

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

The report on the state of conservation of the Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Offices for the period 2020-2022 highlights the following:

1. The National Monuments Council approved the 2021-2025 Management Plan, which is currently being implemented.
2. Under the Management Plan the Monitoring Program was developed, including the follow-up of the activities and progress of the design of the indicators to measure the conservation of the Site's Outstanding Universal Value.
3. According to the Conservation Plan, the Site's conservation agenda has continued, with works at the Humberstone Coeducational School No. 35, the Unmarried Workers Quarters, and the Santa Laura Leaching Plant. This property, the only one of its kind in the world that has been preserved, currently has no structural damage and is in good condition without having losing its unique authenticity. Both the design and execution were carried out by the Site Administrator, with financial contributions from the State.
4. There has been continued support from the State through resources for management and projects at the property from the "World Heritage Sites" Social Program and other complementary funds from the National Service for Cultural Heritage.
5. Regarding the global health situation due to COVID-19, the Site has remained open practically throughout this period, taking the precautions decreed by the health authorities.
6. The implementation of the Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Heritage, which started operations in March 2018, has continued, highlighting the progressive, collaborative work between the different regional institutions of the Ministry. During the current government period (2022-2026), progress will be made in the creating of a Law on Cultural Heritage to obtain an instrument that provides an updated approach to heritage, based on participatory processes and indigenous consultation.



II. RESPONSE TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE DECISION (44 COM 2021 7B.166)

3. Welcomes the efforts undertaken for the conservation and sustainable management of the property, and takes note with satisfaction of the measures carried out by the State Party to finalize the Management Plan 2021-2025 and pending conservation measures/actions as addressed in the 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission report;

During the period covered by this report, years 2021-2022, the 2021-2025 Management Plan has continued its implementation through the execution of the activities and projects outlined in its programs and the design and implementation of a new Monitoring Program, committed in the same plan.

As mentioned in previous reports, the plan's objective is for the Saltpeter Museum Corporation, the Site's management entity, to have an integrated and participatory document capable of providing an account of the current situation of the property. This document will mainly include the achievements and progress made in recent years, and the future road map, considering its Outstanding Universal Value and future sustainability, using current methodologies and experiences. For the Corporation, the plan has been the primary guide for the Site's management and administration during this period.

The final version was submitted to the National Monuments Council in November 2020 for its review and subsequent approval following the provisions of Law No. 17,288 on National Monuments. It was approved with recommendations by Ord. No. 4904 of 2021/11/03 (Annex 01).

Beyond implementing the plan and the execution of committed projects, it is worth noting the consolidation of the Corporation's management of the Site and its environment. Its capacity to sustain itself in an adverse situation such as the pandemic is an example of the resilience and creativity of those who work there. The effort to achieve the proposed objectives and the search for permanent improvement are a core part of the organization, heir to the *Pampino* (related to the Chilean pampas) culture on which it is based.

Implementation of the 2021-2025 Management Plan

Design and Implementation of the Monitoring Program

The monitoring program aims to measure the implementation and effectiveness of the plan, as well as to follow up and evaluate the activities and tasks proposed



Indicator 6 is similar to indicator 1 in the fact that it is associated with the existence of information on the units or components that are part of the Buffer Zone (defined in the intervention standards of the Typical Zone, which legally protects the buffer zone) and indicator 7 is similar to indicator 2, as it refers to the state of conservation of these units or components. Therefore, they are also linked to the conservation of the Site.

Indicator 8 addresses the implementation of security measures linked to the security program, and indicator 9 addresses the number of investigations on the Site relating to the research subprogram.

Evaluation and Monitoring of Activities 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Site's operation, the Saltpeter Museum Corporation decided to incorporate the 2022 commitments review into the 2021 evaluation of the Management Plan activities. The 2022 commitments included were only those existing in March of 2022 and perceived as capable of being implemented during the current year.

As a result, some activities have been postponed, while others have been better delimited. In general, the tasks, however small they may seem, are also an achievement and, as such, should be included in the Plan.

To identify the progress and state of advancement of the programs, it will review the fulfilment of the activities proposed in the schedule for the year 2021.

