

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — 14TH JULY, 2008

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PEACE PARK

The World Archaeological Congress endorses the international effort to create the first Archaeological Peace Park at El Pilar Belize/ Guatemala.

A motion in support of this initiative was passed unanimously at the Plenary session of the Sixth World Archaeological Congress, held in Dublin, Ireland.

“This is an important initiative which will support regional efforts to conserve the culture and nature of the Maya forest,” Professor Claire Smith, President of the World Archaeological Congress, said today.

“This Archaeological Peace Park will promote the visibility of shared archaeological resources worldwide. It is a model for protecting shared cultural heritage in other regions of the world.”

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Professor Claire Smith

Mobile: 0872 698 353 (Ireland)

Email: claire.smith@flinders.edu.au

BACKGROUND:

The World Archaeological Congress (WAC) is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization and is the only elected international body of practising archaeologists. WAC holds an international congress every four years to promote the exchange of the results of archaeological research; professional training and public education for disadvantaged nations, groups and communities; the empowerment and betterment of Indigenous groups and First Nations peoples; and the conservation of archaeological sites.

The Sixth World Archaeological Congress (WAC-6) was held from 29th June—4th July at the University College Dublin. This was the first World Archaeological Congress to be held in Ireland. It was attended by over 1,800 archaeologists, native peoples and international scholars from 74 nations. Motions from the Plenary session of the Congress were considered by subsequent meetings of the World Archaeological Congress Council and Executive.

The Congress Patron for WAC-6 was President Mary McAleese. Previous Congress Patrons include Harriet Mayor Fulbright, Prince Charles and Nelson Mandela.