
WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION - IUCN TECHNICAL EVALUATION

MORNE TROIS PITONS NATIONAL PARK (DOMINICA)

1. DOCUMENTATION

- (i) IUCN/WCMC Data Sheet (8 references)
- (ii) Additional Literature Consulted: Wright, M. 1995. Morne Trois Pitons National Park in Dominica: A Case Study in Park Establishment. *Ecology Law Q.* 12:747; Christian, C. et al. 1996. Parrot Conservation and Ecotourism in the Windward Islands. *Journal of Biogeography* 23; Caribbean Conservation Association. 1991. Dominica Country Environmental Profile; Thorsell, J. 1984. National Parks form the Ground Up: Experience From Dominica, West Indies. *in National Parks, Conservation and Development*. Smithsonian Press; McNeely, J. et al. 1994. *Protecting Nature - Regional Reviews of Protected Areas*. IUCN.
- (iii) Consultations: 7 external reviewers, Government officials from Ministries of Tourism and of Agriculture, and scientists at Springfield Centre for Environmental Research.
- (iv) Field Visit: J. Thorsell, March, 1996

2. SUMMARY OF NATURAL VALUES

Morne Trois Pitons National Park (MTPNP) is located in the south-central interior of the island of Dominica in the Lesser Antilles. 6,875 ha in size, the park is centered on the 1,342m high volcano called Morne Trois Pitons. Five relatively recent (25 mya) Pleistocene composite volcanoes make up the park which is known for its precipitous slopes and deeply-incised valleys. Dramatic examples of active vulcanism occur in the park. In the Valley of Desolation there are 50 fumaroles and hot springs as well as a "boiling lake", one of the two or three largest in the world. Other landscape features include three freshwater lakes and numerous waterfalls. The climate is humid tropical maritime with rainfall of 7m per year. The area is subject to tropical cyclones, the most recent major one being Hurricane David in 1979. The park contains a rich rainforest flora with six communities which vary with elevation. There are elfin/cloud forest at the summits, montane thicket, montane rainforest, mature rainforest, secondary rainforest and semi-evergreen forest. The majority of the 5,000 species of vascular plants found on the island are present in the park including 21 endemics. Also present are 135 species of birds including one endangered parrot, 12 species of bats, four species of reptiles and 30 decapod crustaceans. There is no settlement or major roads within the park, only one small area of agricultural encroachment.

MTPNP has been nominated by the Government of Dominica under natural criteria i, iii and iv.

3. COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS

175 protected areas exist in the insular Caribbean of which 46 are national parks. The Lesser Antilles Biogeographic Province of Udvardy which consists of the ten island countries of the Windward and Leeward Islands have eight national parks of which MTPNP is one. It is, in fact, not only the largest one but the only one with major forest cover and has the most varied volcanic features. Similar volcanic landscapes

on the nearby islands of Guadeloupe, Martinique, St. Lucia and Montserrat are all of considerably less conservation importance, have been significantly altered by human activity and have not been protected by IUCN Category II national parks. Even when compared to the Greater Antilles, MTPNP compares favorably with all the larger islands except Cuba which has a larger and more diverse forest area in Alexander von Humbolt National Park.

Dominica's forests are often referred to in the literature as the most luxuriant and the finest remaining in the Caribbean. Their species richness per unit area compares well with those in mainland South America. The volcanic features, particularly the boiling lake found within MTPNP are also the most varied in the region, though they are surpassed on a global scale in other World Heritage sites such as Kamchatka, Tongariro and Hawaii Volcanoes.

MTPNP has few comparable features with existing island sites on the World Heritage List. In the sense that it is a remnant forest site protected as part of a larger island it is similar only to Garajonay in the Canary Islands, Yakushima in Japan, Vallée de Mai in the Seychelles, and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on the island of Hawaii. All these islands are very distinct in terms of their natural features but many management issues are shared (e.g. tourism pressure).