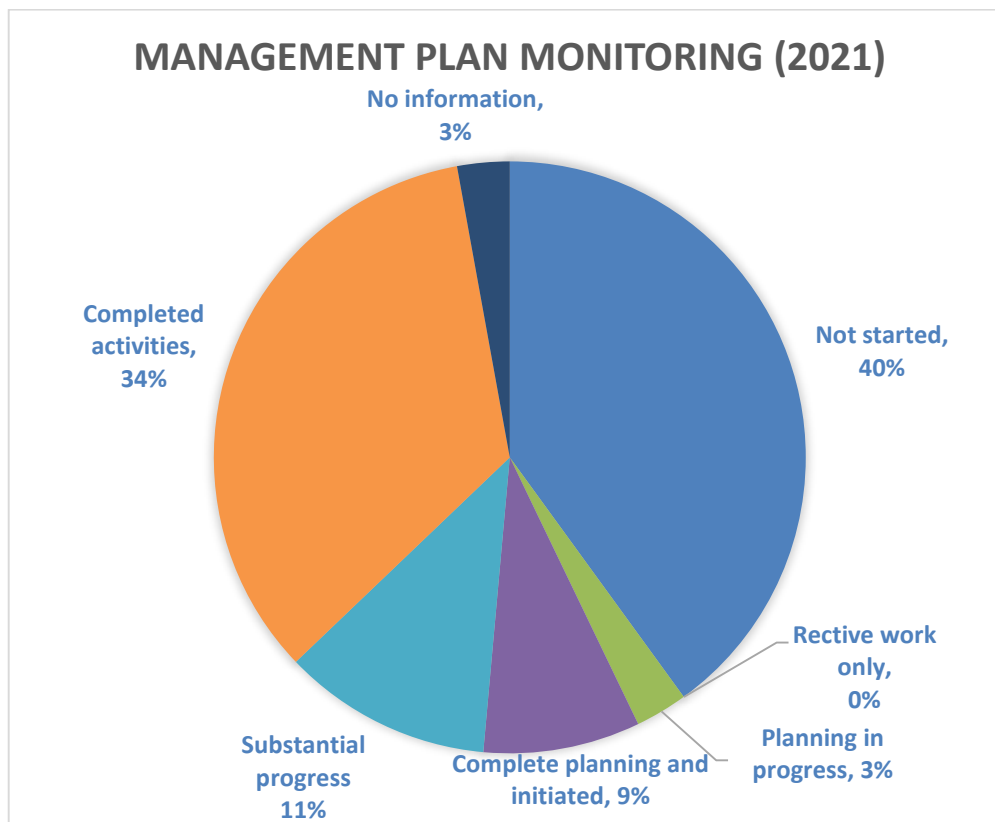
The evaluation of this annual work made it possible to visualize management achievements and difficulties. Some of these difficulties are related to the regional and national economic situation. This is why the proposal for 2022 was reformulated in relation to the original plan, defining smaller but achievable activities, and always respecting the vision and principles governing the Site (Annex 02).

Despite the unfavorable economic context, the professional teams of the Saltpeter Museum Corporation have been maintained. It has not been possible to prioritize planning aspects and the internal and external face-to-face dissemination activities —which are the privileged means of contact with the world of the inhabitants of the Chilean pampas— have been significantly reduced.

Overall, the progress of the Management Plan activities reaches 54% if we add the completed activities (34%), those with substantial progress (11%), and those with complete planning and initiated (9%), as can be seen in the following graph.



Graph 1: 2021 Management Plan Progress



Source: Own preparation, June 2022

Meanwhile, progress by Program is lower and reaches an average of 40.6%, due to the execution status of the tasks within each Program.

Table 1: Progress by Program

PROGRAM	PROGRESS	COMMENTS
Administration	37,5%	Planning and reinforcement activities have been affected due to the team's work overload and a drop in tourism.
Tourism	54,5%	Marketing professional could not be hired.

Culture	0%	No progress in relation to the plan; but with associative activities carried out
Conservation and Research	90%	Higher level of achievement, due to the fact that these are the tasks that the Administrator considers as the basis of management.
Safety	21%	We have responded to the most urgent needs with a risk prevention specialist for these types of works.

Source: Own preparation, June 2022

Annexes:

Annex 01: CMN Ord. No. 4904 of 2021/11/03 approving Management Plan.

Annex 02: 2021 Monitoring and Evaluation and Follow-up of Activities Implementation Report of the Management Plan 2021-2025.

4. Encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to strengthen heritage institutions in the country's regions, and to establish a Law on Cultural Heritage with an updated approach to heritage conservation in order to ensure the conservation of the World Heritage property;

March 2022 marked the beginning of a new government term for Chile, which contemplates a four-year period ending in March 2026. The continuity of the implementation process of cultural institutionalism, constituted by the Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Heritage, which began to operate in March 2018, constitutes an imperative for the current authorities.

In this sense, progress continues to be made in the gradual installation of the Regional Directorates of the National Service for Cultural Heritage throughout the country, which are already in most of the regions that have World Heritage Sites because their operation was considered a priority. Also, strengthened the installation of the technical teams of the National Monuments Council in regional offices throughout the country, highlighting the continuity of the work carried out



by its only two provincial technical offices (the regions in Chile are divided into provinces), both located on island territory with World Heritage Sites (Rapa Nui National Park and Churches of Chiloé).

Gradually a close collaborative work has been consolidated between the National Centre for World Heritage Sites (under the Sub-directorate of Heritage Promotion and Management of the National Service for Cultural Heritage), the Regional Directorates of the National Service for Cultural Heritage, and the Regional Technical Offices of the National Monuments Council. Those bodies, together with the Regional Ministerial Secretariats of Culture, support a broad and significant institutional framework in the territories with World Heritage Sites, highlighting the commitment of their teams to the safeguarding and dissemination of these assets.

Regarding the process of amending the current legislation on cultural heritage (Law No. 17,288 on National Monuments), towards obtaining an instrument that provides an updated and comprehensive approach to the conservation of national heritage, thus ensuring its conservation, and thus that of Chile's World Heritage properties, it is possible to report that progress is being made in the creation of an instrument that provides an updated approach to heritage, based on participatory processes and indigenous consultation.

It should be noted that this legal amendment is also a priority for the current government, which is why the Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Heritage, through the Undersecretary of Cultural Heritage and the National Service for Cultural Heritage, is addressing the participation and indigenous consultation component linked to the legislative process. It should be noted that the methodological proposal for the dialogue and citizen participation process is being prepared by an external consultancy and is in its final phase. In the meantime, work is being done on the first basis of the indigenous consultation process, a component that has a funding commitment in the Public Sector Budget Law for 2023.

III. OTHER CURRENT CONSERVATION ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE STATE PARTY WHICH MAY HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE PROPERTY'S OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

The following is a description of the issues identified as having a positive impact on the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value. The first part reports on the projects carried out with direct funding from the National Service for Cultural Heritage, highlighting the work carried out at the Santa Laura Leaching Plant, the



only one preserved in the world, and then reports on the projects carried out, according to the type of funding. The second part reports other initiatives involving the World Heritage Site.

1. Projects carried out with funding from the National Service of Cultural Heritage

1.1 Santa Laura Leaching Plant

In this last period, the Administrator and the State have focused their efforts on concluding one of the emblematic conservation projects for the Site, corresponding to the comprehensive recovery of the Santa Laura Leaching Plant. This property is highlighted as unique in the Site's Conservation Plan, which establishes that this is an attribute of great significance with a high authenticity assignment. However, its integrity was affected by the passage of time and lack of maintenance. That is why the intervention strategy of the Conservation Plan prioritized this property through the execution of diagnostic actions of the state of conservation, structural evaluation, and the construction system as a whole.

The Leaching Plant was also relieved in the recommendations of the ICOMOS Advisory Mission Report in 2018, being present in at least three points linked to "ongoing preventive conservation actions," namely:

10. Develop urgent preventive underpinning actions.

11. Continue structural reinforcement works and replacement of deteriorated material.

12. Explore the possibility of replacing specific pieces of damaged, broken, or weathered wood materials at the Santa Laura Leaching Plant.

The previous conservation status report informs the progress until 2020, consisting of the agreement between the Administrator and the State to work in three stages for the recovery of the building: 1. Cleaning and underpinning of loose elements, 2. Design and execution of an emergency project, and 3. Comprehensive diagnosis of the building and later proposal of the intervention. The first two items were executed during 2019 and 2020 through various works and studies already reported. While stage 3 of design and structural evaluation was in progress through the technical assistance "Diagnosis and structural evaluation of the building for the project to replace the roof of the Leaching Plant".



