

Chapter 12

Heritage protection in Chile through its institutions

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I. INTRODUCTION

The State of Chile has created a series of regulations, instruments and institutions to attend to the necessary heritage protection, both material and immaterial. In addition, over the last few decades, the Chilean governments have been making an effort to define a cultural policy and the heritage question has been included as part of it.

The Cultural Policy currently in force (Gobierno de Chile, 2011) establishes, among its proposals, the desire to contribute to the enhancement and safeguarding of the material and immaterial cultural heritage. To do so, it raises the necessity to coordinate actions to favour heritage enhancement, conservation and management processes, including research, identification, protection, intervention and diffusion.

For the specific case of the immaterial heritage, it proposes the design of «strategies oriented towards safeguarding the cultural manifestations and expressions of the original peoples and the cultural traditions of Immigrants». Furthermore, it stresses the need to make the younger generations more aware of the value and richness of the immaterial cultural heritage (Gobierno de Chile, 2011).

The Cultural Policy emphasises the enhancement of heritage as a driving force for the development of local communities, which gives it a socio-economic dimension that goes beyond contemplation and preservation. To this effect, it «promotes the material and immaterial cultural heritage as a tourist goal; linked to regional socio-economic development» (Government of Chile, 2011).

Thus, it establishes the nexus between heritage and tourism, which should be strengthened to transform the heritage capital in the territory into benefits for the community. This position is in consonance with the sustainable local development policies, in so far as it looks to generate wellbeing and stability for the territorial communities.

This chapter presents the diverse forms in which the action of the State of Chile is manifested in the protection and promotion of the heritage. First of all, an analysis is made of the institutions and legal tools that correspond to the material heritage, and then the same is done for the immaterial heritage. Some specific programmes are then reviewed that aim to achieve the enhancement of the heritage on a local or regional scale by means of state interventions and private participation.

II. MATERIAL HERITAGE

Material, mainly natural, heritage has traditionally been the first to receive special treatment by the state institutions through regulations and institutions that look to conserve the values of representative ecosystems and biodiversity. However, built heritage, both architectural and that corresponding to engineering work have also received special treatment.

The principal institution responsible for heritage management in Chile is the National Monuments Board, the «technical state organism that depends on the Ministry of Education and which, since its creation in 1925, has coordinated the protection and tutelage of the heritage of a monumental nature» whose mission is to «exercise the protection ... ensuring its identification, official protection, supervision, conservation and enhancement, reinforcing its contribution to human identity and development»¹.

From its foundation until 1970, the tasks of this Board were fairly reduced; in fact, over this period, it only declared 50 Historic

1. <http://www.monumentos.cl/consejo>.

Monuments, which were mostly churches, military forts and public buildings. The law that has regulated it until now was drawn up in 1970, in addition to which there is also a specific Regulation addressing everything that concerns archaeological, anthropological and paleontological heritage. Within the framework of this new Law, the Board increased its activity and it has managed to protect a larger number and diversity of assets.

The Board, by Law, has a set of legal tools it uses to declare a particular asset protected²: The current register of assets declared as being under official protection is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Register of assets declared as being under protection in Chile

Category	Total declared up to 2017
Moveable Historic Monuments	352
Immoveable Historic Monuments	1,000
Public Monuments	Register in the making
Typical Zone	138
Nature Sanctuary	47
Archaeological Monuments	26

Sources: http://www.monumentos.cl/consejo/606/articles-22594_doc_pdf.pdf
http://www.monumentos.cl/OpenSupport_Monumento

- A. Historic Monument. Moveable and Immoveable assets of state, municipal or privately owned property that deserves to be conserved for its historic or artistic value, or for its antiquity. Figure 1 shows three examples from the city of Valdivia (Region of Los Ríos), corresponding to the remains of the Spanish colonial occupation, such as the fortification 'Castillo de la Pura & Limpia Concepción de Manforte de Lemus', known as the «fuerte de Niebla» (or Fort of Niebla), due to its setting in the small city of Niebla, close to Valdivia city. The 'Torreón del Barro' (or Mud Tower), of the same origin, is one of the towers that formed part of the wall surrounding the city at the end of the 18th century; while the 'Prochelle' house is an example of the houses constructed by the German immigrants arriving in

2. <http://www.monumentos.cl/catalogo/>

the city of Valdivia in the mid 19th century and who make up an important part of the urban heritage of this city in Southern Chile.

Figure 1. Historic monuments in the city of Valdivia, southern Chile



a)



b)



c)

- a) *Military fort of Niebla.*
- b) *Prochelle house.*
- c) *"Mud tower".*

Source: Personal archive

- B. Public Monument. These are elements that are situated in public spaces; generally speaking they are such items as statues, columns, fountains, plaques or inscriptions; many of which become real urban landmarks.
- C. Typical Zone. These are groups of urban or rural immovable assets that make up a unit of settlement representative of the evolution of the human community, and which is outstanding for its stylistic unity, its materiality or its building techniques. Figure 2 shows some of the declared Typical Zones in Chile. The Fluvial Fair of Valdivia was declared a Typical Zone in 2009, in view of its condition as a tourist attraction and its being representative of the life linked to the River Calle-Calle,

characteristic of Valdivia and its surroundings. Caleta Tortel, on the other hand, is a small village in the extreme south of Chile, whose main characteristic is the non-existence of streets in the traditional sense. Only pedestrians are allowed and they walk on wooden walkways. It was declared a Typical Zone in 2001.

