of the archaeological sites could be affected during heavy storms, and indirect effects (floods, landslides) of seasonal Caribbean hurricanes	Risk prevention and management Plan are in process of development to prevent extensive damages by that phenomena	Daily	2017-2024	National Museum of Costa Rica/ National Metereological Institute/ National Comission of Emergencies	There is an integrated work of the National Museum and other agencies to monitor weather events and develop appropriate reponses in cases of events suchs as storms and floods
4.10.2	Flooding	Integrity of archaeological sites and infraestructure at Finca 6 site is menaced by cyclical floods of variable intensity	Risk Preparedness Plan is in process of development to prevent extensive damages by that phenomena	Monthly	2014-2024	National Museum of Costa Rica/National Metereological Institutute/ National Comission of Emergencies	There is an integrated work of the National Museum and other agencies to monitor weather events and reponses in cases of events suchs a s floods
4.11	Sudden ecological or geological events						
4.11.2	Earthquake	Archeological structures and visitors facilities in all sites can be affected since the zone is a very active seismic area	Risk prevention and management Plan in process of to prevent extensive damages by that phenomena	Annual	2022-2024	National Museum of Costa Rica, National Seismological Network/ National Volcanological and Seismological Observatory/ National Comision for Emergencies/	There is an integrated work of the National Museum and other agencies to monitor geological events and reponses in cases of events suchs as earthquakes
4.11.4	Avalanche/Landslide	Archaeological structures at the Batambal site may be affected by landslides product of heavy storms or earthquakes	Specific studies to establish site condition and preventive measures	Monthly	2022-2024	National Museum of Costa Rica/ National Comission of Emergencies/ Costa Rican Institute of Electricity/National Highway Commission	There is an integrated work of the National Museum and other agencies to monitor weather and geological events and reponses in cases of events suchs as landslides

4.11.5	Erosion and siltation/Deposition	Archaeological structures at the Batambal site can be affected by erosion, that could produce landslides in the southern sector of the site	Specific studies to establish site condition and preventive measures	Annual	2022-2024	National Museum of Costa Rica/National Commission of Emergencies/ Costa Rican Institute of Electricity/National Highway Commission	There is an integrated work of the National Museum and other agencies to monitor weather and geological events and responses in cases of events such as landslides provoked by erosion
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4.13 Management and institutional factors

4.13.5	Financial resources	Management of all sites is affected by restriction in the financial resources. It is necessary more personnel for management surveillance and maintenance	Funding plan has to be developed to apply to alternative economic sources	Annual	2022-2024	National Museum of Costa Rica/ Minister of Culture and Youth/Minister of Treasury/	There is an integrated effort to improve financial resources at government level despite the economic situation of the country
4.13.6	Human resources	Management of some sites is affected because of the lack of enough personnel in several areas	Human resources plan has to be developed to apply to alternative economic sources	Annual	2022-2024	National Museum of Costa Rica/ General Direction of Civil Service	There is an integrated effort to improve human resources at government level despite the economic situation of the country

Summary - Factors affecting the Property **completed**

12.2. Summary - Management Needs

12.2.1 - Summary - Management Needs

5.1	Boundaries and Buffer Zones				
		Actions	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment
5.1.4	The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are known and recognised by the management authority but are not known and recognized by local communities/landowners	Renewal of the presentation about buffer zones to the Municipality of Osa canton and the request for a regulatory pain or administraitve actions. Search for alternatives with stakeholders to find solutions to the management of specific buffer zones	2022	National Museum of Costa Rica	Efforts so far have been limited, a new approach must be developed to establish and adequate protectionto the buffer zones

5.2	Protective Measures				
5.2.4	An adequate legal framework in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the World Heritage property exists but there are some deficiencies in implementation	Joint effort with municipal authorities to develop administrative measures and a regulatory plan for the canton of Osa that includes buffer zones for the different component of the series. Search for other legal alternatives to protect the zones	2022-2024	National Museum of Costa Rica/ Municipality of Osa canton	Efforts so far have been limited, a new approach must be developed to establish and adequate protectionto the buffer zones

5.3	Management System/Management Plan				
5.3.7	No use has been made of the Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties at the property	A study of the document is pendant to evaluate the contribution to the specific problems	2022	National Museum of Costa Rica	For the study of the document and its implementation some technical advice would be necessary

5.3.17	• In a limited manner, the management system of the World Heritage property does contribute to gender equality • In a limited manner, the management system of the World Heritage property does provide ecosystem services/benefits to the local community (e.g. fresh air, water, food, medicinal plants) • In a limited manner, the management system of the World Heritage property does contribute to social inclusion and equity, improving opportunities for all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status • In a limited manner, the management system of the World Heritage property does integrate a human rights-based approach • In a limited manner, the management system of the World Heritage property does contribute to fostering inclusive local economic development, and to enhancing livelihood • In a limited manner, the management system of the World Heritage property does contribute to conflict prevention, including respect for cultural diversity within and around the World Heritage property	It is necessary to have a wider scope in the formulation of the management plan. This periodic report is helping to identify problems or situations to include in the update of the plan	2022-2024	National Museum of Costa Rica	Some advance has been made in the different topics considered in this section, but it has to be improved in the management plan
6.1	Funding				

