



2022 TOP 100 GOOD PRACTICE STORY

Title of the Story: SIBAYO , RUMI LLAJTA - THE STONE VILLAGE

Destination Name: (Colca y Volcanes de Andagua- Arequipa)

Country: Perú

Submitter name: AUTOCOLCA

Email address: auto-colca@hotmail.com

Position: COORDINATOR

Submission category: *(Please check one of the boxes that indicates the focus of your story)*

- Governance, Reset & Recovery
- Nature & Scenery
- Environment & Climate
- Culture & Tradition
- Thriving Communities
- Business & Marketing

Find detailed instructions for submitting good practices in the Top 100 training module "Good Practice Story".

Should you have any questions on your submission please refer to our FAQ page or contact top100@greendestinations.org





SIBAYO , RUMI LLAJTA THE STONE VILLAGE

Issues faced

The Colca Canyon and Valley of the Volcanoes is made up of the Provincial Municipalities of Caylloma and Castilla. In order to organise the tourist activity, an organisation called AUTOCOLCA was created, which is in charge of the promotion and management of tourism. The settlers of the Colca Valley have their roots in the Collaguas 1100 to 1450 AD and later ruled by the Incas 1450 to 1532 AD. During the Colonization period reductions and intendancies were created, which are the roots of today's District Municipalities.

This is how the towns of the Colca Valley have a millenary history, which goes back to the times of the Collaguas, the Incas, the Colonization and later the Republic. The economy of the people of the Colca is based on agriculture, they have specialised terraces built by the Collaguas and the Incas, they have ancestral and modern irrigation systems. The glaciers provide them with water sources such as lagoons and the Colca River.

With the arrival of the Republican times (1821 - until today) and especially in the 20th century, the villages of the Colca built modern roads, which allowed them to reach the capital of the province, Arequipa, the White City, more quickly. With this fluid intercommunication with the city, the inhabitants of the Colca began to change their way of life, changing the style of their ancestral houses, changing their clothing, changing their language from Quechua to Spanish, abandoning the llama carts for cars and roads. However, there are villages and colqueños who resist these changes, in this opportunity we will talk about the locality of Sibayo and its Rumi Llajta or its Stone Village.

Sibayo is located in the upper part of the Colca Canyon, at the head of the Colca Valley, between 3847 and 4600 m.a.s.l. In 1990, with the Majes Project, a bridge was built in the area and the population moved to the side of the road, starting small businesses. This is how the New Town of Sibayo was built and Rumillaqta (old Sibayo, the stone town) was abandoned, with houses that, due to the lack of maintenance and the passing of time, were being lost.

This is how the inhabitants of Sibayo decided to enhance the value of their Rumi Llajta with houses built with stones from the Colca River and with roofs made of Ichu, a vegetable fibre that used to be abundant in the high Andean areas. The ancient Colqueños built the houses with an ancient Inca tradition, called the AYNÍ, in which each community member had to do service and help in the construction of his village in a reciprocal way. This is how the Rumi Llajta begins to be revalued with the old colqueñas traditions.

Another tradition that they decided to conserve is that of the Llamas cargueras, because with the construction of new tracks and roads there is no longer a need to travel with llamas as in the old days, however, the people of Sibayo decided to conserve their tradition of the llamas cargueras by undertaking inter-Andean journeys with them to collect different foods and exchange them for wool from the llamas, They collect maize, potatoes, beans, peas, beans and even fish, which they then deposit





in their traditional stores, for example, buried under the ground, to last them through the dry season when there will be no food available.

The llamas know the paths and routes by heart, they are intelligent animals and have an interesting relationship with their keepers, these llamas are called the leaders and are decorated and given flags so that all the llamas follow them on the inter-Andean paths.

The people used to call Sibayo the old village, but today it is the most preserved village in the Colca Valley, where you can appreciate the Inca and Collagua style architecture and where they have maintained their traditions, language, clothing, and gastronomy.

Methods, steps and tools applied

First, the population decided that they should not change their traditional architecture for modern architecture, and so Sibayo was declared a national heritage site. On July 23rd, 1980, the Directorate of Culture of the Ministry of Education, by means of Directorial Resolution 092B-080-ED, declared the temple of San Juan Bautista de Sibayo a historical, Colonial and Republican monument for its architectural and artistic value. Later, on June 30, 1986, the General Direction of Culture, by means of Directorial Resolution 329 - 86 - ED declares as Monumental Patrimony of the Nation the whole urban layout of the District of Sibayo, the Cural House and the whole architectural layout of the Plaza de Armas.