Subsequently, the Corporation's Projects Unit, with the support of specialists in Construction, Wood, and Structural Calculation, and professionals from the National Centre for World Heritage Sites, developed the design "Replacement of the Leaching Plant roof." It was approved with indications by the National Monuments Council in July 2021, which were corrected through collaborative work between the Corporation, the National Monuments Council, and the National Centre for World Heritage Site, and finally approved in February 2022 (Annex 03).

The requirements of the National Monuments Council included a request for an independent review of the calculation project to be carried out by an engineer with vast experience in the calculation of wooden structures. They resulted in an update of the structural project, incorporating reinforcements in specific sectors, the revision of some squaring, and the verification of the structural class of the wood through specialized laboratory tests (Annex 04).

The formulation of the approved project was guided by the principles established in the Management Plan and the Conservation Plan's specific regulations. The project consisted of recovering the roof in a comprehensive manner, conserving all possible elements and replacing missing ones, and repairing the lower levels in accordance with the intervention criteria established in the previous structural and conservation studies.

At the same time, the Corporation obtained financing for the execution of the work through a grant from the World Heritage Site Social Program. The Corporation successfully executed those works between March and August 2022.

The Corporation maintains its Projects Unit, and there is continuity of professionals who have acquired valuable experience reflected in the design and execution of this and other projects. The same situation with the team of master specialists, who work on works of different scales at the Site.

The Leaching Plant currently has no structural damage and is in good condition of integrity while maintaining its authenticity, the result of the technical and professional effort and delicate work, piece by piece, that the Corporation and its collaborators carried out.

The work was inaugurated on November 25, 2022, as part of the activities organized to commemorate the 50th anniversary of UNESCO's Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Many *pampinos* (inhabitants of the Chilean pampas) attended the celebration. Those inhabitants emigrated to nearby cities after the closure of the saltpeter works in



the 1960s. On the occasion of commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Convention, there was also a concert by the Youth and Children's Orchestras Foundation of Chile, from Tarapacá Region, at the Humberstone Theatre, and repair work was inaugurated at the Humberstone School (Annex 05).

Annexes:

- Annex 03: Project "Santa Laura Leaching Plant Roof Replacement".
- Annex 04: Background of independent calculation review.
- Annex 05: Leaching Plant Inauguration Report.

1.2 Projects by type of funding source

1.2.1 World Heritage Sites Social Program Grants

The World Heritage Sites Social Program has continued to operate, administered by the National Centre for World Heritage Sites belonging to the Sub-Directorate for Heritage Development and Management of the National Service for Cultural Heritage. This fund provides exclusive financing for these assets of universal value through subsidies and technical assistance.

For the Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works Site, the projects described in the following table have been developed.

SUBSIDIES				
PROJECT	TERM	ALLOCATED AMOUNT		
		2021	2022	TOTAL
Institutional Reinforcement for Monitoring the Management Plan and Other Planning Instruments	15 months	USD 45,180	USD 15,060	USD 60,240
Replacement of the roof of the Leaching Plant at the Santa Laura Saltpeter Works	17 months	USD 100,331		USD 100,331
Security, cleaning,	10 months		USD 36,732	USD 36,732



selection, transfer and arrangement of materials Santiago Humberstone Saltpeter Works				
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- Institutional Reinforcement for Monitoring the Management Plan and Other Planning Instruments: Through the continued hiring of three professionals, the Management Plan 2021-2025 was monitored to ensure that the objectives of this document are implemented in the best possible way or that the necessary corrections are made in the most efficient way to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value of the Site and its future sustainability. Grant executed.
- Replacement of the roof of the Leaching Plant at the Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Execution of the works): The objective of this project was to recover the continuity of the roof of the Leaching Plant to avoid further loss of integrity and stop its generalized deterioration through repair and replacement of deteriorated elements and restitution of missing parts, specifically trusses and roof structure. This intervention aimed to achieve greater structural stability and legibility of the building. Grant executed.
- Security, cleaning, selection, transfer and arrangement of materials Santiago Humberstone Saltpeter Works: Considering the extreme fragility of the Site and its permanent need for conservation, this subsidy considers the cleaning, selection, transfer, and arrangement of materials associated with the buildings of the Humberstone Saltpeter Works to expand places to visit and provide greater security in them, especially for tourists with reduced mobility and the elderly. It also considers strengthening the firefighting system for the Site, through the acquisition of fire extinguishers. Finally, it includes the cleaning and arrangement of historical documents recovered from the saltpeter works, which have been organized according to their operating structure. They form part of the documentation centre on the saltpeter industry located at the Site, for future use by researchers and students. A Grant is currently in progress.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE		
PROJECT	TERM	ALLOCATED AMOUNT



