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6.0 CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

6.1 Historical Profile of Central Coastal Peru

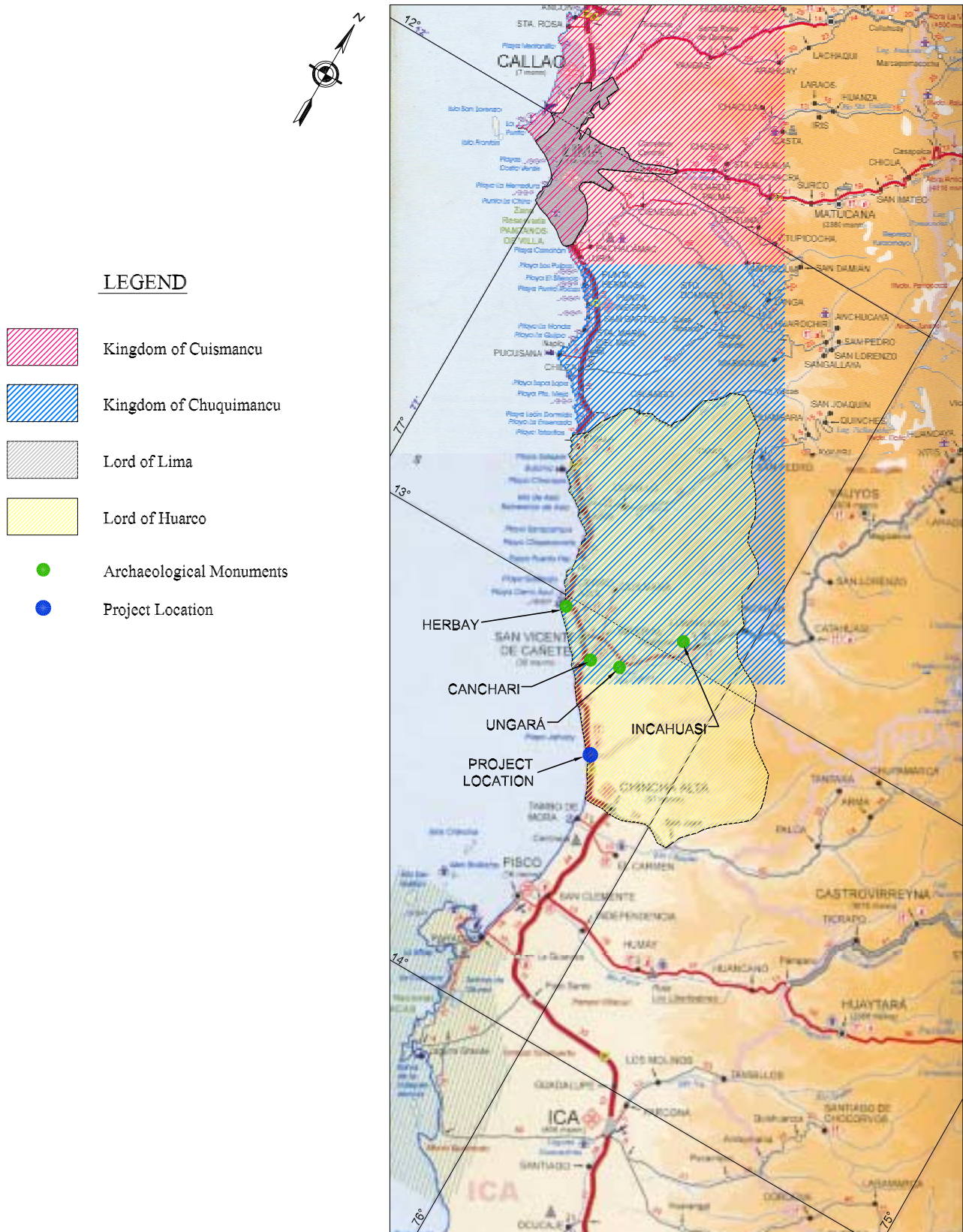
According to the historian writer Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, the two most significant social-political Pre-Hispanic units of the central coast of Peru were the Kingdom of Cuismanco, comprising the valleys from Barranca to Lurín, and the Kingdom of Chuquimancu comprising the valleys from Chilca to Cañete (see Figure 6.1). Other minor kingdoms present within these two territories were the Lords in the domains of Lima and Huarco, represented by the primitive inhabitants of the valleys of Rímac and Cañete, respectively. These two small territories were fully integrated to the largest geopolitical units of Cuismanco and Chuquimancu.

