Title of the Story: Pómac: Preserving the legacy of a Millennial Forest

Destination Name: SANTUARIO HISTÓRICO BOSQUE POMAC. Perú, Lambayeque, Ferreñafe

Country: PERU

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Nomination Category: Tourism Reset & Recovery

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- Decarbonizing the destination supply chain
- Culture & Communities
- Environment & Climate
- Nature & Ecotourism
- Tourism Reset & Recovery

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Issues faced

What was the problem/issue solved with the good practice? Click to add your text

The Bosque Pómac Historical Sanctuary (SHBP), located in the district of Pítipo in the province of Ferreñafe, in the department of Lambayeque, is a Natural Protected Area (NPA) that is part of the National System of Natural Areas Protected by the State (SINANPE). It has a high biological, archeological and touristic value because, in a space close to 6,000 hectares, a privileged nature and the testimony of the presence of the Sicán Culture, epicenter of the Muchik identity of the Lambayeque Region, converge.

However, all this important archaeological heritage that SHBP contains was seriously affected by the intense and prevailing looting that took place until the end of the 1960s, which added to natural phenomena such as ENSO (El Niño Southern Oscillation) 1982-1983 and 1997-1998 respectively, had a destructive impact on the archaeological heritage of Pomac. A specific case of destruction of the templemuseum of La Merced Pyramid is mentioned, which was practically cut in half (half a kilometer long) by the waters of the old riverbed of the La Leche River during a strong El Niño event in 1982-1983. The Batán Grande-La Leche Archeological Project (begun in 1978), which since the 1980s has been called the Sicán Archeological Project (PAS), has been working uninterruptedly for more than 40 years, safeguarding, conserving, and enhancing the sanctuary's physical (archaeological and biological) and cultural (preservation of Muchik identity) integrity and positioning it as one of the most important cultural and nature tourism centers in northern Peru's tourist circuit.

There were also strictly human factors that affected the integrity of the SHBP since 2001, when it was illegally invaded by outsiders who settled in its territories. The invaders cut down hundreds of hectares of forest (almost 25% of the sanctuary’s total area) to use the area mainly for agricultural activities and to build their homes, as well as trails and roads to move around and market their products.

This situation mobilized Civil Society and the State to achieve the final eviction of the invaders in January 2009 -six years after the legal process began- thanks to a joint effort between the Area’s Management, Park Rangers, Specialists, the Peruvian National Police, the Public Prosecutor’s Office, the Ministry of the Environment, the National Service of Natural Areas Protected by the State (SERNANP), various NGOs, the National Museum of Sicán, the Management Committee, the Volunteer Park Rangers Program and above all based on the valuable efforts of all those who support the combination of conservation and development in the country.
Methods, steps and tools applied
Throughout the years, several regulations have been managed and implemented for the protection of the Cultural Landscape of the Bosque de Pomac Historical Sanctuary and its associated archaeological heritage.

Year 1984: The POMAC - BATAN GRANDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESERVE is declared, with the purpose of protecting the cultural and monumental vestiges of pre-Hispanic origin found there from depredation.
Area: 40 km².
Supreme Decree N° 39-84-ED

Year 1991: The BATANGRANDE RESERVED AREA (ZRBG) is created in order to protect and conserve the natural forest formation and the archeological complex of the Sicán Culture, due to its remarkable biological, historical and touristic potential for the future development of the region and the country.
Size: 13,400 hectares
Supreme Decree No.031-91-ED.

Year 2001: The POMAC FOREST HISTORICAL SANCTUARY (SHBP) is created with the objective of conserving the Landscape-Cultural Unit that conforms the Pómac Forest and the Sicán archeological complex, as well as the natural quality of the Tropical Dry Forest formation and to stop the processes of irreversible changes in the ecosystem, ensuring the uses compatible with its conservation.
Extension: 5,887.38 hectares.
Supreme Decree Nº 034-2001 - AG

Year 2009: Declared: CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE NATION.
Extension: 5,887.38 hectares.
National Directorial Resolution N° 057/INC-2009-ED