Figure 2. Typical Zones in Chile



a)



b)



c)



d)

a) *Fluvial Fair of Valdivia.*

c) *Historic centre of La Serena.*

b) *Interior of the Fluvial Fair of Valdivia.*

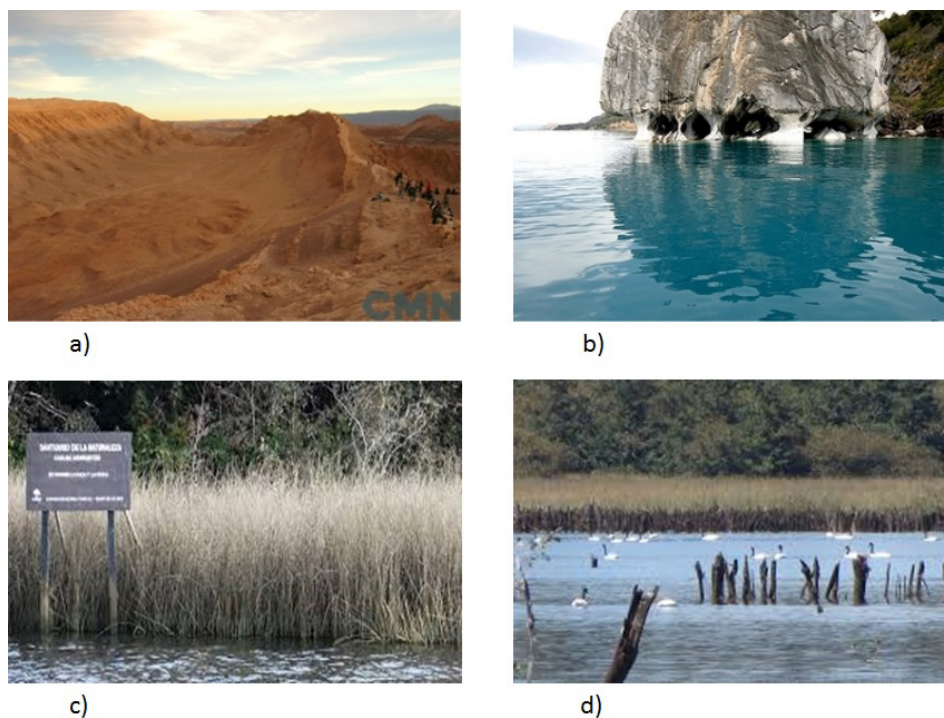
d) *Village of Caleta Tortel, in the Aysén region.*

Source: Personal archive

D. Archaeological Monument. This corresponds to places, ruins, sites and pieces made or used by human beings, which exist on or under the surface. It includes as archaeological assets the places where Pre-hispanic indigenous groups lived or were buried, as well as a variety of remains of Spanish colonial settlements and the paleontological assets, remains or evidence of organisms from the past in fossil state.

- E. Nature Sanctuary. These are terrestrial or marine sites that offer special, or unique, conditions and possibilities for geological, paleontological, zoological, botanical or ecological studies and research, whose conservation is of interest to science or the State. Figure 3 shows three Nature Sanctuaries of Chile. The Valley of the Moon, declared a Nature Sanctuary in 1982, is a geological formation produced by erosion in the Cordillera de La Sal, on the south side of the 'Salar de Atacama'. The Marble Chapel is also a formation caused by erosion, in this case, the dissolving of the marble in the General Carrera Lake in the Aysén Region, whose declaration dates from 1994. The third case corresponds to the Carlos Andwanter Sanctuary, part of the wetlands of the River Cruces, in the province of Valdivia, a wetland created by the sinking of the land by about 1.5 metres caused by the earthquake of 1960. It was declared protected in 1981.

Figure 3. Nature Sanctuaries in Chile



a) Valley of the Moon (Atacama Desert) b) Marble Chapel, Aysén Region
c) and d) Nature Sanctuary of Carlos Andwanter, River Cruces, Valdivia.

Source: Personal archive

When the elements that have been declared Monuments are in urban areas, they should be incorporated into the territorial planning instruments that apply on this level, especially the Communal Regulating Plan (Urban Land Use Plan). This obliges the said instruments to provide urban measures to ensure the protection of the aforementioned elements of the urban ensemble.

In addition, the urban legislation of Chile considers the figure of Historic Conservation Zones and Properties, which may coincide with the declarations of the National Monuments Board, although there is no actual coordination of protective actions. Given that the purpose is to support the conservation of the assets, the coordinated action of both regulations should be generated. The declaration of Historic Conservation Zone or Property should depend on the relevance its conservation has for the harmony of the urban landscape and the quality of life of the inhabitants³.

In order to carry out the action of conservation, the Ministry of Housing and City Planning has several programmes for awarding subsidies to carry out the said conservation. In the case of Zones that correspond to urban ensembles, there are recuperation programmes for historic neighbourhoods that are carried out by the said Ministry. Figure 4 shows examples of properties protected through these measures that belong to the Universidad Austral de Chile and which are part of the 43 properties under this conservation measures in the city of Valdivia. The fact that these properties belong to an institution (in this case educational), or are used as hotels or restaurants, lends a higher probability to ensuring their conservation.

There is, in addition, a figure under the auspices of the Ministry of National Assets, which is responsible for administering all state owned properties in Chile. It is the State Conservation Lands («Terrenos Fiscales con fines de Conservación»), whose aim is the environmental conservation or the protection of the natural or constructed heritage (Rovira et al. 2008). In 2015, there were 56 such protected plots of land, totalling 621 million hectares. There were tourism, conservation, scientific and research projects being undertaken in 19 of these areas⁴.