In sum, MTPNP represents a rare combination of natural features not found on many islands. Luxuriant natural and diverse tropical forest blend with volcanic features of high scenic appeal and scientific interest. The only other site that rivals it in the region is the Northern Forest Reserve also on Dominica. This area has within it a greater extent of mature rainforest and parrot habitat. It does not, however, contain active volcanic features and lacks the scenic appeal provided by the freshwater lakes and five volcanoes in MTPNP. MTPNP is thus one-of-a-kind, the priority one terrestrial park in the Lesser Antilles and one of the two or three most important parks in the entire Caribbean.

4. INTEGRITY

MTPNP is not large by international standards but is in keeping with the scale of the island (it amounts to about nine percent of the area of Dominica). Deficiencies in its boundaries include the lack of key parrot habitat on the side of Morne Watt and lack of an extension to the Atlantic coast. As private land is involved in both these instances the "ideal" boundary could not be achieved. Another shortcoming in the boundary is the existence of some private land near the Freshwater Lake which is presently being cultivated. The Forestry and Wildlife Division are in the process of acquiring this inholding through a Trust fund being set up with the help of the Nature Conservancy.

The park has a management plan but it was prepared by an external consultant and is not being fully implemented as it was not officially adopted. An update of this plan using locally-available expertise is suggested. (The authorities in Dominica have since made a technical assistance request to revise the plan.)

Over the past ten years MTPNP has been adversely affected by several damaging activities including the development of a shooting range and quarry near the Emerald Pool and a new transmission line built through the central area. A major negative change was the augmentation of hydro-power infrastructure at Freshwater Lake which involved a new pipeline, water diversion channel and new access road. This type of activity was allowed for in the original Parks Act but, in view of MTPNP's World Heritage nomination, further expansion of this facility should be discouraged. (Since the Bureau meeting the authorities have written to note that the "Government has no plans to expand hydro development in MTNP.")

Finally, there are minor problems with feral animals (pigs) and some poaching occurs. Tourism pressure (particularly cruise ships) has become a serious issue at several localized sites and is receiving attention from the park director and his staff. The park has been the recipient of substantial donor aid since 1975 and

will soon be more economically viable with a new user-fee system which will be implemented in the near future.

5. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

MTPNP would have much to gain in sharing experience in managing a national park on a small island with other World Heritage island sites. A “twinning” arrangement might be explored (possibly through the ‘Parkshare’ scheme supported by IUCN’s World Commission on Protected Areas) if it succeeds in being added to the World Heritage List.