Year 2021: The Plenary of the Peruvian Congress, approved the opinion that declares of NATIONAL INTEREST AND PUBLIC NEED THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION, RESEARCH AND VALUATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ZONE OF THE HISTORICAL SANCTUARY BOSQUES DE PÓMAC, located in the district of Pítipo, province of Ferreñafe, department of Lambayeque.
NATIONAL DRAFT LAW - 6760/2020-CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC

In addition, through the allied Institutions, various Cooperation Funds have been channeled, which has allowed the execution of a series of Investment Projects that have contributed and continue to contribute to the management of the Cultural Heritage of the SHBP.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archaeological Project Sicán - PAS Years: 1978 to present</td>
<td>The project conducts archaeological research, the most important results being the Integral and Interdisciplinary Study of a pre-Hispanic society (Sicán). EXECUTED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agreement: FITPERU / AECI / Municipality of Ferreñafe / Board of Trustees of the Sicán Sicán National Museum / INC Years: 2003 to 2006 EXECUTED</td>
<td>Project I Stage of the Muchik &quot;Naymplap&quot; Rural Eco-caserío of Poma III. It also includes the reconstruction of a communal house and houses of settlers in the buffer zone rescuing techniques and traces. &quot;Muchik&quot;.</td>
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**Key success factors**

*What helped you tackle the issues? Click to add your text*

In addition to protecting biological diversity and the area's natural and evolutionary processes, the sanctuary's conservation should protect the material, cultural, and spiritual values that are part of the Sicán people's identity. Sacred sites are revered and cared for by ancestral peoples and are a fundamental part of their territories that bring considerable benefits to the communities at the local, national, and international levels.
To this end, the ANP's first MASTER PLAN was elaborated, which has been a basic and KEY management instrument that has allowed to ensure the conservation of the Sanctuary in the first instance, in order to allow a sustainable use through human activities that are appropriate to the protection category and where the responsibilities and obligations of the different actors related to the SHBP have been determined.

In that sense the MASTER PLAN, establishes 04 Strategic Objectives, separated according to 04 Aspects, being one of them the CULTURAL ASPECT, which has as object: Promote the Conservation and Valorization of the Archaeological and Historical-Productive Complexes located within the Natural Protected Area, in coordination with the Ministry of Culture, through the Naylamp Executing Unit and the National Museum of Sicán, which are the competent entities to protect, conserve, investigate and valorize the Archaeological and Cultural Heritage within the SHBP.

Another key factor has undoubtedly been the ZONIFICATION defined within the PNA, which is understood as a planning tool that responds to the characteristics and management objectives of the area, where agreed actions and guidelines for use are established. The existence of the following zones in the SHBP was determined:

- Wilderness Zone
- Tourist and Recreational Use Zone
- Special Use Zone
- Recovery Zone
- Historical and Cultural Zone

It has allowed to delimit an area of 592.02 hectares, dominated by the truncated mud pyramids, which are called Huacas (stepped truncated pyramids) where the areas with important historical or archaeological values have been defined and whose management today are oriented to their maintenance, integrating them to the natural environment, which has contributed to the objective of recovering and adding value to the Archaeological Monuments; as well as the rescue of the Cultural Values of the Historical Sanctuary, also strengthening the local identity through tourism.

In addition, the PRIORITY CONSERVATION OBJECTS of the Pomac Forest have been defined, adapted to the needs of a PNA with important cultural values such as the Sanctuary, being the following:

- Species
- Ecological Communities
- Cultural Heritage: Archaeological Complexes

Cultural Heritage.

It highlights the uniqueness and protection of the 03 Cultural Complexes identified within the area of Pomac (true Monumental Complexes that functioned as Political, Religious, Administrative and even Productive Centers) within the framework of our Cultural Heritage, because there is no intact evidence in Peru of the magnitude of those preserved here, which has earned it the category of Historical Sanctuary.

- Huacas Lucía - Chólope Archaeological Complex (1000 - 500 B.C.)

Its cultural importance lies in the fact that it is the oldest Monumental Complex of religious character so far recorded in the valley of the La Leche River, where extensive ceramic kiln systems have been recorded, considered as the most extensive area of early ceramic production in pre-Columbian America.

Extension: Approximately 20 hectares.
Huaca Soledad Archaeological Complex (500 - 700 A.D.)