3. http://www.minvu.cl/opensite_20070329114144.aspx

4. <http://www.bienesnacionales.cl/>

Figure 4. Historic conservation properties in the city of Valdivia



Heritage house belonging to the Universidad Austral de Chile.

- a) Commetz Hoffmann House (Technical Education Centre).
- b) Von Stillfried House (Continuous Education Centre).
- c) Music Conservatory.

Source: Personal archive

III. NATURAL HERITAGE

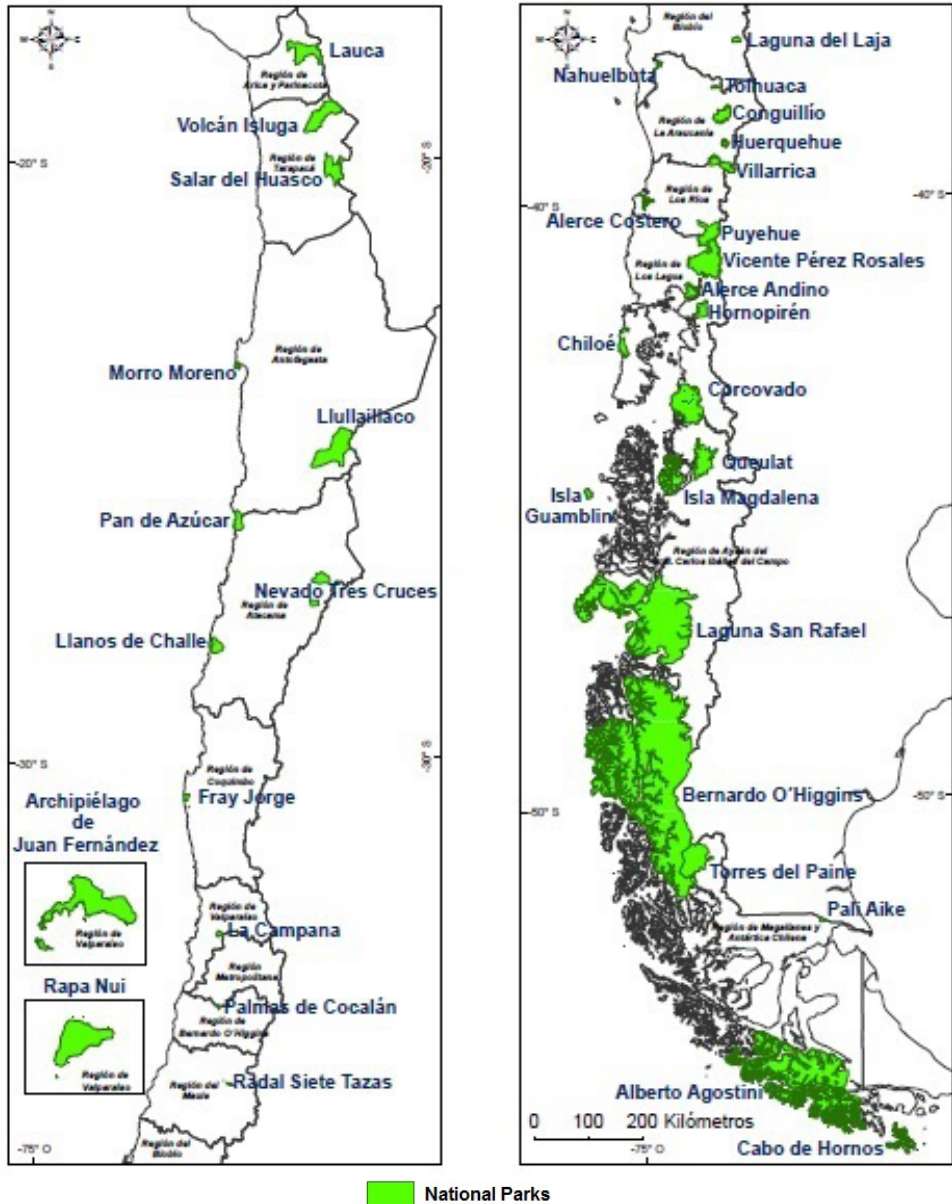
The management of the natural heritage is, without doubt, one of the most visible actions in a state's effort to protect the heritage. In the case of Chile, besides what has already been mentioned with respect to the Nature Sanctuaries, there is another series legal tools that allows natural heritage to be protected.

The institution responsible for these activities, for more than 40 years now, is the National Forestry Corporation (CONAF), that depends on the Ministry of Agriculture and which is also responsible for the National State System of Protected Wilderness Areas (SNASPE). The aim of the SNASPE is to protect the natural riches of the country. It currently has 101 units, including 36 national parks, 49 national reserves and 16 natural monuments that, together, comprise a surface area of approximately 20% of the national territory, about 14.6 million hectares⁵. The map of Figure 5 shows the distribution of the 36 national

5. <http://www.conaf.cl/parques-nacionales/parques-de-chile/>

parques in the country. Table 2 contains the quantitative information concerning the SNASPE.

Figure 5. National Parks of Chile



Source: <http://www.proyectoareasprotegidas.cl>

The universal concept of the national park defines them as areas where it is possible to find diverse environments which, due to their characteristics, it is deemed necessary to protect. It is a question of preserving the biological diversity of the national territory, in the hope that the system of parks will represent the said diversity. In addition to protection, they also have responsibility for education, research and recreation. The oldest national park of Chile is the Vicente Pérez Rosales Park, situated in the Andes, in the Los Lagos Region (Southern Chile). This park was created in 1926 and protects an extension of temperate rainforest.