6. APPLICABILITY OF WORLD HERITAGE NATURAL CRITERIA

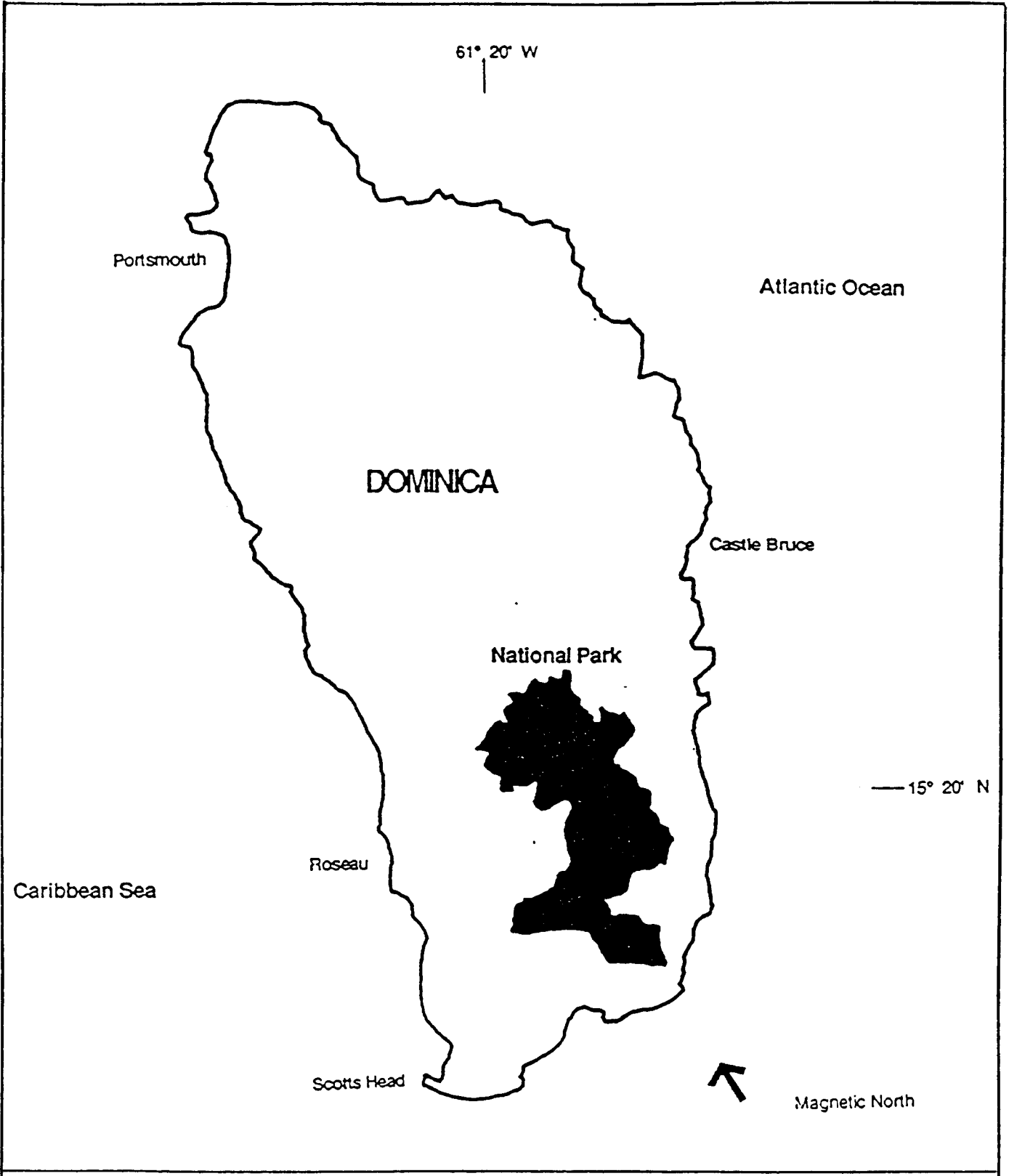
MTPNP is a park of high natural value containing a diverse and luxuriant flora with a sequence of five vegetation zones. Due to its steep topography, high rainfall and important local watershed protection values it has remained largely in its natural condition, a rare such area in the intensely settled islands of the Lesser Antilles. It also has high scenic values with five volcanoes, three freshwater lakes, waterfalls and many rivers. Its dacitic-andesitic volcanic features along with the geomorphological processes of reduction provide an outstanding laboratory for scientific research. Floral diversity is quite high with 21 endemics though no threatened species occur.

IUCN thus concludes that MTPNP meets natural criterion (i) for its distinctive geology and landforms as well as criterion (iv) for diversity of its tropical forests, the most outstanding remaining in the insular Caribbean. Conditions of integrity are met for both these criteria. The case for criterion iii was not convincingly made in the nomination and IUCN concludes that it is secondary to i and iv.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Bureau recommended that MTPNP be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of natural criteria (i) and (iv). The Committee may wish to consider additional recommendations to the Government of Dominica on the issues brought out in this evaluation namely:

- the need for an up-dated official management plan;
- the discouragement of further hydro power development in the park as incompatible with World Heritage status;
- encouragement of boundary extensions and removal of the inholding area near Freshwater Lake; and
- a possible “twinning” arrangement with a similar World Heritage island forest park.