It is the second largest monumental complex of the SHBP. Its importance lies in being the only monumental complex of Moche affiliation of the SHBP and one of the few scientifically worked in the La Leche River valley.

Extension: Approximately 150 hectares.

Lessons learned

While implementing the Good Practice what challenges were faced, and how were they overcome?

Click to add your text

The National Museum of Sicán was built, which is a very didactic museum that systematizes about four decades of results of scientific research of the Sicán or Lambayeque culture carried out largely by the Sicán Archaeological Project. It has an extraordinary collection of 1,806 movable cultural goods with national registry made by the Ministry of Culture, collections made of ceramics, metal, stone, textiles, etc. and that mostly come from reliable archaeological contexts of the Bosque de Pomac Historical Sanctuary and the La Leche river basin.

Thanks to the alliance between the Museo Nacional de Sicán in Peru and the San Diego Zoo in the U.S.A., Lambayeque and Hawaiian schools have been simultaneously involved in a joint educational program through the Forest Guardians Program, which is designed to work with students, teachers, and local schools in the creation of groups to promote the conservation of the environment and its cultural heritage. The implementation of this program has resulted in the development of participants with an understanding of global conservation efforts in a multicultural context and the establishment of an international network of Forest Guardian schools that work together to plan, implement, and evaluate diverse environmental and cultural heritage conservation efforts in their own communities. The development and implementation of the Forest Guardians program has been made possible through the support of Museums Connect, an initiative of the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The mission of Museums Connect is to build global communities through partnerships and cultural exchanges that link museums with rural communities both locally and abroad.

On the other hand, the Bosque de Pomac Historic Sanctuary has been included in the Inventory of Tourist Resources of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism (MINCETUR), where it is recognized with the Category of: NATURAL SITES; Type: Protected Area; Sub Type: Historic Sanctuary, with Hierarchy Level 3; being one of the main tourist attractions of the Lambayeque region; in which the Cultural Landscape Unit formed by the Pomac Forest and the Sicán Archaeological Complex is preserved.

Through the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism (MINCETUR) the main public and private institutions specializing in tourism were convened to jointly design a methodology that would lead to the creation of the Agenda for Development and Innovation of Regional Tourism Products in each of the 25 regions of Peru, defining for the case of Lambayeque the Product: FORESTS & PYRAMIDS OF LAMBAYEQUE, where the Cultural Landscape of the Bosque de Pomac Historical Sanctuary is precisely highlighted and thanks to which it has allowed it to channel investment for the tourist conditioning of this new product.

Another successful experience is the work being carried out by the Bosque de Pomac Historic Sanctuary Management Committee, which is a space for participation, coordination, coordination, and voluntary support for the management of the SHBP and its buffer zones and is made up of 45 institutions and local organizations representing the Lambayeque region, some of which are mentioned below:

Regional Government:
The Regional Government’s support has been decisive, by taking initiative in promoting the SHBP as a tourism resource and in valuing its importance for environmental quality. It has managed the protection of the cultural and natural heritage from the effects of natural disasters, as well as the construction of river defenses to prevent the destruction of archeological ruins.

Local governments:
The District Municipalities of Lambayeque and Ferreñafe; and those of the districts of Pítipo, Íllimo, Jayanca, Pacora and Túcume are direct partners in the conservation and promotion of the development of the PNA, because through their Local Development Plans of these Municipalities they have established as a Strategic Objective the protection and conservation of the Cultural Heritage of the SHBP; as well as they have prioritized the improvement of basic services and living conditions of the population settled in the buffer zones.

Sicán National Museum
It coordinates and works jointly with SERNANP in the management of the ANP, where it has been managing and executing research projects and enhancement of the tangible and intangible heritage associated with the SHBP. It has also developed various awareness and training programs for rural villages in the buffer zone to strengthen cultural identity.

The Naylamp Special Project - Executing Unit No. 111 Lambayeque
It was created by the State in order to guarantee, activate, speed up and strengthen the protection, defense, conservation and research of the archaeological heritage of Lambayeque and develop a sustainable tourism pole, one of them being the S.H. Bosque de Pomac.