There is a clear distinction between the valleys located north and south of Pachacamac. A common theory of the existence of the Cuismanco and Chuquimancu kingdoms is not longer considered valid. Although, significant progress has been made on the cultural history of the Central Coast, archaeologists conclude that there is still insufficient information concerning the last Pre-Hispanic periods (Late Intermediate Period and the Late Horizon Period).

6.1.1 The Domain of Huarco

The cultural-historical profile of the region has been prepared based on available historical data, which in some cases are unrelated and even contradictory, and on a group of archaeological remains that consist mainly of architectural structures and pottery found in the area. Based on the cultural-historical profile, it appears that the **Domain of Huarco** was a small lord kingdom of approximately 140 km² in area that occupied the lower valley basin of the Cañete River, formed by three social-political entities: Lunahuaná, Chíncha and Mala. The first entity was located east, towards the mountains in the upper portion of the same valley; the other two were located to the south and north, respectively, separated by the broad sandy areas of the coast. The relationships between the Lords of Huarco and Lunahuaná was considered to be friendly since the political division suggested was probably more apparent than real. These communities occupied different ecological environments that complemented their economic and productive relations. On the contrary, the relations with its north and south neighbors were often strained and even hostile.

Figure 6-1: Prehispanic Socio-Political Units and Archaeological Monuments



Apart from the presence of great irrigation systems dedicated to support a dense population, other remarkable aspects of the material culture of the Huarco territory consist of a complex of architectural structures described as a fortress, built before and during the Inca occupation of the region.

The final incorporation of the region by the Inca Empire occurred near year 1470 A.D., during the government of Topa Inca Yupanqui. The Incas had to use various strategies to conquer the region, during many years of their attempts to infiltrate the region with unsuccessful excursions due to the severity of the hot weather, which they were not accustomed to. The conquest was accomplished by a surprise attack. The historical periods occurring in the fifteen and sixteen centuries in the area of influence of the project are summarized below:

The existence of Pre-Incan ethnic entities that occupied the Cañete River valley, and
The annexation of this area to the Inca domains was in the last third of the 15th century.

6.1.2 Archaeological Evidence and Chronological Sequence

The tangible archaeological evidence indicating the presence of pre-Inca and Inca communities consists of the material remains comprised mainly of architectural ruins, channels, cemeteries and diverse objects made before and after the Inca occupation of the area (i.e., before and after 1470 AD). The chronology sequence used for the analysis and archaeological discussion of these materials is as follows:

Years	Relative Chronology	Cultural Style
1536 – 1470	Late Horizon Period	Inca
1200-1470	Late Intermediate Period	Late Cañete

The Inca's conquest of the valley as expressed by the archaeological findings, establishes the end of the Late Intermediate Period (1200-1470) and the beginning of the Late Horizon Period (1470-1536), being the chronological support required to analyze the evidences observed at the area. The Late Cañete cultural style is represented by its pottery and other related materials that provide the tangible archeological expression of the Cañete culture during the Late Intermediate Period, prior to the Inca's conquest.

6.1.3 Main Archaeological Monuments of the Area

In 1990, the General Inventory of Archaeological Monuments of the Cañete Valley registered 219 archaeological sites, of which 68 correspond to the Late Intermediate Period and 57 corresponds to the Late Horizon Period. During the previous century, the Archaeologist Eugenio Larrabure y Unanue (1874, 1893) observed that the valley had a significant number of Pre-Hispanic structures. The Cañete valley was covered by these structures; however, many of the structures were destroyed as a result of agricultural needs of the population. In 1951, the archaeologist Louis Stumer verified the existence of 18 architectural complexes, and as individual sites, estimated in more than 110 existing “huacas” (burial sites). However, the most significant monuments of this group are the findings most mentioned from the XVI century, are: Canchari, Ungara, Herbay and Lunahuana, all of them correspond to late periods of the area. Of these monuments, the first two are of greater interest to the project since they are located within the geographical range of the project’s area of influence.