MORNE TROIS PITONS NATIONAL PARK

Commonwealth of Dominica - West Indies

COUNTRY Commonwealth of Dominica

NAME Morne Trois Pitons

IUCN MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

Morne Trois Pitons National Park

II (National Park)

Natural World Heritage property (proposed) - Criteria i, ii, iii, iv

BIOGEOGRAPHICAL PROVINCE 8.41.13 (Lesser Antillean)

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION Morne Trois Pitons is located 13km east of the town of Roseau in the highlands of south-central Dominica. 15°16'-15°23'N, 61°17'-61°21'W

DATE AND HISTORY OF ESTABLISHMENT Morne Trois Pitons was first proposed as a forest reserve in 1952. The area was designated as National Park under the National Parks and Protected Areas Act No. 16 of July 1975.

AREA 6,857ha

LAND TENURE Morne Trois Pitons National Park was established from former government lands and a private contribution from the former Middleham Estate, which was originally donated to The Nature Conservancy by John Archbold. The Conservancy held the approximately 400ha of land in trust until 1980, and then transferred ownership to the Commonwealth of Dominica for inclusion in the park. A few small private inholdings remain and certain rights-of-way have been granted to the Dominica's Electric Utility Company (DOMLEC).

ALTITUDE 500-1,220m

PHYSICAL FEATURES Morne Trois Pitons is the basaltic spike-like remains of a former volcano rising to approximately 1,300m, within eight kilometres of the sea. The landscape is characterised by volcanic piles with precipitous slopes, and deeply incised valleys (glacis slopes). There is also a fumarole known as Valley of Desolation (or Grand Soufriere), with fumaroles, hot springs, mud pots, sulphur vents and the Boiling Lake, which is the world's second largest of its kind. The valley is a large amphitheatre surrounded by mountains and consisting of at least three separate craters where steam vents, small ponds, and hot springs bubble up through the ground. Boiling Lake is surrounded by cliffs and is almost always covered by clouds of steam. The lake's water level and colour are highly variable, often bubbling and churning at about 95°C, and making dull roaring sounds. The Valley of Desolation drains into the Pointe Mulatre River, which flows into the Atlantic Ocean.

Other outstanding features in the area include the Emerald Pool, fed by the Middleham Falls; Stinking Hole, a lava tube in the middle of the forest; and the Boeri and Freshwater Lakes. The Freshwater Lake is the largest and second deepest of Dominica's four freshwater lakes. The Boeri Lake is the second largest in Dominica, and is located in the crater of an extinguished volcano. Both lakes are separated from each other by Morne Macaque (1,221m) and vary in depth with the season. Both are thought to have originated about 25,000-30,000 years ago. The park also encompasses nearly all the headwaters of the streams and rivers in the southern half of the island.

According to Lang (1967), there are three types of soils groups represented within the park, allophanoid clays, kandoid, and protosols. These soils are primarily differentiated by the degree of chemical weathering they have undergone.

CLIMATE The climate is classified as humid tropical marine, with little seasonal or diurnal variation. During most of the year there are gentle trade winds averaging 14.5kph. Average temperature range is about 19-27°C from January to June, and 21°C-28°C during the rest of the year. Relative humidity is very high at approximately 95 percent, rarely falling below 85 percent. Nearly all the lower elevation rainfall occurs between June and January. Precipitation is usually short in duration but intense, with an average exceeding 7,600mm per year (The Nature Conservancy, 1995).

VEGETATION According to McKenzie (1984), the following five natural vegetation zones are recognised within the area, plus a small patch of encroaching agricultural land. First, elfin/cloud forest, which occurs at the highest elevations, above 914m, and is almost constantly covered by mist and subject to high winds, rain, and cold temperatures. Main vegetation types consist of mosses, ferns, shrubs and stunted trees covered by lichens. The two predominant species are *Clusia venosa* and *Lobelia cirisifolia*. Second, montane thicket, which is transitional between elfin and montane forests, and is dominated by spindly trees, about 12-15m high with small canopies. The most common tree found on steep slopes is *Podocarpus coriaceus*, the island's only native conifer. In flatter areas, the main tree is *Amanoa caribaea* (V). Third, montane rain forest, which grows above 610m and is frequently in cloud cover or fog. The species composition is similar to that of mature rain forest, yet much reduced in stature. Non-vascular epiphytes cover most montane rain forest plants. Fourth, mature rain forest, which grows below 460m. This zone contains the most luxuriant growth, and is dominated by *Dacryodes excelsa*, *Sloanea* spp., and *Licania ternatensis*. Fifth, secondary rain forest. Vestigial old stands often remain, surrounded by smaller re-growth. Common species include *Cyathea* spp., *Miconia guianensis*, *Simarouba amara* and *Chimarrhis cymosa*.

