

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON NATIONAL PARKS

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2000 P. ST., N.W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C., U.S.A.

Dr. F. C. Lehmann
Apartado Nacional 680
Cali, Colombia



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VIA AIR MAIL

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EUROPEAN TOUR REVEALS INTERESTING POSSIBILITIES

Park planning specialist William J. Hart received a variety of response to proposals for long term support for park systems planning from agencies concerned with resource development. He visited officers of FAO, Council of Europe, UNESCO, OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development), German Federal Republic, and the European Development Fund (within European Economic Commission).

Most officials responded favorably to the idea of direct relationships with IUCN's park systems planning program in either of two ways: direct contract to perform park planning tasks as part of existing agency projects; action on IUCN initiated projects such as recruiting staff and correlating several on-going phases of park systems planning within a single country.

It was found that UNESCO has requested money for use in assisting member countries with conservation problems during the 1965-66 biennium. The money, assuming the General Conference approves the budget item, will be parceled out by UNESCO according to project priorities established by IUCN Morges. Park systems planning projects will have to compete for the available \$15,000 per year with other conservation needs such as conservation education.

The entire issue of future park systems planning will be considered by the IUCN Executive Board during its meeting late in June.

JOINT PROJECTS POSSIBLE WITH IUCN LANDSCAPE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Landscape Planning Committee of the IUCN Ecology Commission held joint meetings with the International Federation of Landscape Architects in Rome early in May. Park planning specialist William J. Hart attended and

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led a productive session on planning for systems of parks. Emphasis was on the many park planning jobs which require the particular talents of the landscape planner.

It was generally agreed that landscape planners will be involved in the establishment of spatial requirements for certain kinds of park areas, in designing the location and appearance of visitor and service facilities within the different kinds of parks, and they will play a major role in shaping the influence of man on the landscape outside of the park reservations themselves.

Several joint projects between the two IUCN committees are possible. First is a joint listing of the skills available in the advanced countries which could be made available to the less advanced countries in meeting park and landscape planning needs. Second, preparation of a handbook dealing with general principles of landscape design for use by field men considering the location of roads, cottages and so on.

LATIN AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS MEETS EMBASSY PEOPLE

The Latin American Committee on National Parks, recommended in Seattle and authorized by the IUCN Executive Board in Nairobi, hosted a group of representatives of Latin American embassies to the United States. The affair was held in the National Academies of Science, Washington, D. C. Also present were officers of the Pan-American Union, the National Academies and those in charge of international programs for U.S. conservation bureaus.

Of great significance from a park systems planning point of view were the remarks of Mr. Francisco J. Hernandez, Permanent Secretary of the Pan American Highway Congresses and Chief of the Technical Cooperation Unit on Tourism of the OAS. He is reported as saying, first, in connection with tourism we must make it clear that in the development of the tourist industry there is apt to be a tendency in certain places, where there is no proper administration, to build facilities within national parks that would bring large crowds that would destroy the very attractions they wish to enjoy. Secondly, he assured the Committee that he would be happy to convey any proposals, messages, or ideas that the Latin American Committee on National Parks might forward to the attention of both the congress groups he is responsible for (Pan American Highway Congress and Inter-American Travel Congress).

NEW INTEREST IN ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORY

The Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe has requested the Council of Cultural Cooperation to prepare a meeting for the creation of a European institution to deal with activities of historic and artistic interest.

A non-governmental organization has been formed within UNESCO for Monuments and Archeological Excavations. It will be closely related to the International Commission for Museums.

In view of the high order of correlation between archeological heritage and national park establishment reported in the British expedition to Jordan (1963) and the UNESCO mission to Ethiopia (1963), natural park specialists ought to carefully consider augmenting the interchange between workers in both fields--particularly those historians and archeologists interested in preservation and interpretation of values.

A PERSONAL NOTE

The resignation of Col. C. D. Trimmer as Director of Uganda National Parks opens the issue of proper administrative structure for administration of national conservation programs. Col. Trimmer felt that the government had established a parks board to administer the outstanding park resources of Uganda without interference. "(The Trustees) position has been seriously undermined by political interference at various levels" and Col. Trimmer felt strongly "... that the preservation of a country's wild life must be seriously jeopardized once it is brought into the political arena." He therefore felt compelled to resign in protest.

No matter what the full facts of the matter might be, Uganda, and thus wildlife conservation in general, has lost a capable and reliable worker. It is a loss that Africa can ill afford.