The National Reserves are lower on the hierarchy than the national parks, but they also pursue the conservation of areas that are exposed to processes of degradation. Among their aims are the conservation and protection of threatened resources and species as well as the maintenance of water quality.

Natural monuments, for their part, are smaller areas than the others and aim to protect native flora and fauna species as well as relevant geological sites. Ñielol Hill, in the Region of La Araucanía (City of Temuco), was the first national monument declared in Chile, in 1940 (Sanfuentes & Almarza, 2013). Another well known national monument is the Larch (*Fitzroya cupressoides*), a thousand year old, endemic tree found in the Cordillera de Los Andes and in the areas with the highest altitudes in the Cordillera de la Costa.

Table 2. **Components of the State National System of Protected Wilderness Areas**

Category	Number	Surface (has.)
National Parks	36	9,141,200
National Reserves	49	5,428,980
Natural Monuments	16	34,429
Total SNASPE	101	14,604,609

Source: <http://www.conaf.cl>

The marine system is also protected by the State; in this case the responsible institution is the National Fisheries & Aquaculture Service (SERNAPESCA), which depends on the Sub-secretariat of Fisheries & Aquaculture of the Ministry of Economy. The instrument that protects this system is the marine parks and reserves, whose aim is to conserve and administer the marine biological resources.

The marine parks correspond to areas aimed at preserving ecosystems of interest to science, ensuring the maintenance of the diversity of the marine biological species. The marine reserves, on the other hand, safeguard the marine biological reserves with the aim of protecting breeding grounds, fishing grounds and repopulation areas⁶.

Chile currently has 5 marine reserves with 8,580 hectares and 4 marine parks with 45,113,151 hectares under protection.⁷ The Marine Park Nazca-Desventuradas, with 300 million Km², is the largest protected marine area. This park is situated several hundred kilometres from the Chilean coast, around the islands of San Ambrosio and San Félix, which form part of the submarine cordillera of Nazca⁸. Currently under study is the declaration of a protected marine area around Easter Island, which would cover about 750 million Km².

The Ministry of the Environment (Sierralta et al, 2011) stated that these protected marine areas «are declared in order to ensure limited access to fishing boats and others that would have a negative impact on the ecosystem and its resources. Prohibitions are established as well as administrative measures for marine biological resources, such as a close season for biological species, a temporary or permanent fishing prohibition, annual fishing quotas, or the declaration of specific preservation areas»⁹.

Another marine protection strategy is the Protected Marine Coastal Areas (AMCP), a particular protection strategy that combines the legal authority of the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of National Assets and the Ministry of Economy. The aim is «the preservation, conservation and sustainable use of the existing land and marine resources and spaces» (Rovira *et al.* 2008).

IV. INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

The worldwide effort to protect ecosystems representative of the biodiversity has resulted in the signing of international treaties to which the signatory states adhere and, on doing so assume the responsibility of protecting relevant areas and systems. Such is the case of the Biosphere Reserves and the RAMSAR sites.

6. <http://www.sernapesca.cl/>

7. <http://www.sernapesca.cl>

8. <http://www.ngenespanol.com/naturaleza/ecosistemas>. Autor: Jane J. Lee. 2015-10-06

9. <http://www.mma.gob.cl/>

There are ten biosphere reserves in Chile covering an area of about 114,500 Km², which is the equivalent of 15% of the national territory. Moreira & Borsdorf (2014) point out that these reserves are a representative sample of the country's ecosystems, covering all parts of the country, from the extreme north to Cape Horn in the south, including the archipelago Juan Fernández.

The first declared reserve in Chile corresponds to Fray Jorge, in 1977, in the Region of Coquimbo, in the Chilean semi-arid climate. This reserve covers a total of 134,311 hectares, within which is to be found the National Forest Park of Fray Jorge, the nucleus of the reserve, consisting of old growth woodland of native vegetation in the south of the country that survives thanks to coastal mists that provide sufficient humidity. Of the total of 11.4 million hectares of the biosphere reserves in Chile (Table 3), approximately 3 million correspond to marine areas.

Table 3. Biosphere Reserves in Chile. 2016

Biosphere reserve	Surface (has)	Year of declaration
Lauca	358,312	1981
Fray Jorge Forest	139,311	1977
La Campana - Peñuelas	238,216	1984
Juan Fernández Archipelago	9,967	1977
Nevados de Chillán -Laja Lagoon Biological Corridor	565,807	2011
Araucarias	1,142,850	1983
Temperate Rainforests of the Southern Andes	2,168,956	2007
San Rafael Lagoon	1,742,000	1979
Paine Towers	184,414	1978
Cape Horn	4,884,273	2005
Total	11,434,106	

Source: <http://www.conaf.cl/parques-nacionales/reservas-de-la-biosfera/>

The administration of the biosphere reserves is the responsibility of CONAF, but the institution does not have the necessary resources to comply fully with these commitments. In fact, there is no evaluation system to ensure the quality of the objectives of the biosphere reserves. Moreira & Borsdorf (2014) point out, in this respect, that although they

comply, in general, with the protective aims, «they should advance in their objective to create new strategies in order to transform those regions into true models of sustainable development».

As for the RAMSAR sites, Chile signed the Wetlands Convention in 1981 and issued a Law for its application. Since then, until 2005, these areas were under the administration of CONAF, as part of the natural protected areas. Since 2005, the responsibility has been transferred to the Ministry of the Environment, which has been administering them to the present (Rovira et al. 2014). In order to be under this type of protection, the wetlands must comply with the criteria specified in the Convention in order to be considered wetlands of international importance. Table 4 registers the characteristics of the nine RAMSAR sites.

