

ANNEX 1C

Learn by walking – Study of alternatives in integrated management and implementation of sustainable use on the Huancabamba – Caxas (in Piura) stretch of the Great Inca Route, and surrounding areas.

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“In times long past, the residents of the Andean region had a close relationship with similar groups in the farthest latitudes, promoting the exchange of products and culture. With the Incas, this system was perfected. The roads, like the veins of an enormous body—now sleeping—played an important role in the day-to-day life of these peoples and were the pure expression of harmonious dominion over their natural environment, then considered sacred.

Traveling the roads and making them known, including the wonders that cross and unite them, awakening them to stimulate circulation again, is the spirit of this work”.

Background

1. The World Conservation Union (IUCN) project

In the year 2002, the IUCN identified the Great Inca Route, the Capaq Ñan, as an integrating axis for national efforts in a regional context, for recreating programs for the conservation of biological diversity, cultural revaluation, and the sustainable development of Andean peoples. By conserving and managing these resources, the incredible potential of the Great Inca Route could contribute to the development of ecotourism, the integration of the Andean populations, academic investigation and traditional knowledge, and the creation of intercultural spaces for exploring and sharing the values of the cosmovision, or perception of the world, of the different societies of the past and the present, that by means of this road and the management of its circuits, would be connected with their neighbours in the north and the south, reconstructing and strengthening an age-old tie as a tool and/or raw material for their development.

This initiative had its origin in the IUCN World Commission on Protected Area’s Sacred Natural Sites Project, with an initial contribution from the Ford Foundation.

2. Inca Nani Project

After four years of positive experiences working with locals in the White Mountain Chain on the development of tourism products based on cultural and natural values, the Mountain Institute found the opportunity to take this local learning to a regional scale thanks to the “Sustainable Livelihoods in Mountain Ecosystems” (USAID PVC BHR Matching Grant Program 2002-2007).

In this framework, the Mountain Institute established a cooperation agreement with a local NGO, the Instituto KUNTUR de Investigación y Desarrollo Andino (KUNTUR Institute of Investigation and Andean Development), for the recuperation of the Inca trail, known in the local dialect as Inca Nani.

The *Inca Nani* Project was born in that way from an alliance strategy between two partner NGO's that coincided in the concept of integrating conservation for the benefit of the local society and the strengthening of its leadership, and from the start it is fed and inspired by the local vision.

I. Possible activities

Proposal for a Pilot Project

1. Goal

To contribute to the revitalization of the Great Inca Route (GRI is its Spanish acronym), a master work from ancient times, as a resource and opportunity to catalyze the conservation and sustainable development of the high Andean corridor, which extends along a network of PA, and productive conservation.

2. Objective

To design and carry out a pilot Project that provides alternatives for the establishment, management and sustainable use of one or more protected areas in the Caxas (Piura) Stretch of the GRI Huancabamba, based on participatory work that benefits the communities and other players through the sustainable use of natural and cultural resources and agrobiodiversity, and ecotourism.

3. Specific objectives

1. To study the alternatives for managing PA.
2. To recuperate the integrating role of the GRI.
3. Develop sustainable forms of tourism.
4. To recover traditional practices and knowledge.
5. Systematization and publicity.

4. Support

1. The nearness of the Tabaconas Namballe National Sanctuary, especially the proposal for the enlargement of the PA toward the Piura zone (by WWF), which joins the trajectory of the Great Inca Route proposal.
2. A biological corridor prioritized by Finland.
3. The Páramo Project, an initiative that brings Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru together.
4. Potential bi-national projects (Ecuador-Peru).
5. Presence of important Inca sites associated with the trail (Caxas, Huancacarpa, Jicate and Huancabamba itself).
6. The Huarinas lakes, with their magical-religious practices.
7. Request from the Municipalities in the area to work on their conservation.
8. Capacity of a group of national and local organizations willing to facilitate a process for the strengthening of local capacities and the search for potential local initiatives to improve the standard of living of the communities themselves.
9. Interest from the international scientific community in biodiversity and sustainable development processes: IUCN, UNESCO, governments, national and international NGO's.

5. Expected Results

1. To study management alternatives.
2. Integrating role of the GRI recovered.
3. Immediate alternatives for sustainable development validated by the stakeholders.
4. Data base.
5. Revaluation of ancestral practices for the conservation of natural resources and agrobiodiversity.
6. Strategy for sustainable and participatory tourism and concrete practices.
7. Local capacity for management, strengthened.
8. Systematization and publicity.

6. Methodology

1. Incorporation of experiences of other similar projects.
2. Participatory strategies.
3. Learning by doing.
4. Strengthening of local capacities.
5. Incorporation of the local cosmovision, or perception of the world.

