

# Proposal of ICL Network

1. Name of Network: Landslides and Cultural & Natural Heritage Network

2. Name of Proposer: Claudio Margottini

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Core members of the activities: Italian Environmental Protection Agency

Names/Affiliations

Name of Proposer: Vit Vilimek

Affiliation: position

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Core members of the activities

Names/Affiliations

3. ICL member organizations ( representatives) involved in the Network.

(to be defined)

4. Objectives for the initial 3 years : (5 lines maximum; what you expect to accomplish?)

To develop an emergency intervention group for the safeguard of natural and cultural heritage at risk in different part of the word.

To promote a culture of resilience for the protection of natural and cultural heritage from landslide hazard.

To develop low environmental impact approach, monitoring and solutions for safeguard of natural and cultural heritage from landslide hazard.

5. Background Justification: (10 lines maximum)

In recent decades, the concept of cultural heritage has evolved into one that encompasses an understanding of history of humanity together with scientific knowledge and intellectual attitudes.

This changing concept has prompted the subsequent reevaluation of what constitutes outstanding universal value of World Heritage and the operational methodology for implementing the UNESCO World Heritage Convention; a definition that broadens from studying a single monument in isolation to one that values a multidimensional, multiregional approach, inter-disciplinarity, also encapsulating vast diasporas of human history. Within this broad view, landslides and more in general slope instabilities, are an important factor for endangering cultural heritage, especially prehistoric sites, earth/rock monuments, archaeological sites affected by environmental process and degradation. Natural and cultural heritage, as well as cultural landscapes are then tied in common framework the the Geological Society of America has defined “Men’s legacy to Earth and Earth’s legacy to Man”.

On the other side not too much effort has been provided in the past to develop a conservation policies integrating, in systemic manner, geological, geomorphological and engineering geological aspects into daily practices.

Purpose of the present thematic network is to create a platform for scientists and practitioners ready to jointly contribute to the safeguard of relevant endangered Natural and Cultural Heritage sites (e.g. Machu Picchu), as well as to share and to disseminate respective experience, demonstrating how these special “objects” are requiring an approach, techniques and solutions that

are far beyond traditional civil engineering perspective.

#### 6. Resources available for Network activities

Personnel, Facilities, Budgets, and Contribution to ICL/IPL

Depending from involved agencies.

#### 7. Description of past activities related to proposed network (30 lines maximum).

ICL have been an important platform for the conservation of natural and cultural heritages.

Relevant examples are Machu Picchu (Peru), Bamiyan (Afghanistan), Lalibela and other significant sites.

During last few years has been realized in the broader area of Machu Picchu a complex international research including research groups from Japan, Italy, Czech Republic, Canada and Slovakia. This research was oriented not only on monitoring of recent slope movements inside archaeological site but also on recognition of various types of slope movements in the valley of Urubamba (mainly debris flows).

National park of Cordillera Blanca is an valuable area of protection under UNESCO which includes also specific cultural objects endangered by slope movements (e.g. Chavín de Huantár). Recent investigation of this area includes research on GLOFs as well as specific case studies which usually occurred after intensive seasonal rains or after El Niño effects.

An interdisciplinary activity was conducted on the site of Bamiyan (Afghanistan), after the destruction of the two giant Buddha statues in 2001. The results of investigations allowed the consolidation of cliff and niches, with experimental and low environmental impact techniques.

After these activities, the analysis of fragments from archaeologist and conservator is on course.

In Ethiopia there was an important activities for the conservation of the UNESCO world heritage site of Lalibela. This is an area with rock hewn churches, now affected by rock weathering and instability. The Church of Biet Abba Lebanos, a monument, was also interested by slope instability and then investigated as a rock cliff.

#### 8. Planned future activities /Expected Results: (20 lines maximum)

To promote the network within the major UN agencies and national governments.

To develop low technologies and methodologies for the conservation of natural and cultural heritages.

To promote a culture of resilience from landslide hazard.

To promote a bureau for early response in risk areas after a disaster.

The network can meet in 2012 in Georgia where relevant instability problems are affecting the conservation of many Bizantine Monasteries. The National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia is ready to cooperate in an international workshop dealing with the conservation of natural and cultural heritages affected by slope instabilities.

Note: Those who wish joint one or two networks proposed at FAO and written in Page 2 may contact with ICL secretariat. We may inform a group of people proposing the networks.