Table 4. List of the RAMSAR sites in Chile

Wetland – site	Surface area (has)	Type of wetland
Surire Salar	15,858	Permanent salt lagoons associated with salt flats of the altiplane
Huasco Salar	6,000	Permanent salt lagoons associated with salt flats of the altiplane
Tara Salar	96,439	Permanent salt lagoons associated with salt flats of the altiplane
Soncor Hydrological System	67,133	Permanent salt lagoons associated with salt flats of the altiplane
Pujsa Salar	17,397	Permanent salt lagoons associated with salt flats of the altiplane
Aguas Calientes IV	15,529	Permanent salt lagoons associated with salt flats of the altiplane
Laguna del Negro Francisco y laguna Santa Rosa	62,460	Permanent salt lagoons associated with salt flats of the altiplane
El Yali	520	Lakes, marshes, coastal lagoons. Artificial salt flats
Nature Sanctuary Carlos Andwanter	4,877	Riverside, lake ecosystem, perennial with intertidal wetlands
Total	286,213	

Source: <http://www.conaf.cl/>

Rovira et al. (2008) raises the question that there are other legal tools for which there is no certainty of being official instruments of protection. The authors mention in this respect the Land, Woodland & Waters Conservation Districts; the Hunting Prohibition Areas; the Protection Areas for the Conservation of Touristic Richness; the Marine Research Concessions; the Especially Sensitive Marine Zones; and the Handling and Exploitation Areas of Benthic Resources. These legal instruments may be in privately owned or state owned plots and the pertinent legislation establishes the convenience of encouraging the existence of private conservation areas.

In Chile, there are 99 private protection initiatives, despite the fact that there is no legislation that clearly sanctions or regulates them. These initiatives are the ones that have been identified as being of «strict conservation» (CODEFF, 1999), have been carried out by NGOs, individual people and foundations, and which dedicate all or part of their properties under different names to the conservation of the flora and fauna.

CODEFF (1999) divides the private conservation areas into four categories: Conservation of lands, Conservation of species and ecosystems, Conservation ex situ and Donations of financial resources and materials. Of these, that of the conservation of lands is the most relevant as far as surface area is concerned. In this category, we find private parks and reserves open to public use, making up 38% of the category; conservation communities (25%); donations and loans of private lands to the SNASPE; and private administration of state lands.

Since 1997, there has been a Network of Private Protected Areas that brings together all the initiatives of this type from the centre of Chile (Region of Valparaíso) to the extreme south (Region of Magallanes). The inclusion of the north of Chile is under development.

To sum up, table 5 shows the different protection tools mentioned and the areas covered by each group, totalling almost 15.5 million hectares.

Table 5. Size of protected areas in Chile

Protected area	Surface area
National System of State Protected Wilderness	14,334,896
Protected Marine and Coastal Areas	74,255
Marine Reserves	4,747
Nature Sanctuaries	422,177
RAMSAR Sites	159,154
Protected National Assets	467,082
Marine Parks	1,506

Source: Rovira *et al.* (2014)

V. WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Even though this type of heritage is protected by international treaties, given its relevance, it will be dealt with here separately. Awareness of the need to protect cultural or natural assets whose loss would seriously harm the world's human community led UNESCO to push through the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage in 1972. The States that signed this Convention promised to protect, conserve, restore and transmit the cultural and natural heritage to future generations¹⁰.

The World Heritage declaration is awarded by UNESCO to the sites that possess an exceptional universal value with which these assets are recognised as universal, so their enjoyment, protection and care is recognised by the entire world.

The Convention operates through the World Heritage List, which registers all the sites and monuments of great natural and cultural wealth that UNESCO believes should belong to all humanity. The World Heritage List currently has 1,052 sites inscribed, of which 814 are cultural assets, 203 are natural assets and 35 are mixed assets, situated in 165 State Parties. In November 2016, 192 State Parties ratified the Convention¹⁰.

10. <http://www.unesco.org>

Chile is one of the 192 signatory states of the Convention that was ratified in 1980. As a member of the UN, Chile applied for the inclusion of various sites on the World Heritage List. Chile currently has six sites that have been declared World Heritage Sites. The Humberstone & Santa Laura Saltpetre Offices and the City of Sewell represent the mining past of Chile; while the churches of Chiloé are a sample of the Spanish colonial evangelism. The historic centre of Valparaíso is a good example of the country's early urbanisation. Another two sites protect the remains of original peoples, the Rapa Nui Park on Easter Island and the Andean road system of Qhapac Nan.

A. The Santiago Humberstone & Santa Laura Saltpetre Offices, declared a World Heritage Site in 2005 (Figure 6), are situated in the Atacama Desert and are the remains of the exploitation of the largest saltpetre deposit in the world. They were built in 1872 and closed for good in the 1950s. However, in the first decades of the 20th century they suffered several stoppages due to fluctuations in international prices.

Figure 6. Images of the saltpetre offices Santiago Humberstone & Santa Laura



Industrial installation



Humberstone Square



Panoramic view

Source: <http://www.monumentos.cl/>

Both installations form a set, since Humberstone conserves the residential area, while Santa Laura also conserves the industrial complex. This means we can know not only the way saltpetre was produced, but also the conditions of life as well as the urban styles. This is why the site is recognised by the Convention in the category of industrial heritage, with both archaeological and historic value. They are currently site museums and as such have visiting systems of the installations, including guided tours.

