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NATURAL SESSIONS CLARIFY PROJECT ISSUES

Members of the Park Systems Planning Advisory Committee, attending the General Assembly of IUCN in Nairobi, Kenya, worked until 11:00 p.m. to complete all the items on their agenda. The result of the sessions was admirably summed up in a report to the International Commission on National Parks delivered by Committee Vice Chairman Gert Krug (Germany) on 12th September. His report was duplicated and distributed to all committee members and members of the Executive Board and was available to all delegates.

Historic action by the Board authorized the Commission on National Parks to continue the Park Systems Planning activity for an additional three years, providing funds can be made available. The Board also authorized the Commission on National Parks to staff a "Park Unit" at IUCN headquarters in Morges. The "park unit" would join a staff ecologist and a staff conservation educator also authorized by the Board.

During the course of the meetings it became evident that considerable confusion existed in the minds of many officers of IUCN about the precise role of the Park Planning Project. Much of the confusion was attributed to lack of communication and the fact that some of the activities about to be undertaken by the Project have the appearance of a permanent activity. An article for release in the IUCN BULLETIN will point out that until the Advisory Committee met on 11 September the object was to determine feasibility for such an activity and the project was only half through its prescribed one year investigation stage by mid-September. It did not seem at all advisable for the staff man to make statements for release in the BULLETIN without prior consideration by the Committee. The time now seems ripe to enunciate some of the theoretic framework and philosophy which is still in process of formulation by the Committee.

TRAVEL SCHEDULE ALTERED

For purposes of Project balance, a post Assembly tour was planned for a country which had been treated by African Special Project, Stage III. Nyasaland was chosen after consultation with ASP III field men. However, in response to direct invitations from the governments of Southern and Northern Rhodesia, and in view of a total lack of response by the Government of Pakistan, time was allocated to the Rhodesias where organizational problems for the administration of national parks, wildlife, and recreation are immediate.

Mr. L. H. Stewart, Director of Federal National Parks, whose department will be incorporated in the Government of Southern Rhodesia on 1 November, was host in his nation while Mr. R. I. G. Attwell, Chief Game Officer, Northern Rhodesia Department of Game and Fisheries undertook the host chores for his government.

Stops were made at McIlwaine, Matopos, Wankie, Victoria Falls, and Kafue National Parks and discussions held with officers of present and future governments. The visits made to Wankie and Kafue National Parks were extremely useful as they provided the opportunity to do comparative studies of facilities and earning capacities. Some of the conclusions reached will be available to Committee members as a discussion paper about 1 December.

Accordingly the Pakistan visit has been cut to two days and the Thailand visit extended by one day. The projected stop in Korea and subsequent stop in Japan are going forward on schedule.