Manual de Capacitacion sabre el Patrimonio Cultural y Natural de Rapa Nui

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for accommodations; 42 maps, black/white illustrations, charts, book lists, glossary and a ‘capsule’ vocabulary are included for both Fijian and Hindi. This edition of the Fiji Handbook also contains a very useful web site directory that provides an invaluable resource for internet users.

The Fiji archipelago includes a thousand islands, astonishing diversity, and a fascinating history. The islands are scattered over 1,290,000 square km of the South Pacific Ocean. But of that number of islands, only 322 are large enough to support human inhabitants, and only 106 islands are actually inhabited. Despite this, Fiji has more land and people than in all of Polynesia combined.

To write a guide to so many diverse islands and diverse cultures is a staggering achievement. As one who has (in the past) written a guide book, I can attest that Stanley’s travel books are without parallel. The amount of information provided is just plain amazing: from trekking tips to upscale resorts, cuisine to inter-island connections, or the esoteric details of where Da Free John hangs out, proper behavior at a kava ceremony, and the best snorkeling areas. Whether you are curious about a complicated political system or just wanting to know which are the gay bars in Suva, the Fiji Handbook has it.

The book is particularly strong on local customs and proper etiquette, so important when visiting a foreign country, and particularly if one wishes not to be a typical tourist but desires to experience another culture in an unobtrusive, eco-sensitive manner. Both the Fiji Handbook and the Tahiti Handbook Including Easter Island and the Cooks are highly recommended.

Manual de Capacitación sobre el Patrimonio Cultural y Natural de Rapa Nui [Training Manual on the Cultural and Natural Heritage of Rapa Nui]  
Marcos Rauch G. and Maria E. Noel B., eds.  
CONAF/WMF, Rapa Nui, 1998  
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It is fitting to give a brief history of how this Training Manual came into being. In its inception, over five years ago, it was intended as a complement to the training courses that CO-NAF (Natural Parks of Chile) was planning to develop for park rangers of the Rapa Nui National Park (RNNP). Only one training course had been held on the island. This was in 1986 and World Monuments Fund, which had co-sponsored that course, was interested in partly supporting the preparation of this didactic tool. As originally conceived, it was to be a brief booklet to be drafted in one year. Due to changes in personnel at CONAF, the project changed hands and with it the aim and the scope of the Manual expanded to address not only park rangers but also tourist guides and local teachers. Four years later, the editors, Marcos Rauch of the RNNP, and Maria E. Noel, currently at the Consejo de Monumentos Nacionales, put together an outstanding publication in collaboration with José Miguel Ramirez, Christian Walter, Michel De L’Herbe and Patricia Ibañez.

The book is divided into seven chapters, a bibliography and two appendices, the first one listing the protected “wild” (silvestres) areas in Chile, and the second one, the endemic and naturalized flora on Easter Island. Except for the third chapter, which was prepared by Noel and Ramírez, all of the others were prepared by Rauch.

The first chapter gives a brief introduction to the island, its climate, geology and geomorphology. The second chapter, prepared jointly with Noel, addresses the role of protected wild areas and the conservation of both natural and cultural heritage. It introduces the concept of protected areas and their objective in the conservation of resources, both natural and cultural; the various categories of such areas as defined in Chile; and, the importance of the national parks for their preservation. It also addresses such issues as the creation of a park plan, and its function in the protection of resources and in tourism. It ends with a brief history of the RNNP and its uniqueness within the National Park system of Chile, given its wealth of cultural heritage. A map of the island showing the area covered by the RNNP and its four use zones is included.

The third and fourth chapters are two of the longest. The former deals with the archaeology and pre-history of the island. It begins with an introduction to archaeology as a discipline, continues with basic information of Polynesian prehistory, followed by the prehistory and cultural development on Rapa Nui and ends with the history of the ethnological and archaeological investigations carried out from 1722 to the twentieth century. The latter was prepared in collaboration with Ibañez and addresses the natural heritage of the island. It is divided into four sections addressing the flora, the fauna, the geology and geomorphology—this being the longest section—and scenic importance. A map of the island shows the location of its many volcanoes and other geological features.