FAUNA A full faunal inventory is yet to be completed. However, previous surveys indicate the occurrence of at least seven species of mammal, 50 birds, 12 reptiles and amphibians and 12 crustaceans.

Apart from introduced opossum *Didelphys marsupialis* and agouti *Dasyprocta agouti*, there are no terrestrial mammals in the area. Other introduced mammals include feral cats and pigs and rats.

Birds include imperial amazon *Amazona imperialis* (VU) and red-necked amazon *A. arausiaca* (VU). Imperial amazon was formerly common but is now threatened in Dominica. A reduced population of the species existed in the Morne Watt area prior to Hurricane David, but now its existence in the park is uncertain. Red-necked amazon was also a commonly seen species, but now is rarely observed in only a few small areas of the park.

There are no poisonous snakes in Dominica. Boa *Boa constrictor nebulosa* grows to 3.6m in length and is common in Morne Trois Pitons. Three species of lizards, including the endemic *Anolis oculatus*, exist in the park. The island's two native species of tree frogs, including the endemic *Eleutherodactylus amplinympha*, also occur in the park.

There is also a wide variety of moths, butterflies and other insects.

CULTURAL HERITAGE No information available

LOCAL HUMAN POPULATION Being located in the roadless interior of Dominica there are only a few small holder farmers using land near the park boundary. Because the area contains the major source of electric power for the island, and of freshwater for several southern communities, the Commonwealth of Dominica reserved certain water and power rights when the National Parks and Protected Areas Act of 1975 was conceived. Currently, DOMLEC rights-of-way and about two hectares of private inholdings are clustered near Freshwater Lake, a primary entry to the park. There is also a small quarry towards the northeastern border of the Park.

VISITORS AND VISITOR FACILITIES The area receives a number of tourists which increases each year (Ministry of Tourism, Ports and Employment, 1996). Visitors can drive into the park at two locations: the village of Laudat on the road from Roseau, and the Emerald Pool site on the cross-island road between Roseau and Castle Bruce. Approximately 10,000-15,000 visitors walk to the Emerald Pool each year, and another 1,500-2,000 take the six kilometre hike to the Boiling Lake (J. Thorsell, pers. comm.). A number of ancient trails or footpaths, traverse the park running roughly east-west between mountains or north-south along ridges. Some of these were used in the recent past (before the development of roads to the east, completed in 1960) for access to Roseau, and are use for sightseeing. Others were used for hunting and still are used for access to the Valley of Desolation. Some facilities (picnic shelters, tables, washrooms) have been constructed in the park. In addition, a variety of publications (brochures, booklets, leaflets) pertaining to the park and its main attractions have been produced. The park's education program is facilitated through the Environmental Education Unit of the Forestry and Wildlife Division.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND FACILITIES Scientific research in the park includes biological studies (flora and fauna distribution/abundance) in the Freshwater Lake area; assessment of environmental impact of ecotourism and recreation; measures of the flow rate of selected streams in the Freshwater/Boeri Lakes area; analysis of past impact of tropical cyclones; studies of natural regeneration of the flora; assessment of the impact of Hurricane David (1979) on the vegetation; and evaluations of the presence of inert gases released by fumaroles in the Valley of Desolation. A university research and training facility is located adjacent to the park at Springfield.