Canchari:

The Canchari archeological site is located in the district of Imperial, in the lands of the former Country Estate known as “Arona”, which it is now a Production Cooperative named “Cooperativa de Producción Unanue”. Canchari was an agrarian community located in the middle portion of the Cañete River basin, outside the irrigated zone. It is defined by a broad architectural complex surrounded by high and thick walls of “adobe” brick. Some of the structures at this site include double walls and have bastions on the sides along the steeper portions of the slopes. In its surrounding areas, there are remains of cultivated terraces and of an irrigation channel that brought water from the heights of Socsi. Canchari is locally known as the Canchari Castle (“Castillo de Canchari”).

Ungara:

In the past century, the archaeologist Larrabure identified and described the Ungara monument as the Fortress of Chuquimancu and identified its location on the top of a hill in the southern part of the Cañete valley. As described by Larrabure, the hillsides were covered by small buildings following the contours of the terrain and connected by sidewalks. Ungara was a fortified settlement dedicated to the maintenance and control of the irrigation system.

Larrabure found that the construction of Ungara to be very similar to the European castles with impressive walls, battlements and three bulwarks. Furthermore, there was food storage as well as “big

vessels made from fired clay that were completely buried and which could hold liquids ranging from 300 to 500 gallons”.

Herbay:

The Herbay group also known as Fortress of Hervae, Fortress of Guarco or Cerro Azul Castle, described by the historian writers Cieza and Garcilaso, is located on the top of the hill known as “La Barraca”, in the district of Cerro Azul. Cerro Azul was a fishermen community located in a rocky peak south of the bay. Cerro Azul is known for the impressive geological formation that appears like a huge spur entering the sea. Two sectors characterize Cerro Azul: the cemetery composed of tombs in form of wells covered by stones, located on the hillside; and the monument area comprising 8 large architectural components or high class residential establishments surrounded by small storage structures connected to the residences scattered on the hillside in front of the sea.

Incahuasi:

The Incahuasi archeological site dates back to the Late Horizon Period and is attributed to the initiative of the Inca Tupac Yupanqui. Incahuasi was an Inca provincial administrative center. The predominant architectural feature at this site is the use of mud or adobe bricks as construction material, a typical technique of the Late Intermediate Period (1200-1470 AD) of the south Central Coast. The use of big adobe bricks and stones dates from Late Horizon period.

The site is located on the left bank of San Agustin gorge, 30 km from the sea, in the place known as “Larca”, 1.5 km east from the town of Paullo.

It has two sectors: the Arc or “Acllahuasi” to the west, and the Palace to the east.

The Palace complex presents strong walls and elegant areas. It is composed of various structures of which stand out the storehouses and the palace itself. The palace was built at the foothills, on a 250-m² flat terrain site. It has a wide yard of 120 m long with a large front entrance built with adobe bricks.

Even though the construction techniques indicate a strong local traditional style characterized by the use of ordinary masonry with mortar and clay plaster, it has overall Inca construction style. The

historical data indicates that Incahuasi was constructed during the long years of the war and was devoted to lodge the Inca Imperial officials.

6.1.4 Pottery

After the Intermediate Horizon Period (600-1000 AD), the valleys of Cañete, Omas and Mala had certain local autonomy, expressed by their pottery style, even though this could not be fully interpreted as expression of an independent political system, and the three valleys kept a close interaction and a cultural identity expressed in other aspects of their material culture.

The typical pottery of the Late Intermediate Period of the Cañete valley is referred to as “**Late Cañete**” and was identified and defined by Alfred L. Kroeber in 1926, during his excavations in Cerro del Oro and Cerro Azul, district of Cerro Azul, province of Cañete. Kroeber has stated that the Late Cañete style is very similar to the Late Chinchá style, and that both are only a local variety of the same style type. In 1958, Louis Stumer suggested the name of **Huarco**. The Cañete style is spread widely throughout the entire lower Cañete valley, extending to the north up to Omas and to the south up to Chinchá, covering an approximate area of 120 km².

The typical vessels of the Late Cañete style have red paste with sand inclusions, a technique used to provide durability. The vessels have a coarse, homogenous texture and a slightly porous appearance. Among the various pottery techniques are the partial modeling; the modeling with rolls or wheels in case of large earthen jars; and the molding with one-piece molds used in figurines and applications. In general, the making of pottery pieces was not so good and a considerable percentage corresponds to oxidized pieces burnt in a reducer atmosphere producing dark gray or black surfaces.