6.1.7	Human resources partly meet the management needs of the World Heritage property	Some steps have been made to establish a better coordination with the government to obtain the adequate human resources for the management of the four archaeological site that composed the series.	2022-2024	National Museum of Costa Rica	The advance has been moderate to establish a better coordination with the government to obtain the adequate resources. A new effort will be made with the authorities of a new government
6.1.10	No use has been made of the World Heritage Strategy for Capacity Development at the World Heritage property	A closer collaboration with WHC experts for advice in the use of the strategy is needed, to evaluate which aspects can be implemented and include them in the update of management plan	2022-2024	National Museum of Costa Rica	For the study of the document and its implementation some technical advice would be necessary
6.1.12	A site-based capacity building plan or programme is in place and partially implemented; some technical skills are being transferred to those managing the property locally, but most technical work is carried out by external staff	The administrative and education programs are in place at the site, but technical work related to research, conservation and exhibitions are carried out by staff from the central headquarters of the National Museum of Costa Rica.	2022-2024	National Museum of Costa Rica	It is necessary more transfer of capacities from the central headquarters to the site through a capacity building program in aspects such as research, conservation and public program

9	Visitor Management				
9.12	The presentation and interpretation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is acceptable but improvements could be made	More adequate and up-to-date ways of presenting and interpreting OUVs are needed, and include them in the educational program on the sites, but also in the official educational programs in schools and high schools.	2022-2024	National Museum of Costa Rica	A strategy to improve the presentation and interpretation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the site is the Management Plan 2022-2024

Summary - Management Needs completed

12.3. Conclusions on the State of Conservation of the Property

12.3.1 - Following the analysis undertaken for this report, what is the current state of Authenticity of the World Heritage property?

The Authenticity of the World Heritage property **has been preserved**

12.3.2 - Following the analysis undertaken for this report, what is the current state of Integrity of the World Heritage property?

The Integrity of the World Heritage property is **intact**

12.3.3 - Following the analysis undertaken for this report, what is the current state of the World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been **maintained**.

12.3.4 - What is the current state of the property's other values?

Other important cultural and/or natural values and the state of conservation of the World Heritage property are **intact**

12.3.5 - Comments. conclusions and/or recommendations related to the state of conservation of the property.

All significant aspects of the site such as integrity, authenticity and OUV have been maintained since the World Heritage Declaration in 2014

13. Impact of World Heritage Status

13.1 - Please rate the impacts of World Heritage status of the property in relation to the following areas

Conservation	Positive
Research and monitoring	Positive
Management effectiveness	Positive

Quality of life for local communities and indigenous peoples	No impact
Recognition	Positive
Education	Positive
Infrastructure development	Positive
Funding for the property	Positive
International cooperation	Positive
Political support for conservation	No impact
Legal/Policy framework	Positive
Advocacy	No impact
Institutional coordination	Positive
Security	Positive
Gender equality	No impact
Provision of ecosystem services/ benefits to local communities	No impact
Social inclusion and equity, and improvement of opportunities for all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status	No impact
Fostering inclusive local economic development and enhancing livelihood	No impact
Contributing to conflict prevention, including respect for cultural diversity within and around heritage properties	No impact
Other	Not applicable
If 'Other', please specify	

13.2 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to World Heritage status and its impacts

Regarding several categories there is a moderate impact, but the questionnaire does not give that option. It would be necessary to provide a wider range of answers

14. Good Practice in the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

14.1 - Example of good practice in World Heritage protection, identification, conservation or management at the property level

Project: Engaging youth from local communities and indigenous peoples in participatory management and conservation of the Precolumbian Chiefdom Settlements with Stone Spheres of the Diquís 2019-2021. With the support of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the coordination by UNESCO World Heritage Centre Latin America and the Caribbean Unit and the UNESCO-San José Office. Several workshops were developed through a non-formal education methodology based on learning techniques through educational dynamics, which allows young people to promote and participate in the management of the property declared World Heritage and to strengthen their soft skills. This training process that strengthens soft skills will allow facilitators to recommend young people who show greater skills to be empowered as multiplying agents. Work was focused on legal and administrative processes linked to heritage properties' management and youth leadership, teamwork, community organization, volunteering, self-esteem, communication, skills, projects and conflict resolution. Strengthening soft skills (leadership, teamwork, communication, community organization, group dynamics, projects) are the elements that will allow participants to become multiplying agents and promote knowledge to be replicated in benefit of the protection of the World Heritage property. The project is geographically focused on the canton of Osa, where the four sites pertaining to the declared World Heritage property are located. The beneficiaries correspond to local districts and indigenous territories, close to the World Heritage property and whom have already participated in some activities related to its management. A total of 240 young people participated and 90 reached the final activities. The creation of a World Heritage Youth Association was achieved as a product of this project. The project is empowering young people with knowledge and skills in the management of World Heritage properties