7. Activities

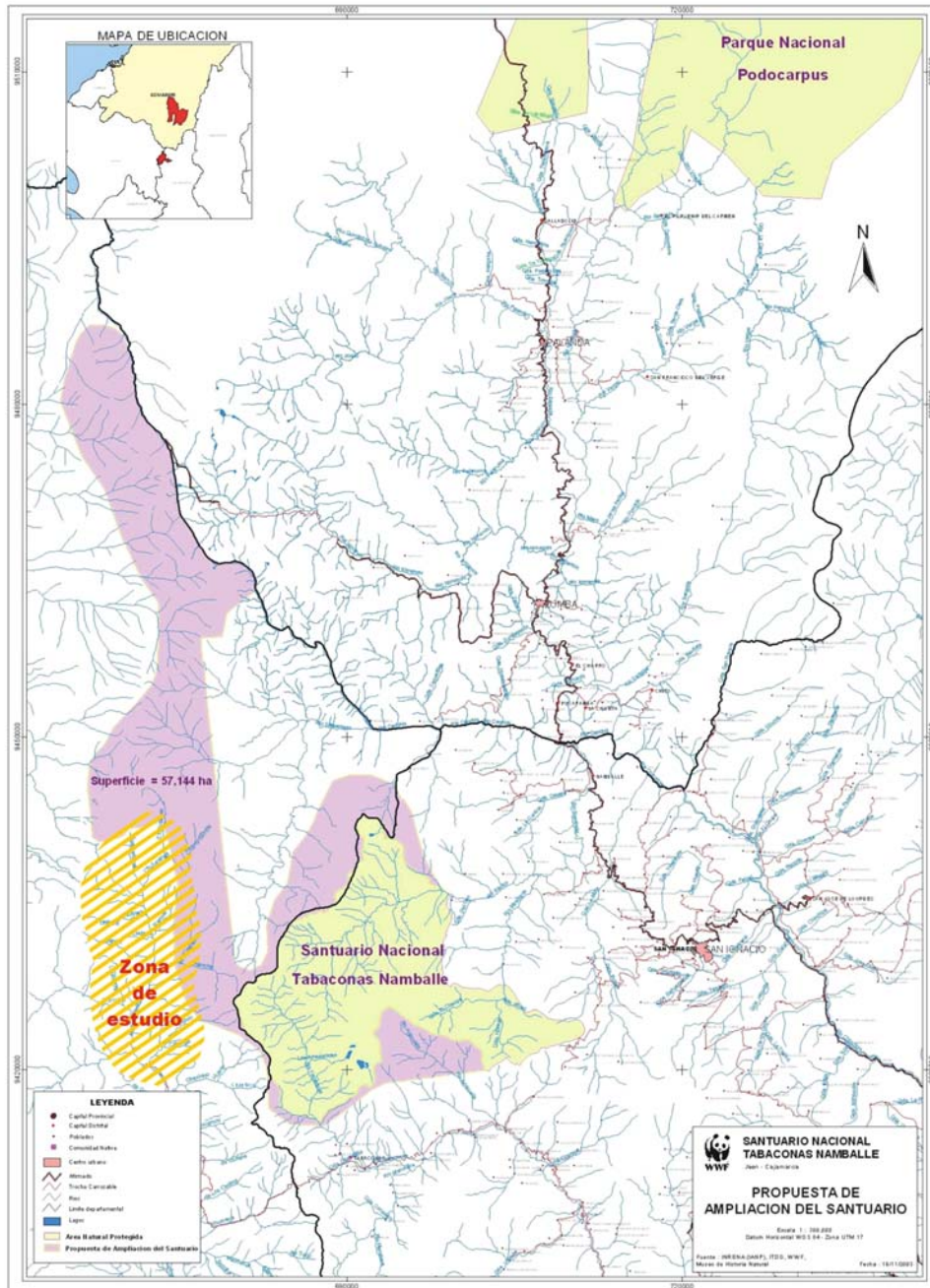
- 7.1 Study of PA management alternatives.
 - 7.1.1 Collection and systematization of information (natural and cultural values, local initiatives and strategies for conservation).
 - 7.1.2 Investigative trips and the establishment of initial contacts.
 - 7.1.3 Workshops on socialization.
 - 7.1.4 Participatory diagnosis (including the analysis of threats and opportunities).
 - a. Identification of sites and resources of special value for conservation.
 - b. Analysis of potential for PA.
 - 7.1.5 Preparation and validation of the study on alternatives.
- 7.2 Selection of priorities for managing agrobiodiversity
- 7.3 Recuperate the integrating role of the GRI.
 - 7.3.1 Participatory walk.
 - 7.3.2 Exchange fairs.
 - 7.3.3 Workshop for integrating GRI project.
 - 7.3.4 Local communication.
- 7.4 Participatory development of sustainable forms of tourism.
 - 7.4.1 Vision workshops.
 - 7.4.2 Participatory construction of tourism programmes.
 - 7.4.3 Analysis of actors, roles, and institutions.
 - 7.4.4 Design of sustainable tourism strategy.
- 7.5 Recovery of traditional practices and knowledge.
 - 7.5.1 Documentation of natural resource and agrobiodiversity management.
 - 7.5.2 Curative practices.
 - 7.5.3 Collection of oral tradition.

- 7.6 Participatory systematization, documentation, and publicity.
 - 7.6.1 Monitoring and evaluation.
 - 7.6.2 Workshops.
 - 7.6.3 Preparation of documents.
 - 7.6.4 Videos, maps, and other educational materials.
 - 7.6.5 Preparation of a media programme.

8. Institutional arrangements

The institutional arrangements for the implementation of this pilot Project shall be approved by The Programme Supervisory Board.

II. Map: *Capac Ñan* near *Tabaconas Namballe* National Sanctuary



Zona propuesta para el estudio del proyecto de la Gran Ruta Inca en Piura, de la UICN - Perú