The surfaces of the vessels are not perfectly polished, irregular and the paint is often cracked or flaked. Among the more common shapes that stand out are the globular pots with curved necks, pitchers, earthenware jars, leather vessels, fried pans and conic colander.

The decoration generally covers the top and mid outer part of the closed vessels. The decoration is hand-painted. The typical motifs are white semi-circles or circles delineated with black. Another frequent motif is circles printed around the neck of the pitchers, forming parallel lines, made apparently with a cane.

In addition to the forms mentioned, other characteristics are the miniature representation of anthropomorphic figurines and monochrome black polished vessels.

6.1.5 The Late Cañete Culture

The archaeological documentation that has been collected up to the present time provides a insight of the cultural process of the Cañete valley during the Late Intermediate Period and Late Horizon Period, and from these archaeological findings the productive characteristics of these communities can be established. From this point of view, the archaeological sites of the Herbay lower valley (Herbay bajo) turn out to be very significant since they provide a means to allow the comparison of historical documentation with the archaeological findings.

For example, in 1937, Kroeber suggested that Cerro Azul was a religious place instead of an administrative-political center by considering the features observed in the dominant structures. Subsequent excavations performed by J. Marcus in 1983 proved that Cerro Azul represents a multi-compound housing complex located on the seaside.

Cerro Azul has 10 large residential units for the elite and around each unit is a series of small storage structures clearly associated with the residential unit. At the edge of the residential area, at the side of the neighboring hills, a series of terraces, apparently for agricultural use, and a cemetery are present.

The excavation of one of these structures showed, apart from its different construction stages, remodeling, extensions and restorations, and the nature of the activities carried out. A great portion of the area was dedicated, apart from residential use composed of enclosed areas, to storehouses and shops in the form of large yards and open fields.

On the other hand, the excavation of these yards and fields has revealed two complementary features. First, the high numbers of textile artifacts stored, and secondly, the large quantity of food plant remains, suggesting that these yards were temporarily used for drying and processing these plants. The kitchen located in one of the yards, indicated that, apart from the stove and the guinea pigs' pen, a series of large earthen jars buried on the ground were located within its area, with capacities ranging from 700 to 2000 liters, dedicated apparently for the preparation of "chicha" (an alcoholic drink made from the fermentation of maize).

However, the more remarkable feature of these areas was a series of underground storehouses, from 50 cm to 1 m of depth, used for storing dry fish, mainly *Engraulis ringens* (anchovy) and *Sardinaps sagax* (sardine) and occasionally *Menticirrhus*.

Even though the housing areas and yards were kept clean through periodic refuse collection, wastes that occasionally accumulated have provided with the opportunity to discover the presence of thousands of fish-bones and many hundreds of shells, as well as human hair, nails, excrements of llama and guinea pigs (*Cavia porcellus*), fulling mill, needles, fishing net pieces, many types of knits and various remains of plants. Apparently, corn and cotton came from the neighboring farmers, but also these crops might have belonged to the inhabitants of Cerro Azul.

On the other hand, the graves provide important information about the economic specialization of the population since apparently each individual was buried with his/her own work tools. In the graves where men were interned, fishing rigs such as nets, bolas and slings were often found. In the graves of females were found interned knitted belts, sewing tools and wool bags containing thread balls and warp beams. Apart from the great quantity of artistically knitted belts wrapping the corpse, one of the burial offerings that stands out in the case of elite women is small sheets of gold bended and placed on the mouth of the corpse.

A chronology of the study area is shown at Table 6-1.

