

UNESCO Declares Caral World Heritage Site

Sacred City of Caral, located north of Lima, is the oldest in America.

Press Release 133-09

On the 28th of June, following an evaluation consisting of strict criteria, UNESCO made the decision to include the Sacred City of Caral in their World Heritage List, recognizing the exceptional universal value of this important archeological site in Peru, which was the seat of America's oldest-known civilization (3,000-1,800 B.C.).

UNESCO's World Heritage Committee made the decision during their 33rd session, in Seville, upon the recommendation submitted by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), recognizing that the Sacred City of Caral is the strongest representative of the civilization in Peru during the later archaic period, for its antiquity, urban extension and complex architecture, with impressive pyramid edifices, constructive platforms, sunken circular plazas and urban design, realized over the course of centuries.

This title constitutes a very important achievement for the culture of Peru in the world and is the product of the broad and consistent group-effort realized in these past years by the Special Archeological Project Caral-Supe, the National Institute of Culture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The nomination of the Sacred City of Caral for the World Heritage Site will without a doubt have positive effects on the zone north of Supe because it will in turn allow for the development of better living conditions for the present society. This inclusion brings the tally to 11 total sites for Peru inscribed in UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Lima, Sunday 28 June 2008
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Press Office