CONSERVATION VALUE Morne Trois Pitons National Park includes within its boundaries the headwaters of most major streams and rivers in the southern half of the island. The area protects large tracts of almost intact tropical forest and associated fauna. In particular, the park appears is important for imperial and red-necked amazons, as well as for other species of conservation concern.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT The agency responsible for the management of Morne Trois Pitons National Park is the Forestry and Wildlife Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment of Dominica. Non-governmental organizations with important supporting roles include the Dominica Conservation Association (DCA) and Dominica's Electric Utility Company (DOMLEC). In 1975, the first preliminary plan outlining management guidelines for the park was prepared (Thorsell, 1975). In 1989, a ten-year management plan for the park was written. Guidelines for the management of the park

are also included in the plan prepared by Scheele on behalf of the Organization of American States (1991).

MANAGEMENT CONSTRAINTS In 1990, Morne Trois Pitons National Park was classified as being in peril by The Nature Conservancy. A major threat to the area is the foreseeable continuation of hydroelectric and thermal energy development. Recent construction of a hydroelectric project in the park, which occurred without adequate impact assessment and mitigation design, resulted in temporarily increased soil erosion around Freshwater Lake and along the pipeline, deterioration of an access road, stream sedimentation, and possibly a major land-slide. Pipeline rights-of-way for one hydroelectric project have been transferred to DOMLEC, complicating decision making in the park. Increased tourism, the need for increasing monitoring and other programs are placing pressure on the limited staff and financial resources of the Forestry and Wildlife Division (The Nature Conservancy, 1995). It is not known to what extent introduced mammal species may be disturbing the native fauna and flora.

STAFF A total staff of three full time people, including a deputy director and two forest officers. Field supervision is part of the duties of local forest rangers. Some 20 casual labourers also work on trail and facility maintenance (J. Thorsell, pers.comm., 1997).

BUDGET An operational budget is provided but capital improvement projects have only been carried out with donor assistance (J. Thorsell, pers.comm., 1997).

LOCAL ADDRESSES

Forestry and Wildlife Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment.
Government Headquarters, Roseau, Commonwealth of Dominica, West Indies (Tel: 809 4482401/4483414, Fax: 809 4487999)

REFERENCES

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DATE January 1997

DÉSIGNATION POUR LE PATRIMOINE MONDIAL - ÉVALUATION TECHNIQUE UICN

PARC NATIONAL DE MORNE TROIS PITONS (LA DOMINIQUE)

1. DOCUMENTATION

- (i) Fiches techniques UICN/WCMC (8 références)
- (ii) Littérature consultée: Wright, M. 1995. Morne Trois Pitons National Park in Dominica: A Case Study Establishment. *Ecology Law Q.* 12:747; Christian C. et al. 1996. Parrot Conservation and Ecotourism in the Windwards Islands. *Journal of Biogeography* 23: Caribbean Conservation Association 1991. Dominica Country Environmental Profile; Thorsell, J. 1984. National Parks from the Ground Up: Experience from Dominica, West Indies, in *National Parks, Conservation and Development*. Smithsonian Press; McNeely, J. et al. 1994. *Protecting Nature - Regional Reviews of Protected Areas*. IUCN.
- (iii) Consultations: 7 examinateurs indépendants; fonctionnaires des ministères du Tourisme et de l'Agriculture, chercheurs du Springfield Centre for Environmental Research.
- (iv) Visite du site: J. Thorsell, mars 1996.