		2021	2022	TOTAL
Determination of mechanical parameters of wood from the Leaching Plant of the Santa Laura Saltpeter Works.	1 month	USD 1,494	-	USD 1,494
Anthropologist, specialist in Heritage Management, for the development of specific consultancy services for the Site Offices of Humberstone and Santa Laura.	12 months	-	USD 7,346	USD 7,346

- Determination of mechanical parameters of wood from the Leaching Plant of the Santa Laura Saltpeter Works: As was explained above, the National Monuments Council requested this study as part of the review of the design project at the Leaching Plant. It consisted of the mechanical evaluation of five Oregon Pine wood elements, in accordance with Chilean standard NCh 3028-1, considering: 1. admissible tension, 2. rupture modules, and 3. elasticity modules.
- Anthropologist, specialist in Heritage Management, for the development of specific consultancies to the Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works Site. Technical assistance was required to provide continuity in implementing the Site's Management Plan. This instruments includes the recommendations the World Heritage Committee made in its report of the 43rd COM in 2019 when it decided to remove the Site from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

1.2.2. Heritage Fund

The Cultural Heritage Fund corresponds to a competitive fund of the National Service for Cultural Heritage, created in 2018 to benefit the nation's cultural heritage, administered by the Sub-directorate of Heritage Promotion and Management. This fund provides resources for the full or partial implementation of projects, programs, activities, and measures for the identification, registration, research, dissemination, valuation, protection, rescue, preservation, conservation, acquisition, and safeguarding of heritage, in its various forms and



manifestations, and education in all areas of cultural heritage, tangible and intangible, including expressions of cultures and heritage of indigenous peoples.

The Site has benefited from the following project:

HERITAGE FUND				
PROJECT	TERM	ALLOCATED AMOUNT		
		2021	2022	TOTAL
Restoration of facades and roof of Coeducational School N° 35	5 months	-	USD 41,847	USD 41,847

- Restoration of facades and roof of Coeducational School No. 35: The restoration of exterior cladding on the walls and roof of the building is contemplated, with minimal intervention, to ensure the safety of visitors and workers at the Site. This project has been carried out and has positively impacted on the experience of visiting the site. It should be kept in mind that this is one of the property's most iconic and visited buildings (Annex 06).

1.2.3. Museum Integral Improvement Fund

The Comprehensive Improvement for Museums Fund is a publicly financed competitive fund administered by the National Sub-directorate for Museums of National Service for Cultural Heritage as part of its mission to promote the harmonious and sustained development of Chile's museums.

COMPREHENSIVE IMPROVEMENT FOR MUSEUMS FUND				
PROJECT	TERM	ALLOCATED AMOUNT		
		2021	2022	TOTAL
Museum Equipment	7 months	USD 41,703	-	USD 41,703



- The project involved purchasing of museum equipment to set up the Centre for Documentation and Research of Saltpeter, located in one of the properties of the “adjoining house with porch” of Humberstone, reported in the previous SOC (Annex 07).

2. Other initiatives:

2.1 Conservation:

- Restoration of rooms 1, 2 and rectification of axis 7 of the Quarter for Unmarried Workers: The general objectives of the proposal were, on the one hand, to restore the envelopes of rooms 1 and 2 of the Quarter for Unmarried Workers, in addition to rectifying the differentiated settlement of axis 7. Also, to ensure the safety of visitors and workers at the Site. The resources for its execution were submitted to the National Fund for Cultural Development and the Arts (Fondart, by its Spanish acronym), the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage architecture line. The amount awarded was USD 13,780, and the project was executed between December 2021 and January 2022. It has also improved the experience of visiting the Site, as it represents a typology of housing characteristic of saltpeter works, which previously needed to be adequately presented due to conservation problems (Annex 08).