B. The mining camp «City of Sewell», declared a World Heritage Site in 2005, is a mining encampment situated in the Andes linked to the world's largest subterranean copper mine. Construction began in 1905, when exploitation of the mineral began at El Teniente, 60 kilometres to the east of the city of Rancagua, at a height of 2,200 metres above sea level. Around 1910, the encampment had already become an industrial and residential complex with services. The complexity of the relief where the city was built involved a very particular planning solution that consisted exclusively of pedestrian traffic. For this reason, it was known as «the city of stairways».

Around 1968, Sewell had 15,000 inhabitants in a built-up area of 175,000 m². At that time, the gradual decline had already begun, partly due to the difficulties of maintaining a rhythm of growth that could keep up with increased production, high infrastructure maintenance costs and the change of ownership that included the nationalisation of the great copper mines at the start of the 1970s. The inhabitants of Sewell were relocated to the city of Rancagua, as home owners (those of Sewell being the property of the mining company). Although part of the encampment has suffered demolitions, the central nucleus has been conserved.

It was recognised for being a representative example of the industrial cities constructed in difficult environments. Its principal attributes are the industrial installations, the buildings that combine houses on the upper floors with shops and services on the ground floors. In addition, there is the street layout, the solution for the water pipes, sewage pipes and electricity cables, as well as the railway system and the architectural and urbanistic expression¹¹.

11. <http://www.monumentos.cl>

Figure 7. Images of the Sewell's city - mining camp



Source: <http://www.monumentos.cl/>

C. The churches of Chiloé, declared a World Heritage Site in 2000, are a set of 16 churches that represent the evangelistic efforts that accompanied the Spanish conquest and colonisation of southern Chile. Chiloé is an archipelago made up of a main island (Isla Grande de Chiloé) and a set of smaller islands that together form an intricate landscape of narrow channels, estuaries and inlets. This territory had been inhabited for centuries by the Huilliches and the Chonos, who managed to mould a particular relation with nature marked by the sea.

This territory was colonised early on by the Spanish and the first religious orders of Franciscans and Mercedarians arrived with them, but it was the Jesuits, from 1608 onwards, who left their mark on these lands after applying a system of circulating missions, which consisted of annual circuits carried out by religious groups. It was from the start of these periodic visits that the local communities began to build the chapels. The current churches are situated in the same places as the

first chapels and were built by the local communities throughout the 17th and 18th centuries¹².

They were declared a World Heritage Site in consideration of the fact that they represent the fusion between the Indigenous and European traditions, which generated a particular wooden architecture. It is precisely the wooden architecture that gives it the exceptional value, as well as the decoration and the colours used. Also important are the orientation and location of the churches, on hillsides looking out to sea so as to be seen by seafarers, which demonstrates the symbolic value of these temples for the population of the archipelago. These churches maintain their religious function and form part of the identity of Chiloé¹³.

D. The historic centre of the city of Valparaíso was declared a World Heritage Site in 2003 and is situated in the centre of Chile. It was an important place of international commerce until the 19th century, and even into the start of the 20th century, but then the construction of the Panama Canal modified the navigation routes. This marked the beginning of a slow decline, while the port and its urban fabric managed to survive almost unscathed. It is these sectors that have resisted the onslaught of modernisation and globalisation, which have been considered of sufficient importance and relevance as to be included in the List of World Heritage Sites.

The description of the site, according to the National Monuments Board, points out that «it is made up of five interconnected sectors: Iglesia La Matriz and Plazuela Santo Domingo, include the church and buildings from the end of the 19th century with a typical port style; the Echaurren Square and Serrano Street, predominantly commercial and marked by the presence of the Port Market, businesses and street vendors; the Prat Pier and the Sotomayor and Justicia Squares, which make up the principal transversal axis of the area and include the main public spaces; the Prat Street and the Turri Square together at the foot of the hill, with numerous examples of monumental architecture; and the Alegre and Concepción hills, which make up a single planned neighbourhood, built mostly by German and English immigrants, with squares, viewpoints, esplanades, narrow streets, stairways and the main stations for some of the typical funicular railways of Valparaíso» (<http://www.monumentos.cl>).

12. <http://www.monumentos.cl>

13. <http://www.monumentos.cl>

Figure 8. Selection of images of the Churches of Chiloé



Nuestra Sra. del Patrocinio Church (Tenaun)



San Francisco Church (Castro)



Santiago Apóstol Church (Detif)



Santa María de Loreto Church (Achao)

Source: <http://www.iglesiasdechiloe.cl/>

Its acceptance as a World Heritage Site is due to the fact that it exceptionally combines the condition of being a port with that of being a residential city. This combination generated a characteristic urban network, a set of architectural solutions and the mixture of construction styles in the city planning, as well as its hills, demonstrating the weight of the topography in the city's configuration. «The architecture shows works of varied typologies and styles, applied to constructions that range from very simple houses to monumental buildings, passing through stately residences and collective housing» (<http://www.monumentos.cl>). In addition, there is the port and naval heritage which provide some important elements for the city as a whole.

Figure 9. Views of the city of Valparaíso



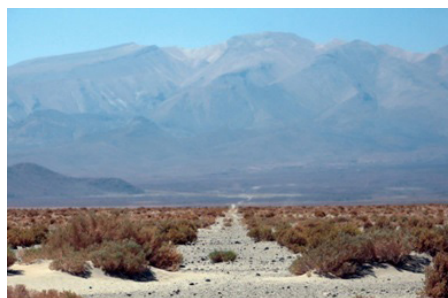
Source: <http://www.monumentos.cl/>

In this respect, UNESCO points out that «The colonial city of Valparaíso presents an excellent example of late 19th-century urban and architectural development in Latin America. In its natural amphitheatre-like setting, the city is characterized by a vernacular urban fabric adapted to the hillsides that are dotted with a great variety of church spires. It contrasts with the geometrical layout utilized in the plain. The city has well preserved its interesting early industrial infrastructures, such as the numerous ‘elevators’ on the steep hillsides». (<http://whc.unesco.org/>).