2. RÉSUMÉ DES CARACTÉRISTIQUES NATURELLES

Le Parc national de Morne Trois Pitons (PNMTP) est situé au centre-sud de l'île de la Dominique, dans les Petites Antilles. Avec une superficie de 6875 ha, le parc est centré sur le Morne Trois Pitons, volcan qui culmine à 1342 mètres et comprend cinq volcans composites du Pléistocène, relativement jeunes (25 millions d'années). Le PNMTP est connu pour ses pentes escarpées, ses vallées étranglées et les phénomènes volcaniques spectaculaires que l'on y trouve. Dans la vallée de la Désolation, il n'y a pas moins de 50 fumerolles, des sources d'eau chaude et un «lac bouillonnant», l'un des deux ou trois plus grands du monde. Il y a, en outre, trois lacs d'eau douce et de nombreuses chutes d'eau. Le climat est de type tropical humide et maritime; avec 7 m de précipitations par an. La région est sujette aux cyclones tropicaux, le plus récent ayant été l'ouragan David, de 1979. Le parc possède une riche flore de forêt pluviale avec 6 communautés qui varient en fonction de l'altitude. En outre, il y a des forêts rabougries/de brouillard sur les sommets, des fourrés montagnards, des forêts pluviales de montagne, des forêts pluviales matures, des forêts pluviales secondaires et des forêts semi-sempervirentes. La majeure partie des 5000 espèces de plantes vasculaires présentes sur l'île est également présente dans le parc, y compris 21 plantes endémiques. On y trouve également 135 espèces d'oiseaux dont un perroquet menacé d'extinction, 12 espèces de chauve-souris, quatre espèces de reptiles et 30 espèces de crustacés décapodes. Il n'y a pas d'établissements dans le parc ni de grandes routes mais on y trouve une petite zone d'empiétement agricole.

Pour justifier l'inscription du PNMTP au patrimoine mondial, le gouvernement de la Dominique a invoqué les critères naturels i, iii et iv.

3. COMPARAISON AVEC D'AUTRES AIRES PROTÉGÉES

Aux Antilles, il y a 175 aires protégées dont 46 sont des parcs nationaux. La Province biogéographique des Petites Antilles (selon Udvardy) comprend les dix pays insulaires des îles au vent et sous-le-vent et compte huit parcs nationaux dont le PNMTP. Celui-ci est non seulement le plus grand, mais aussi le seul à avoir une importante couverture forestière et il possède les caractéristiques volcaniques les plus variées. Il y a des paysages volcaniques semblables dans les îles voisines de la Guadeloupe, la Martinique, Sainte-Lucie et Monserrat mais ils sont tous de bien moindre importance du point de vue de la conservation, ont été profondément transformés par l'homme et ne bénéficient pas de la protection conférée par la Catégorie II des parcs nationaux de l'UICN. Lorsqu'on le compare aux parcs des grandes îles des Grandes Antilles, le PNMTP l'emporte dans tous les cas, sauf à Cuba où le Parc national Alexander von Humbolt possède une forêt plus vaste et plus variée.

Dans la littérature, on décrit souvent les forêts de la Dominique comme les plus luxuriantes et les plus belles des Antilles. Leur richesse en espèces, par unité de surface, soutient la comparaison avec les forêts du continent sud-américain. Les caractéristiques volcaniques - avec, en particulier, le lac bouillonnant qui se trouve dans le PNMTP - sont aussi les plus variées de la région, bien qu'elles soient surpassées au niveau mondial par celles d'autres biens du patrimoine mondial tels que les volcans du Kamtchatka, Tongariro et les volcans d'Hawaï.

Le PNMTP a peu de caractéristiques comparables avec celles des biens insulaires inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial. Si l'on considère qu'il s'agit d'une forêt vestige protégée, comprise dans une île plus vaste, il est comparable à Garajonay aux îles Canaries, Yakushima au Japon, la Vallée de Mai aux Seychelles et au Parc national des volcans d'Hawaï sur l'île d'Hawaï. Toutes ces îles sont très différentes du point de vue des caractéristiques naturelles, mais partagent les mêmes problèmes de gestion (par ex., les pressions du tourisme).

En résumé, on trouve, dans le PNMTP, une association rare de caractéristiques naturelles que présentent peu d'îles. Une forêt tropicale luxuriante, naturelle et diverse se marie à des caractéristiques volcaniques d'un grand intérêt du point de vue panoramique et scientifique. Dans la région, le seul autre site qui puisse rivaliser avec le PNMTP est la Réserve forestière septentrionale, également à la Dominique, où l'on trouve une plus grande superficie de forêts pluviales à maturité et un habitat pour les perroquets. En revanche, la Réserve ne possède pas de phénomènes volcaniques actifs et n'a pas l'attrait que les lacs d'eau douce et les cinq volcans confèrent au PNMTP. Le PNMTP est donc unique en son genre; c'est le parc terrestre prioritaire dans les Petites Antilles et d'un des deux ou trois parcs les plus importants de toutes les Antilles.

