



REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA
DEPARTAMENTO DEL VALLE DEL CAUCA

SECRETARIA DE AGRICULTURA Y GANADERIA

No. _____

Cali, March 29th. 1963

Mr. William J. Hart
Park Planning Specialist
International Commission on National Parks
Park System Planning Project
2000 P. St., N.W.,
Washington 6, D. C.- U.S.A.

Bear Mr. Hart:

I have just received your very interesting letter of the 23rd. inst. informing me of your project of coming next May to Cali, to help us in the development of the Parque Nacional de los Farallones de Cali. I am very very grateful for your interest in helping us, and also for Dr. Coolidge's kindness in asking you to come to Colombia first.

Our main problem arises from the lack of interest or knowledge from the part of the Ministry of Agriculture in the establishment and developing of the national parks. I have proposed several times, specially during meetings and congresses the establishment of several national parks. This Idea has had very good echo in the oresent attendants, and recomendations have been drafted for the Ministerio, in order that it takes active move towards this end, but unhapily, the Ministers are changed so often that it is practicaly imposible to get some results. Due to this peculiar circumstance, common to all Latin-American Countries, after consulting with all representatives of these countries, I proposed Recommendation No. 8 of the Seattle Meeting, by which it is asked that wherever possible the control of Natural Resources, and specially the National Parks and Natural Reserves be vested upon an autonomous body, non political, so there will be continuity of programs and efforts, only way to do this in these countries.

Unhapily in Colombia, while this is the intention of President Valencia, to do, it has not yet been possible to start due to very difficult social, political, and economic circumstances affecting administration. But I hope that when you are here we can visit together Dr. Valencia, a personal close friend, and get him started on this move.

Your proposals are very sound and meet with my approval. I think working along these lines we will be able to do a good job here.

In the mean-time I may inform you that we have started the organization of a board to hasten the development of the Parque de los Farallones de Cali project. In this board are represented several governmental, civic, and private organizations. Every representative is very enthusiastic about the project and commission (working) have been elected to distribute the activities taking place now. I hope to be able to write to you again soon about how things are developping here in Cali. I have addressed the Secretary of Agriculture for authorization to take care of your hotel expences while here, since the C.V.C. (Corporación Autónoma Regional del Cauca) on which is vested the conservation of natural resources in

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Valle del Cauca Department, will take care of transportation and housing in the Park area. One executive of this body, Dr. Antonio Posada, was elected President of the Junta Organizadora del Parque de los Farallones de Cali, I was elected Vice-President, and also belong in two of the working commissions, i.e. Scientific Comisión, and Educational Commission.

While here I would like to ask you also to visit the Parque Nacional de Puracé area, which due to lack of information on the part of the Minister of Agriculture is being damaged very fast. This area is near by and can be reached by car from Cali. It is a very important area in the Central Andes, in which exist an active volcano, several andean lakes, snow peaks, páramos, and hot springs, and in total embraces four different biological zones.

Our Ley 2a. de 1.959 (Law No.2 of 1959) practically establishes the National Parks in Colombia, but do not define them, and vests this task upon the Ministry of Agriculture. Based on Articles 12 to 14, of this Law 2, I redacted the projects of Parque de los Farallones de Cali, and Parque de Puracé, but these this far were established by Governor's Decrees of the respective Departments (States) and need the approval of the Ministerio de Agricultura, to become official.

I am sending here-with some documents for your information on these matters.

Weather in May is usually quite rainy in Colombia. But if you could not postpone for say a week or so your visit, please do not esitate to come since it dos not rain every day, or all day long, and is possible to visit several areas of the park, and also perhaps take a flight to overlook the whole area. I have asked a very good private pilot, who is an engineer, and also Member of the Board of the Park to be ready when you arrive to take us on a flight and he has agreed gladly. He is also an aerial photographer and has made many pictures of some of the zones of this park area.

You will hear from me again soon when some developments take place so to keep you informed in detail.

With very best wishes,

Most cordially yours,



F. C. LEHMANN V.
Head of Conservation,
Secre. of Agricultura del Valle