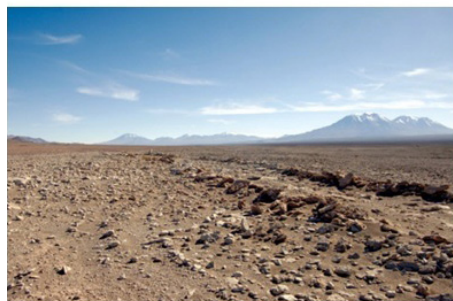
E. The Andean road system of Qhapac Ñan, declared a World Heritage Site in 2003, is an exceptional fact in the history of the World Heritage Convention, as a system crossing six countries has been included on the List for the first time. In 2001, the government of Peru invited the other five countries that share the territory of the Inca Empire: Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile and Ecuador (and of course Peru itself), to apply for the recognition of the Inca road system and its associated archaeological sites. Chile joined this effort in 2003 (<http://www.monumentos.cl/>).

Finally, this system of 720.79 km and 291 archaeological sites was declared a World Heritage Site in 2014, in the category of cultural route, culminating the work of interdisciplinary groups from the six countries. This is a notable example of collaboration and interest in preserving an important inheritance from the past. The Andean road system served as the backbone of the Inca's imperial power. Its total length covers an extension of around 30,000 km from the central west of Argentina and Chile to the south of Colombia. The road crosses various systems and landscapes, from the high peaks of the Andes to the Pacific coast, passing through tropical forests, fertile valleys and deserts (Figure 10). «This extraordinary network through one of the world's most extreme geographical terrains linked the snow-capped peaks of the Andes – at an altitude of more than 6,000 m – to the coast, running through hot rainforests, fertile valleys and absolute deserts» (<http://whc.unesco.org/>).

Figure 10. Images of the Inca Way in the north of Chile



Cupo-Catarpe Section



Incahuasi-Lasana Section



Portal del Inca-Finca Chañaral Section

Source: <https://arqueologiacallejera.wordpress.com>

The Qhapaq Ñan (which means Main Road in Quechua), received the name of the Inca Way from Spanish chroniclers. In northern Chile it is also known as the «Camino del Reinca» (or Way of the Inca King) and was a fundamental element in the expansion of the Empire and in the domination of the conquered territories by the incas. The «Tawantinsuyu», the name of the Empire in Quechua, had its sacred capital in Cusco. From there, the different trunk routes that made up the system began and converged. The chroniclers of the 16th and 17th centuries recognised two main routes, that of the mountains and that of the plains, to which an extensive network of transversal roads covering the entire area of «Tawantinsuyu» should be added (Consejo de Monumentos Nacionales, 2015).

F. The Rapa Nui National Park, declared a World Heritage Site in 1995, belongs to the National System of State Wilderness Areas (SNASPE), on Easter Island, about 3,700 km from the coast of Chile. The island has a surface area of 16,000 hectares of which 7,000 make up the National Park, including four small, adjacent islands. This space concentrates the legacy of the Rapa Nui culture, expressed in a particular architecture and singular sculptures¹⁴. This was the first World Heritage Site declared by UNESCO on Chilean territory.

Rapa Nui is the testimony of a culture that was affected by a serious ecological crisis and its later relationship with the rest of the world (Figure 11). A society that remained isolated from other influences over several centuries suffered considerably upon entering into contact with what was for them the unknown world. The island was colonised by Polynesian immigrants in the 10th century. The remains of this culture are expressed in the construction of ceremonial altars (*ahu*) and the sculpting of enormous statues (*moais*). At the end of the 18th century, the original culture disappeared due to the abovementioned crisis. The moais were destroyed and new cults, such as that of the *birdman*, appeared. These generated new material expressions on the island which were also integrated with the place. This cult also disappeared in the mid 19th century (<http://www.monumentos.cl>).

One of the reasons it was declared a World Heritage Site is the abundance of material remains (*ahus*, moais and houses). In addition, the cultural development, in such conditions of isolation, was considered to be an effective testimony of the effects of an environmental crisis in a pre-modern society.

14. <http://www.monumentos.cl>

Figure 11. Images of Rapa Nui



Source: <http://www.monumentos.cl> y <http://whc.unesco.org/>

VI. ENHANCEMENT OF THE HERITAGE

The heritage is part of the endogenous resources of a territory and, in this sense, has great possibilities to become a factor of both local and regional development. Apart from what this implies in terms of identity for the local communities, heritage is an important resource that allows new initiatives in the sphere of tourism to be generated. The transformation of heritage into a touristic resource is a strategy to enhance heritage, but it requires clear policies and diligent management to achieve development (Junta de Andalucía, 2000).

The State of Chile has generated a heritage enhancement programme to «protect and enhance such heritage assets as buildings,

urban ensembles and sites, which have been declared National Monuments or are in the process of becoming so, having regional or national priority, so that they can generate socio-economic benefits that contribute to sustainable development» (SUBDERE¹⁵, 2012). The funding of projects is considered when they are oriented towards the recuperation and enhancement of moveable or immovable, tangible or intangible, heritage assets. This, in turn, requires the property to be public or, if it is private, to be non-profit. In addition, they should be under the protection of the Law on Natural Monuments or in the process of becoming so (SUBDERE, 2012).

The programme has a set of regional portfolios that include 334 initiatives with an estimated cost of around 72 million dollars. In 2012, the programme reported 63 finalised initiatives (basic and prefeasibility studies; project design and concrete works).

