

**Ms. Aura Tatiana Ome Baron (Colombia)**  
**2007-2008 United Nations – The Nippon Foundation of Japan Fellow**

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**Bio-Sketch**

Tatiana obtained her bachelor degree with honors (2003) and master's degree (2006) both in Anthropology from Los Andes University. Her masters dissertation was financed by the National Archaeological Research Foundation of Colombia and was published by Los Andes University. Since 2003, Tatiana has been working with the Colombian Institute of Anthropology and History and Erigaie and Terra Firme Foundations in various archaeological and anthropological research projects. During 2006, Tatiana worked as Cultural Advisor to the Colombian Ocean Commission in the design of the National Policy for the Colombian Oceans and Coastal Zones, among other things. This document was approved in 2007 by the Colombian Government and is now a public policy. Through the design process of this policy, Tatiana guided the development of the social and cultural component, related to the sustainable development and the maritime cultural heritage, which now is her research topic.

**Fellowship Host Institutions and Supervisors**

1. Scottish Centre for International Law, Edinburgh University (Dr. Alan Boyle)
2. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (Dr. François Bilet)

**Research Abstract (preliminary)**

**Constructing the Notion of the Maritime Cultural Heritage in the Colombian Territory:  
Tools for the Protection and Conservation of Fresh and Salt Aquatic Surroundings**

Colombia is the only country of South America with coasts in both oceans, the Atlantic and the Pacific. Now, thanks to the work of the Colombian Ocean Commission, the country has a specific state policy for the oceans and coastal zones, which was approved during 2007. Throughout the design process of this policy, the need to strengthen and intensify the development of social and cultural aspects related to the seas became evident. It was observed that the coastal zones have an important heritage wealth due to the cultural goods and coastal communities (traditions and expressions) that lie in these social spaces and in the maritime cultural landscapes.

However, due to the national internal conflict, the non-sustainable development and to the difficulty to apply mechanisms in favour of these communities, there is a strong possibility that this heritage will disappear. Thus, the objective of this study is to continue working on the elaboration of a notion and the safeguarding of the maritime cultural heritage for the Colombian territory, through the presentation of a theoretical proposal, from an anthropological perspective.

This with the purpose of suggesting some initial parameters for the design of future normative or political instruments, or any other mechanisms, that allow: 1. generate labour possibilities for the coastal populations, in a controlled sustainable development approach; 2. to promote the positive valuation of the coasts, their resources and societies; and 3. to guaranteeing the appropriation, valuation and safeguarding of the maritime cultural heritage in Colombian territory.

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