The presented project is an element of long-term collaboration of Centre for Andean Studies of University of Warsaw and Peruvian Ministry of Culture in Cusco (Dirección Desconcentrada de Cultura Cusco – DDC) in the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu. The territory of interest of the mentioned above collaboration is the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu located in Urubamba province in the region of Cusco (Peru). The Sanctuary occupies the territory of 370 km^2 where we can find 59 archaeological monuments. Machu Picchu, where most scientific research was conducted was founded in the first half of the XV century by the Inca Emperor – Pachacuti. On a basis of an interdisciplinary research and its geographic determinant we believe that Machu Picchu used to perform politic and religious functions. It is situated nearby the Salcantay mountain – one of the most important mountains for the Incas which was considered to by holly. The Salcantay also belongs to Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu. The described region was known only for local people for a long time until it was rediscovered by American History professor Hiram Bingham.

The Chachabamba site, the object of interest of the project, belongs to Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu and is located on the left bank of the Vilcanota river at the altitude of 2172 m a.s.l. Thanks to its localization it belongs to humid subtropical forest climatic zone.

The site is considered to be extraordinary because of a few aspects. The first one is that Chachabamba site is connected to Machu Picchu with the Inca trail and the whole complex is oriented at the Salcantay mountain – which used to be considered an oracle for the Incas. The next important aspect is that in the central sector of the site there is a tooled rock (huaca). The Incas also believed that *huacas* were sacred objects. This particular one is oriented at the Salcantay mountain as well.

The object of interest of the presented project is the water engineering system which consists of canals and fountains at the Chachabamba site. The sacred rock is located in the ceremonial sector surrounded by architectural structures and two symmetric water systems from the east and the west side. It is very interesting that the whole system used to have the estuary straight into the Vilcanota river and did not supply any reservoir in the complex. The purpose of the project is to understand the Inca civil engineers who were in a charge of this masterpiece water system. Moreover the project will try to answer to the main question about the function of this extraordinary structure. The next aspect is the spring of the water system which is unknown now because of the abundant vegetation in the region.

All of those factors indicate that the Chachabamba site used to perform a very important religious function in the precolumbian period. The Chachabamba is an extraordinary site because of one additional important aspect, there hasn't been conducted any archaeological research, therefore the results of this project may give us a lot of new data about the process of the construction of water systems by the Incas.

To accomplish all above purposes there is a enormous need of conducting an interdisciplinary research in the field starting with non invasive methods like teledetection to prepare the described sector for the excavations. The following step will consist of making an elaborated documentation with the use of photogrammetry. The investigation in the field will result in the final part – the excavation in selected on the basis of earlier investigations, sectors in a collaboration with Programa de Investigaciones Arqueologicas e Interdisciplinarias en el Santuario Histórico de Machupicchu. The Program is responsible for all archaeological research in the region of Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu. The final phase of the project is to prepare the site for the touristic activity in a controlled way. All conservation works of the water engineering system at the Chachabamba site will aimed at making it work again as it did in the Incas time . Finally the whole analysis of the research will be published.