As part of these projects, a proposal was developed for six heritage routes: Altiplano Churches Route; Grand North Saltpetre Route; Gabriela Mistral Route; Spanish Fortifications in Pacific America Route; Lighthouses in the Straits of Magellan; and the Principal Andean Way of Qhapac Ñan (SUBDERE, 2012). These ideas coincide with what was proposed by Carbonell (2012) in the sense that the declaration of the heritage value of an asset should be made in the first instance for its transformation into a tourist attraction.

On the basis of these ideas, the Ministry of National Assets, in 2001, created the programme «Heritage Routes», in compliance with its role as the country's legal heritage manager. The programme aimed to socialise these spaces with a high heritage value belonging to the state, developing routes that could be followed in various ways «enhancing and conserving the landscape and the cultural traditions through sustainable tourism» (<http://rutas.bienes.cl/>).

The proposal to set up 65 heritage routes throughout the country aimed to put the enjoyment of the beauty of the national territory and the local expressions within the reach of all the inhabitants, improving the alternatives of using leisure time, while also contributing to the development of local identities and encouraging local and regional economic development (<http://rutas.bienes.cl/>).

The 65 routes designed to show the country's natural and sociocultural heritage, while also taking into account the diversity

15. Sub secretariat of Regional and Administrative Development of the Interior Ministry, Government of Chile.

of this heritage and its diverse, singular and endemic character, are classified in four great thematic lines (<http://rutas.bienes.cl/>):

- Natural routes, which enhance the attributes of natural landscapes: For instance, the Heritage Route «Alto Biobío: Circuit of the Araucarias in the Cordillera de Pemehue» which visits landmarks of interest linked to formations of ecological interest, such as the forests of araucaria; native fauna; rivers and bodies of water and geological and geomorphologic formations. Human presence and intervention is reflected in other ways, as in the very existence of the route itself or the old forestry path, saw mills and summer pastures for livestock. Remains of lithic material is evidence of the ancestral presence in the area of the indigenous Pehuenche culture.
- Cultural Routes, where the emphasis is on the enhancement of the historic heritage, cities and villages, together with the archaeological sites throughout the country. For instance, the Heritage Route following in the footsteps of Pablo Neruda in Temuco, which is made up of a total of 18 places directly linked to the life and works of Pablo Neruda. Each one is accessible using public transport and can be covered on foot or by bicycle. Each one has several identified landmarks, places from the poet's infancy, education, leisure and inspiration, as well as other heritage points of interest which, more than architectural monuments provide ideas and feelings to imagine Neruda and his vital and primordially poetic existence.
- Human Rights Routes, which show relevant historic landmarks in the country's modern history, represented by the marks left by the military dictatorship on the landscape of Chilean cities, such as the Memorial Route in the city of Santiago, with outstanding landmarks or places, all of which are accessible by car or using public transport.
- Indigenous Routes, which aim to diffuse and conserve the heritage of the original peoples, standing out their customs and cultural traditions, such as the Heritage Route Te Ara or Rapa Nui, in the Rapa Nui National Park, and which, as mentioned, was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995. The route allows people to enjoy the natural beauty of the island and to know the culture and traditions of its inhabitants.

VII. FINAL COMMENTS

Heritage protection in all its manifestations, material and immaterial, natural and cultural, has been an international preoccupation which, in the case of Chile, was embodied in the creation of diverse legal instruments for the protection and conservation of our heritage, as well as the institutions responsible for their administration and management. This preoccupation, in the early days throughout the 20th century, had the fundamental objective of preserving the diversity of the landscapes and the natural riches of the country. The first expressions of this preoccupation were the declaration of the National Parks, which at first included some areas that had more sentimental value than any cultural or natural value. Such was the case of a National Park declared in the Region of Valparaíso to protect a village that had been buried after the rupture of a mining tailing due to a strong earthquake in 1965. This area was removed from the National Parks scheme when international principles in this matter began to be applied with better criteria.

Diverse institutions of the public apparatus are responsible for heritage topics, which often causes conflicts of competence. Although there is a legal body to regulate most of it, this body focuses on cultural historic heritage, leaving the natural heritage under the tutelage of other institutions. This generates management difficulties when the cultural assets are inside protected natural areas.

This protectionist outlook slowly changed towards an outlook regarding heritage as a territorial resource. The current idea is to see heritage as an opportunity to define local and regional development strategies. This more utilitarian outlook has allowed a rethink at state level and greater interest on the part of the local communities in enhancing their «natural, cultural and historic wealth».

In addition, the country has signed various agreements and international treaties concerning heritage, which obliges Chile to comply with certain regulations established within these bodies. The most relevant case is that of the World Heritage Sites declared by UNESCO. Most of the current outlook is based on this international initiative, since there has been growing awareness of the possibility of enhancing the heritage and thus complying with two fundamental objectives, firstly, to ensure the protection and conservation of the heritage and, secondly, to push development processes for local communities.

However, the efforts made in this area come up against a lack of resources to achieve any effective protection; not all the National Parks,

for example, have park rangers or installations to allow a relevant experience for visitors. The same problems can be appreciated in the case of architectural heritage, where part of the responsibility for conservation is left in the hands of the private owners.

Without doubt, Chile possesses a wide range of heritage resources that should be subject to conservation, and here the State has to play a vital role. The recent initiative to create a set of heritage routes goes some way in that direction. However, the intention to generate through them the development of touristic activities was not coordinated through the responsible institutions in this sector, which leads to doubts about the real success of these investments.

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