14.2 - Define which topics are covered by this example of best practice at the property level

Sustainable Development
Synergies
Management
Capacity Building

15. Assessment of the Periodic Reporting Exercise

15.1. Relevance of Periodic Reporting

15.1.1 - Has the Periodic Reporting process improved the understanding of the following?

The World Heritage Convention
The concept of Outstanding Universal Value
The property's Outstanding Universal Value
The concept of Integrity and/or Authenticity
The property's Integrity and/or Authenticity

Management effectiveness to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value
Monitoring and reporting

15.1.2 - Please rate the follow-up to conclusions and recommendations from previous Periodic Reporting exercise by the following entities

State Party	Fair
Site Managers	Fair
UNESCO World Heritage Centre	Fair
Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM)	Fair

15.2. Use of Data

15.2.1 - How do the authorities in charge of the property plan to use the data recorded from this cycle of Periodic Reporting?

Revision of priorities/strategies/policies for the protection, management and conservation of heritage
Update of management plans
Fundraising
Awareness raising
Advocacy

15.2.2 - Comments on use of data from the Cycle of Periodic Reporting

It is very useful for the management of the site, to increase awareness of local and national authorities, to establish goals, to know about documents and policies developed by UNESCO, and to assess the current state of the property

15.3. Timing and resources

15.3.1 - Entities involved in the filling out of this online questionnaire (tick as many boxes as applicable)

Governmental institutions responsible for cultural and natural heritage
Site Manager/Coordinator World Heritage property staff
Focal points of other international conventions/programmes

15.3.2 - Has a gender balanced contribution and participation been considered in the filling out of this questionnaire?

Gender balance has been **given limited consideration** and implementation is in process.

15.3.3 - Were you given adequate time (i.e. roughly ten months) to gather necessary information and to fill in this questionnaire?

Yes

15.3.4 - Please estimate the time (working hours) needed to complete this questionnaire

20 / 0 / 40 /

15.3.5 - Did you mobilise any additional resources to fill out this questionnaire?

	Additional resources	No	Yes
15.3.5.1	Human resources	☒	☐
15.3.5.2	Financial resources for organizing consultation meetings/ training	☒	☐

15.4. Format and content of the Periodic Report

15.4.1 - How accessible was the information required to complete this questionnaire?

Most required information was accessible.

15.4.2 - Was the questionnaire easy to use and clear to understand?

		Very Difficult	Difficult	Easy	Very easy
15.4.2.1	Ease of use of questionnaire	☐	☐	☒	☐
15.4.2.2	Clarity of questions	☐	☐	☒	☐

15.4.3 - Please provide suggestions for improvement of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire

To provide more options in some of the questions, since there was no a intermediate position to be taken in several questions

15.5. Training and Guidance

15.5.1 - Please rate the level of support in terms of training and guidance from the following entities in completing this questionnaire

UNESCO World Heritage Centre	Fair
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UNESCO (other sectors/field offices)	Not applicable
UNESCO National Commission	Fair
ICOMOS International	Not applicable
IUCN International	Not applicable
ICCROM international/regional	Not applicable
ICOMOS national/regional	Not applicable
IUCN national/regional	Not applicable

15.5.2 - Please rate the level of support for completing the Periodic Reporting questionnaire from the following entities

UNESCO World Heritage Centre	Fair
State Party Representative (national Focal Point)	Fair
UNESCO other sectors (e.g. field office)	Not applicable
National Commission for UNESCO	Fair
ICOMOS International	Not applicable
ICCROM International/regional	Not applicable
ICOMOS national/regional	Not applicable
IUCN national/regional	Not applicable
IUCN International	Not applicable

15.5.3 - Were the online training resources prepared by the World Heritage Centre regarding Periodic Reporting adequate for you to complete this questionnaire?

Yes

15.5.4 - If you found that the online training resources were not adequate, what changes would you like to see implemented?

None, the online training resources were adequate

15.6. Actions that will require formal consideration by the World Heritage Committee

15.6.1 - Summary of actions that will require formal consideration by the World Heritage Committee

No item were proposed for update

15.7. Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to the Assessment of the Periodic Reporting Exercise

15.7.1 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to the Assessment of the Periodic Reporting Exercise

No item were proposed for update

15.7.2 - Thank you for having filled in all the questions. Please contact your National Focal Point for validation.