

Annual report of the C.C4 Working Group "Astronomical heritage in danger"

Annual report for the period January to December 2017

The commission WG of the IAU currently comprises:

Chair: Alejandro López (Argentina, IAU member)

Members: Juan Antonio Belmonte (Spain, IAU member)
Thomas Hockey (USA, IAU member)
Javier Mejuto (Spain)
Sixto Giménez Benítez (Argentina)

The working group was formed at the beginning of 2016. The objective of the WG is to make a list of sites with relevant astronomical value for Humanity that are currently at risk. The purpose of this list is to influence governments, non-governmental organizations, international agencies, local authorities and decision-makers to achieve protection and care of these sites.

It is sought that the list contains basic information about the sites that conforms with what UNESCO requires for the presentation of applications to the World Heritage list. The preliminary structure that has been designed is to request this information as a provisional characterization that, in about 400 words, accounts for the following:

- Name of the site:
- Country:
- Short description (including cultures involved, age, contemporary usage, etc.):
- Astronomical relevance:
- Is it declared as a World Heritage site?:
- Situation of risk (main threats):
- Suggested actions to avoid risk:

This form began to be used last year. During 2017 we have collected, with this instrument, information from new "sites in danger" in Chile, Ecuador and Argentina.

We participated in two important events of the cultural astronomy academic community. The first one took place in September 2017 in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, between the ISAAC, the SEAC and the INSAPIEC – Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena International Executive Committee-. The second one, took place in November 2017 in Perú, it was the Jornadas Interamericanas de Astronomía en la Cultura (Interamerican Conference of Astronomy in Culture), organized by the Sociedad Interamericana de Astronomía en la Cultura, SIAC, (Interamerican Society of Astronomy in Culture). In these meetings we had the opportunity of promoting the participation in the construction of the list and sharing interesting insights about the proposed criteria to make the list.

Alejandro López, Argentina

15 December 2017