Table 6-1 Chronology of the Study Area

Relative Chronology	Year	Cañete Valley	Chincha Valley	Ica Valley
Colonial Period	1550		Asambleas Pasto Chincha	Ica 10
Late Horizon Period	1536 1450	Cañete / Inca	Chincha	Ica 9 Ica 8
Late Intermediate Period	1000	Tradición Cañete	Tradición Chincha	Ica 7 Ica 6 Ica 5 Ica 4 Ica 3 Ica 2 Ica 1

Relative Chronology	Year	Cañete Valley	Chincha Valley	Ica Valley
Intermediate Horizon Period	900 600	Cerro del Oro		
Early Intermediate Period	500 AD. 200 BC	(Quebrada Norte)		
Early Horizon Period	800 1000			
Initial Period	1000 2060			
Pre-Ceramics Period	10,000 BC			

6.2 Archeological Investigations at Pampa Melchorita

The area known as Pampa Larga and Playa Melchorita, located between km 168 (UTM Coordinates: N 8,545,000, E 357,000) and km 170 (UTM Coordinates: N 8,546,000 – E 356,000) of Panamerican Highway in the province of Cañete is in the area of influence for the LNG Export Project. This area was part of an archaeological evaluation study conducted on the extensive alluvial terrace, comprised by the western littoral belt from km 154 to km 178 of the Panamerican Highway. The archaeological study area was divided into 5 study sections and each section was subdivided into 5 sectors using the kilometer posts of the highway as reference.

During the archaeological ground survey, the following five sectors were found of interest for further archaeological evaluation at the Project area in Pampa Melchorita:

Section C	
Sector 4 - Km. 167	
UTM Coordinates (Km. 167):	E 359287 - N 8537512
General Characteristics	Slightly undulating terrain with some plain areas. Some seashells, vegetable remains, bird bones observed on the surface.
Sector 5 - Km. 168	
UTM Coordinates (Km. 168):	E 359883 - N 8536707
General Characteristics	Area comprised of ample and slightly undulating terrain. High hills near the sea, ravines and deep cliffs. There is a pedestrian path from Panamerican Highway leading to the beach. Some sea shells, vegetable remains and bird bones were observed suggesting a possibly used by man.

Section D	
Sector 1 - Km. 169	
UTM Coordinates (Km. 169):	E 360445 - N 8535880
General Characteristics:	To the west of the Panamerican Highway there are ample and slightly undulating terrain. Small hills extending towards the beach. A small shell accumulation was detected.
Sector 2 - Km. 170	
UTM Coordinates (Km 170):	E 360849 - N 8534981
General Characteristics:	Ample plane terrain at both sides of the Panamerican Highway. High marine terrace with small hills and deep ravines. Foggy area. Scattered shells were observed in its surface.
Sector 3 - Km. 171	
UTM Coordinates (Km. 171):	E 361141 - N 8534024
General Characteristics:	Lands with similar characteristics to the previous sector. Plane terrain towards the east. Undulating areas and small hills located near the Panamerican Highway. High hills extending towards the west, near the sea.

At the archaeological survey in Pampa Melchorita a total of five (5) test pits of 2m x 2m x 2.5m and 1.5m x 1.5m x 2m respectively and seven (7) shovel tests were conducted with the following results:

Section C – Sector 4	
Site T-2: Accumulation of Organic Remains	
Political location:	Department of Lima, province of Cañete, district of San Vicente de Cañete
Name of the site:	Pampa Melchorita
UTM Coordinates	E 358611 / N 8535507
Altitude:	158 m a s l
Access road:	Panamerican Highway
Distance to the nearest road:	400 m., approximately
Distance to the nearest village:	13 Km. From Jahuay
Proprietary and date:	Ministry of Agriculture, October 2002
Site type:	uni-spatial
Monument class:	organic waste dump (rubbish dump?)
Age estimated:	not determined
Site dimensions:	Max. length: 10 m / Max. width: 8 m.

Section C – Sector 4	
Approximate Area:	100 m ²
Site perimeter:	40 m
Conservation status:	good
Archaeological activities carried out:	test pits
Objects found:	sea shells, vegetable remains, bird bones in the first layer
Importance of the site:	none
Comments: At the surface of the site located at the edge of the cliff, near a fishermen path, scattered material was observed composed of some sea shell fragments, crab pincers and shells and bird bones. 28 m NE from the boundary mark “G-03” and 8 m from the edge of the cliff there were more presence of these elements. An area of 140 m ² was delimited, which was cleaned up to the 50 cm of depth and in which two test pits of 2m x 2m x 2,50m deep were excavated until reaching the natural soil. Both pits show a series of barren layers corresponding to accumulations of sand and concentrations of sterile layers of salt/sand, deposited on a natural calcareous soil, visible in the profile of the cliff. It was not seen any type of cultural element in the area.	