This is how later the Municipality of Sibayo began to manage funds for the recovery of the historical layout, public funds, and also international cooperation funds. Since 1997, the Spanish government, through the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), has carried out an integral project for the recovery of the heritage in the Colca Valley, which has strengthened the participation of citizens and municipalities; this is how the restoration of the Temple of San Juan Bautista de Sibayo was achieved.

Since Sibayo is a district, whose monumental layout has been recovered, tourists are beginning to arrive, admiring the artistic beauty and architecture of the place, and the inhabitants of Sibayo are developing projects to adapt their houses to receive the tourists who are arriving. They also feel admired by the tradition of the **llama cargueras** and are beginning to develop tourist activities such as trekking along the old rural roads used for the exchange of products.

Recently, to preserve the monumental urban layout in the face of the threats of modernity, it has been declared, by municipal ordinance 011-2021 - MDS, the preservation of the constructions of the traditional houses in the District of Sibayo "**Rumi Llajta**" in which the constructive style of the houses is defined, the colour and presentation of these, for old houses and others that are built new.





Key success factors

The decision to conserve the **Rumi Llajta of Sibayo** and decide to conserve its historical heritage, which was greatly supported by the declarations of Cultural Heritage of the Nation and the protection of its Church of San Juan Bautista and its historical centre.

For this reason, support was channelled through the management of the Municipality of Sibayo and international cooperation organisations that made the restoration of the **Rumi Llajta** possible.

Sibayo has now been declared a protected area and is committed to cultural tourism, channelling funds for the preservation of its historic centre, which is carried out by the inhabitants themselves, as they are the best connoisseurs of ancestral building techniques.

Lessons learned

Sibayo is a place that preserves its monumentality without losing its customs, traditions and culture, preserving the ancestral and the culture, it gives happiness to see what the grandparents did, and strengthens the identity. The organisation and the union of the population has worked with the authorities in a united way. Sibayo is a united organisation, all with the same goal and mentality. Tourists can enjoy an authentic place, sharing the traditions of the Colca.

Sustainable tourism with respect for the management of tangible and intangible cultural heritage has allowed monuments to be restored, preserved, and ancestral customs to be integrated into the tourism experience. Sustainable tourism constitutes an opportunity for heritage conservation, and Colca is improving its management processes to prevent negative impacts or over-tourism.

Results, achievements and recognitions

Firstly, Sibayo has managed to recover and maintain the traditions and activities of the past. Regarding the social aspect, cultural and experiential tourism has begun to be developed. Tourism has improved the village's economy, generating income and work. Before tourism, women were unemployed and had no income. With community tourism and handicrafts, they have been able to become economically independent. This has helped to reduce the level of poverty and quality of life.

Sibayo is one of the villages of Colca that forms part of the nature and culture circuit and all the districts of Caylloma are recognised as National Heritage, as their churches date back to colonial times, from the 16th and 17th centuries, and their monuments make Colca an architectural and historical jewel.

UNESCO recognized the "Cañón del Colca and Valle de los Volcanes de Andagua Geopark" as the first geopark in Peru, becoming part of the **UNESCO Global Geoparks Network**. The district municipalities of the provinces of Caylloma: Chivay, Achoma, Cabanaconde, Callalli, Coporaque, Huambo, Ichupampa, Lari, Lluta, Maca, Madrigal, Sibayo, Tapay, Tuti and Yanque are considered. In addition, in Castilla, the districts of Andagua, Ayo, Chachas, Chilcaymarca and Orcopampa). These districts are included within





the geopark territory, making them an important tourist destination, due to their geodiversity and geological, natural, cultural and immaterial heritage.

Additional references

Provide links to further information. Pictures and videos should be available for download either from YouTube, Vimeo or other Cloud-based (Google/ One Drive) download URL (not WeTransfer).

Please, check documments and photos in the drive link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ifZobF9q3_8FPU8k1NcnHwxvN7y19-3f?usp=sharing