2.2 Research:

- The University of Valparaíso developed the study “Evaluation of the State of Conservation of the Cooling Tower of the Peña Chica Saltpeter Works.” The funding source is the Regional Fondart in the cultural heritage line. The amount awarded was USD 18,336. The Cooling Tower of the Peña Chica Works is located in the Site’s Buffer. It is an important element as it has a larger scale and is visible from a long distance, becoming a landmark of the landscape. The study’s objective of the study was to have an updated diagnosis, considering the different wood elements in the Peña Chica Cooling Tower. It was possible to identify the wood species, the main types of biotic and abiotic deterioration, and the estimation of physical and mechanical properties. The structural evaluation of the building and recommendations for future intervention were also considered (Annex 9).
- The University of Valparaíso evaluated of the state of conservation of the Humberstone Theatre. The study’s objective was to diagnose of the



different wooden elements located in the Theatre. The identification of the wood species, the main types of deterioration, and the estimation of the physical and mechanical properties are presented. An opinion on the state of material and structural conservation of the building is provided (Annex 10).

The objective of both projects is to have previous studies for the formulation of conservation projects.

2.3 Other plans, activities and initiatives involving the World Heritage Site

- Work program to answer the questionnaire section II of the Periodical Report: During the years 2021 and early 2022, within the framework of institutional strengthening for the "Monitoring of the Management Plan and Other Planning Instruments", a work agenda was generated with periodic meetings to answer Form II of the third cycle of the Periodic Report. This allowed the form to be filled out in a participatory process within the Corporation, which was also used as an opportunity for training in instruments related to the application of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage for the Saltpeter Museum Corporation.
- Heritage Day, Virtual Talk: On the occasion of Cultural Heritage Day 2021, the National Centre for World Heritage Sites organised a virtual chat entitled "¿Cómo salieron las salitreras de Humberstone y Santa Laura de la Lista de Patrimonio Mundial en Peligro?" (*How did the Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works get off the List of World Heritage in Danger*). The talk is available at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c4KDde4op1M&t=2064s>
- 360° Virtual Tour: Virtual Heritage is an initiative of the BiblioRedes Program of the National Service for Cultural Heritage, which aims to bridge the digital gap in communities through new technologies, seeking to democratize access to cultural services. In 2022, three World Heritage Sites were included in its tours, one of them being the Saltpeter Works. The project has been completed and can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.patrimoniovirtual.gob.cl/recorridos/rv-oficinas-salitreras-humberstone-y-santa-laura.html>.
- Annual Report: The Corporation produces and distributes a periodic report on its overall management to its members and collaborators. The report of the last period includes a balance of the management of the years



2021-2022, a period that the COVID-19 pandemic has marked. (Annex 11).

- COVID-19 emergency management by the Site Manager: Pandemic management actions have continued. The previous conservation status report indicated that in 2020 the Site was closed to the public for more than six months, which strongly affected its management, mainly due to the drop in visitor income. During the years 2021 and 2022, it has been open practically all the time, except for a brief period at the beginning of 2021, with the implementation of measures decreed by the health authority. It should be noted that the site was the first cultural space in the Tarapacá Region to open its doors to the public.

Annexes:

- Annex 06: Project "Restoration of facades and roof Coeducational School N° 35".
- Annex 07: Museum Equipment Project.
- Annex 08: Project "Restoration of rooms 1, 2 and rectification of axis 7 of the Quarter for Unmarried Workers"
- Annex 9: Evaluation Study of the State of Conservation of the Cooling Tower of the Peña Chica Saltpeter Works.
- Annex 10: Evaluation of the State of Conservation of the Humberstone Theatre.
- Annex 11: 2021-2022 Saltpeter Museum Corporation Annual Report

IV. IN CONFORMITY WITH PARAGRAPH 172 OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES, DESCRIBE ANY POTENTIAL MAJOR RESTORATIONS, ALTERATIONS AND/OR NEW CONSTRUCTION(S) INTENDED WITHIN THE PROPERTY, THE BUFFER ZONE(S) AND/OR CORRIDORS OR OTHER AREAS, WHERE SUCH DEVELOPMENTS MAY AFFECT THE OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE OF THE PROPERTY, INCLUDING AUTHENTICITY AND INTEGRITY

There are no new projects to be reported in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Practical Guidelines.



V. PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT

It is requested that only the summary sheet be made accessible to the public.

VI. SIGNATURE OF THE AUTHORITY

**DIEGO MONTECINOS FERNÁNDEZ
ACTING NATIONAL DIRECTOR
NATIONAL SERVICE FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE**

PBA/CPB/MEE/MDS