Section C – Sector 5	
Site T-1: Melchorita B. Area with Pieces of Pottery	
Political location:	Department of Lima, province of Cañete, district of San Vicente de Cañete
Name of the site:	Pampa Larga, section Melchorita
UTM Coordinates:	E 358830 / N 8535140
Altitude:	91 m asl
Access routes:	Panamerican Highway
Distance to the nearest road:	800 m approximately
Distance to the nearest village:	10 Km from AA.HH. Néstor Cáceres Velásquez
Proprietary and date:	Ministry of Agriculture, October 2002
Type of the site:	uni-spatial
Monument class:	scattered fragments
Age estimated:	not determined
Site dimensions:	not estimated
Approximate area:	16 m ²
Cause of destruction:	aeolian erosion
Archaeological activities carried out:	None

Section C – Sector 5	
Artifacts and objects in the surface:	very small scarce fragments of pottery scattered and totally eroded.
Importance of the site:	scientific 5
Comments: The site does not have much scientific significance. It is very superficial and the visible fragments could be part of only one object.	

Section D – Sector 1	
Site T-3 : Shell Debris Dump/Rubbish Dump	
Political location:	Department of Lima, province of Cañete, district of San Vicente de Cañete
Name of the site:	Pampa Melchorita
UTM Coordinates	E 359785 N 8534065
Altitude:	171 m a s l
Access road:	Panamerican Highway
Distance to the nearest road:	2 km, approximately
Distance to the nearest village:	7 Km from Jahuay
Proprietary and date:	Ministry of Agriculture, October 2002
Type of the site:	uni-spatial
Class of the monument:	shell debris dump/rubbish dump
Age estimated:	not determined
Site dimensions:	Max. length: 18 m / Width length: 10 m.
Approximate area:	180 m ²
Conservation state:	scarce, good state
Cause of destruction:	Marine erosion
Archaeological activities performed:	test pits
Artifacts and objects found:	seashells, vegetable remains, fragments of glass, fish bones, pebbles.
Importance of the site:	none
Comments: Site T-3 is located 100 m NW from Boundary Mark G-04, at the edge of the cliff. Great part of the surface is covered by a hardened sand/salt layers. The excavation of the two test pits with dimensions of 1.50m x 1,50m x 2 m deep did not find any archaeological element. The remains mentioned were scattered only in the surface layer.	

Section D- Sector 2	
Site T-4 Rubbish Dump	
Political location:	Department of Lima, province of Cañete, district of San Vicente de Cañete
Name of the site:	Pampa Melchorita
UTM Coordinates:	E 360075 / N 8533715
Access roads:	Panamerican Highway
Distance to the nearest road:	2 km, approximately
Distance to the nearest village:	10 Km to Jahuay
Proprietary and date:	Ministry of Agriculture, October 2002
Type of the site:	uni-spatial
Class of the monument:	rubbish dump
Time estimated:	not determined
Dimensions of the site:	Max. length: 15 m / Max. width: 10 m.
Approximate area:	150 m ²
Conservation Status:	scarce, good
Cause of destruction:	marine erosion of the land
Archaeological activities carried out:	test pits and shovel excavations
Artifacts and elements found:	none
Importance of the site:	none
Comments: Superficial site with scarce shell fragments in the surface. This site is located 300 m SW from the Boundary Mark G-04, on the side of a fossil dune very close to the cliff. In the surface, a non-identified fragment of pottery was found. This site is not archaeological.	

The following conclusions were reached from the archaeological evaluation of the direct project area at Pampa Melchorita :

In the area comprised from km 167 to 171 of the Panamerican Highway (surveyed Section C, Sector 4 and 5 and surveyed Section D, Sectors 1, 2 and 3) there are no visible or underlying archaeological remains.

The results of this assessment were included in a report submitted to the National Institute of Culture in October 2002, in compliance with the Regulations for Archaeological Investigations (Supreme

Resolution No. 004-2000-ED) and with the established procedure for the application of a Certificate of Non-Existence of Archaeological Remains (CIRA).

On January 8, 2003, after an evaluation of the archaeological work conducted in the course of this EIA, the National Institute of Culture has issued a Certificate of Non-Existence of Archaeological Remains – CIRA for the project area at Pampa Melchorita (CIRA N°001-2003). A copy of this document is provided at appendix 2.