The fifth chapter deals with the management of the natural and archaeological heritage on the island. It is divided into three sections: conservation of the heritage; management of archaeological sites; and management of the cultural resources. The sixth chapter discusses the conservation of the archaeological heritage of the island. It addresses the legal protective measures, the conservation activities, and management for the archaeological heritage and the various causes for deterioration and/or destruction of these resources.

The last and third chapter of this book is devoted to tourism and the protected areas. It introduces tourism as an industry and presents proposals for the development of sustainable tourism discussing the advantages and disadvantages of tourism in the national parks. Tables compile data such as flight frequency for various years, the number of travelers arriving, country of origin of tourists over several years, and data on the number of beds available for tourists over various years. All data presented is appropriately referenced.

The book is more than a Manual, it is a reference book. In less than 200 pages it summarizes a lot of information on the various relevant areas to the conservation of both natural and archaeological heritage. It is well organized and carefully referenced. The depth of detail and discussion of the topics is excel-
lent but the layout and design of the Manual gives it away as a textbook: each chapter has summarizing tables that highlight the most important points made in the text. However, previous knowledge of the island is required, since no illustrations or photographs have been included. It will serve not only the audience to whom it was addressed originally: park rangers, tourist guides and local teachers, but also any professional who is interested in the island and its preservation. For the latter, it should be required reading.

Easter Island Foundation News

Work continues in Chile and the US to assure the opening of the William Mulloy Library on Rapa Nui in the coming months. Books are now being packed and equipment is being purchased for installation in the new library facility at the Sebastian Englert Museum on the island. We are very pleased to be in the final stages of this long-term project.

The EIF sponsored conference, Pacific 2000, is shaping up to a very important event for Polynesian research. In addition to four days of papers presented by scholars from around the world, field trips are being planned to ancient Hawaiian heiau and petroglyph sites. Look for the conference brochure coming soon in the mail. Register early to secure your accommodations.

The Polynesian sailing canoe, Hōkūleʻa, is on its way to Easter Island. The EIF made a contribution to this voyage, as was announced last month. Thanks to another EIF contribution, conservation treatments are about to begin on the moai that stands in front of the Fonck Museum in Viña del Mar, Chile, which has housed the Mulloy Library for the past several years. The Foundation needs your continued support of these and other worthwhile projects. Kay Sanger, President.

Representing the Easter Island Foundation, Fr Francisco Nahoe (far left) and Brigid Mulloy present a donation from the Easter Island Foundation to the Polynesian Voyaging Society. Pinky and Nainoa Thompson are on either side of Brigid.

Publications

Bulletin of the International String Figure Association. PO Box 5134, Pasadena, CA 91117.


Pacific Arts: The Journal of the Pacific Arts Association, Nos. 17 & 18, July 1998. This publication contains indices to Pacific Arts Newsletter, and to Pacific Arts covering a span of 22 years.


Rongorongo Studies: A Forum for Polynesian Philology. 1999. Vol. 9(1). The Institute of Polynesian Languages and Literatures. PO Box 6965, Wellesley Street, Auckland NZ. This issue contains “Albert Pearse’s comparative Tahitian, Rurutuan, Rimataran, and Ra’i‘avae Vocabulary (1877)” by Steven Roger Fischer; and “Weird Papalangi and a Fake Samoa Chief: A Footnote to the Noble Savage Myth” by Gunter Senft.

Thompson, Michael and Colin Renfrew. 1999. The Catalogues of the Pitt-Rivers Museum, Farnham, Dorset. Antiquity 73 (280): 377-393. This article has a very nice illustration in color showing a moko wood carving from Easter Island, collected in 1897.

Tok Bong Pasifik. South Pacific Peoples Foundation. 1921 Fernwood Road, Victoria BX V8T 2Y6, Canada.