National Police - Ecology Division
They are responsible for maintaining order inside the SHBP. They permanently patrol the Sanctuary, together with SERNANP. They investigate and denounce those who violate PNA regulations.

Another participatory management mechanism is that the Pomac Forest has the largest Volunteer Park Ranger Program in the National System of Natural Protected Areas - SERNANP, with a total of 280 local residents from the various buffer zones of the PNA who watch over the care and conservation of the Sanctuary’s archeological heritage.

Finally, understanding that the Cultural Heritage of the Bosque de Pomac Historic Sanctuary is closely linked to the Natural Component, we can say that all the efforts made to achieve the conservation of the PNA, guarantees the preservation of the most emblematic sample of the typical vegetation formation of carob tree or dry forest of the Equatorial Dry Forest Ecoregion, which is unique in the world. Let us not forget that the Equatorial Dry Forest is the main habitat of the Tumbesian Endemism Region (RET), which gathers about 800 bird species (8% of all species worldwide) and 55 endemic bird species (16 of them threatened), and is one of the four most important bird endemism zones on the planet. It is also home to a unique biological wealth and is an important source of development for the country.

Results, achievements and recognitions
What were the qualitative and quantitative results of the good practice? Has it received any rewards? Click to add your text

Thanks to the important eviction action carried out in accordance with the law, 100% of the total invaded area (1,706 hectares) was recovered and handed over to the Bosque de Pómac Historic Sanctuary, after eliminating all traces of the existing illegal occupation, giving the Sanctuary the legal
security of its territory to ensure its integrity and to be able to carry out the physical-legal cleanup of this important Natural Protected Area.

Furthermore, the enhancement of the archaeological and cultural heritage of the Pomac Forest has contributed on a large scale to the development and positioning of the ANP's tourism activity at the regional and national level, and therefore to the economic and sustainable development of the local population; This is due to the fact that the granting of rights for the use of the Natural Resource Landscape, either by the modality of CONTRACTS OF TOURIST SERVICES, where the investment and operation of the companies that provide tourist services in the Sanctuary is promoted or under the modality of AGREEMENTS, These agreements promote income generation and economic development for local tourism enterprises that, because of the type, frequency, and scale of business involved, are developed by local populations in the Natural Protected Areas and are recognized by SERNANP, where more than 25 families have benefited directly and 50 families have benefited indirectly.

The Regional Government of Lambayeque, through Regional Executive Resolution N° 403-2018GR.LAMB/GR, awarded the CONDECORATION "SICAN CULTURE", to the HISTORIC SANCTUARY FOREST OF PÓMAC, for being a model of participatory social management, in order to strengthen the natural and archaeological elements, promoting the economic and social development of the communities in the buffer zone.

The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism, through the National Tourism Quality Plan - CALTUR, implemented the QUALITY SEAL for the Management of Tourist Sites of CALTUR, where the Bosque de Pómac Historic Sanctuary is highlighted, obtaining a total score of 136, being the only Tourist Site to achieve this outstanding certification and national recognition as GOLD LEVEL.

The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism awarded the SAFE TRAVEL International Seal to the Bosque de Pomac Historic Sanctuary as part of the Lambayeque Destination, which allows us to establish measures and actions for prevention and control in order to reduce the risks of transmission and spread of COVID-19 and thus contribute to ensure the development of a safe and responsible tourism activity for visitors, for the staff in charge of visitor management, as well as tourism service providers.

It is very important to highlight that the Bosque de Pomac Historic Sanctuary is currently in the process of being recognized worldwide by UNESCO for the declaration of MIXED WORLD HERITAGE OF HUMANITY: NATURE AND CULTURE, having already been selected in the Indicative List with the title: "Ceremonial Centers and Forests in the La Leche Valley".

Additional references

Provide links to further information. Pictures and videos should be available for download either from Youtube, Vimeo or other Cloud-based (Google/ One Drive) download URL.


https://comunicaciones.congreso.gob.pe/noticias/declaran-de-interes-nacional-la-zona-arqueologica-del-santuario-histrico-bosques-de-pomac/?fbclid=IwAR2tt0ArwSzJS1OHY28cS_oM2DxKB2smI90bfMeh9T4Z02vGrYtURUN5R-A

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