4. INTÉGRITÉ

Le PNMTP n'est pas très grand au regard des normes internationales mais il est proportionné aux dimensions de l'île (il occupe environ 9% de la superficie de la Dominique). Ses points faibles sont l'absence d'habitat approprié pour les perroquets du côté du Morne Watt et l'absence de territoire vers la côte Atlantique. Étant donné que, dans les deux cas, il y a des problèmes de propriété privée, il sera impossible d'obtenir la délimitation «idéale». Autre problème, l'existence de domaines privés cultivés à proximité de Freshwater Lake. Le Département des forêts et des ressources naturelles tente actuellement de les racheter. À cet effet, il a établi une fondation (Trust Fund) avec l'aide du Conservatoire de la nature (Nature Conservancy).

Le parc dispose d'un plan de gestion. Malheureusement, il a été rédigé par un consultant indépendant et n'est pas appliqué car il n'a pas été adopté officiellement. Il serait bon de mettre ce plan à jour en faisant appel à des compétences locales. (Depuis, les autorités de la Dominique ont fait une demande d'assistance technique pour réviser le plan).

Depuis dix ans, le PNMTP a été gravement affecté par diverses activités dommageables, dont l'ouverture d'un champ de tir et d'une carrière près d'Emerald Pool, et la construction d'une nouvelle ligne à haute tension à travers la zone centrale. L'expansion des infrastructures hydro-électriques près de Freshwater Lake, avec la construction d'une nouvelle conduite, d'un canal de détournement des eaux et d'une nouvelle route d'accès a causé de graves dommages. Ce type d'activités était, à l'origine, autorisé par la Loi sur les parcs, mais compte tenu de la présente désignation pour inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial, il serait bon de mettre un terme à toute nouvelle expansion. (Depuis la réunion du Bureau, les autorités ont fait savoir, par écrit, que «le Gouvernement n'a aucun plan d'expansion de la mise en valeur hydro-électrique dans le PNMTP»).

Enfin, il existe des problèmes mineurs dus à la présence d'animaux redevenus sauvages (cochons) et au braconnage. Les pressions du tourisme (en particulier des bateaux de croisière) constituent un sérieux problème en différents endroits et retiennent toute l'attention du directeur du parc et de son personnel. Depuis 1975, le parc a bénéficié de l'aide substantielle de bailleurs de fonds. Sa viabilité économique sera bientôt améliorée, lorsque le nouveau système de droits d'entrée sera appliqué.

5. AUTRES COMMENTAIRES

Le PNMTP aurait beaucoup à gagner à l'échange d'expérience en matière de gestion de parcs nationaux sur de petites îles avec d'autres biens du patrimoine mondial. On pourrait envisager la possibilité d'un accord de jumelage (éventuellement dans le cadre du programme «Parkshare» mis au point par la Commission mondiale des aires protégées de l'UICN) si le PNMTP est inscrit sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial.

6. CHAMP D'APPLICATION DES CRITÈRES NATURELS DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

Le PNMTP est un parc de grande valeur naturelle à la flore diverse et luxuriante, s'étageant en cinq zones de végétation. Grâce à sa topographie accidentée, au niveau élevé des précipitations et à son intérêt pour la protection des bassins versants locaux, il est resté pratiquement intact, ce qui est chose rare dans les îles très peuplées des Petites Antilles. En outre, le parc offre de superbes paysages avec cinq volcans, trois lacs d'eau douce, des chutes d'eau et beaucoup de rivières. Avec ses particularités volcaniques dacitiques-andésitiques, ainsi que les processus de réduction géomorphologique, c'est un laboratoire hors du commun pour la recherche scientifique. La diversité de la flore est relativement élevée avec 21 espèces endémiques, bien que l'on ne trouve aucune espèce menacée.

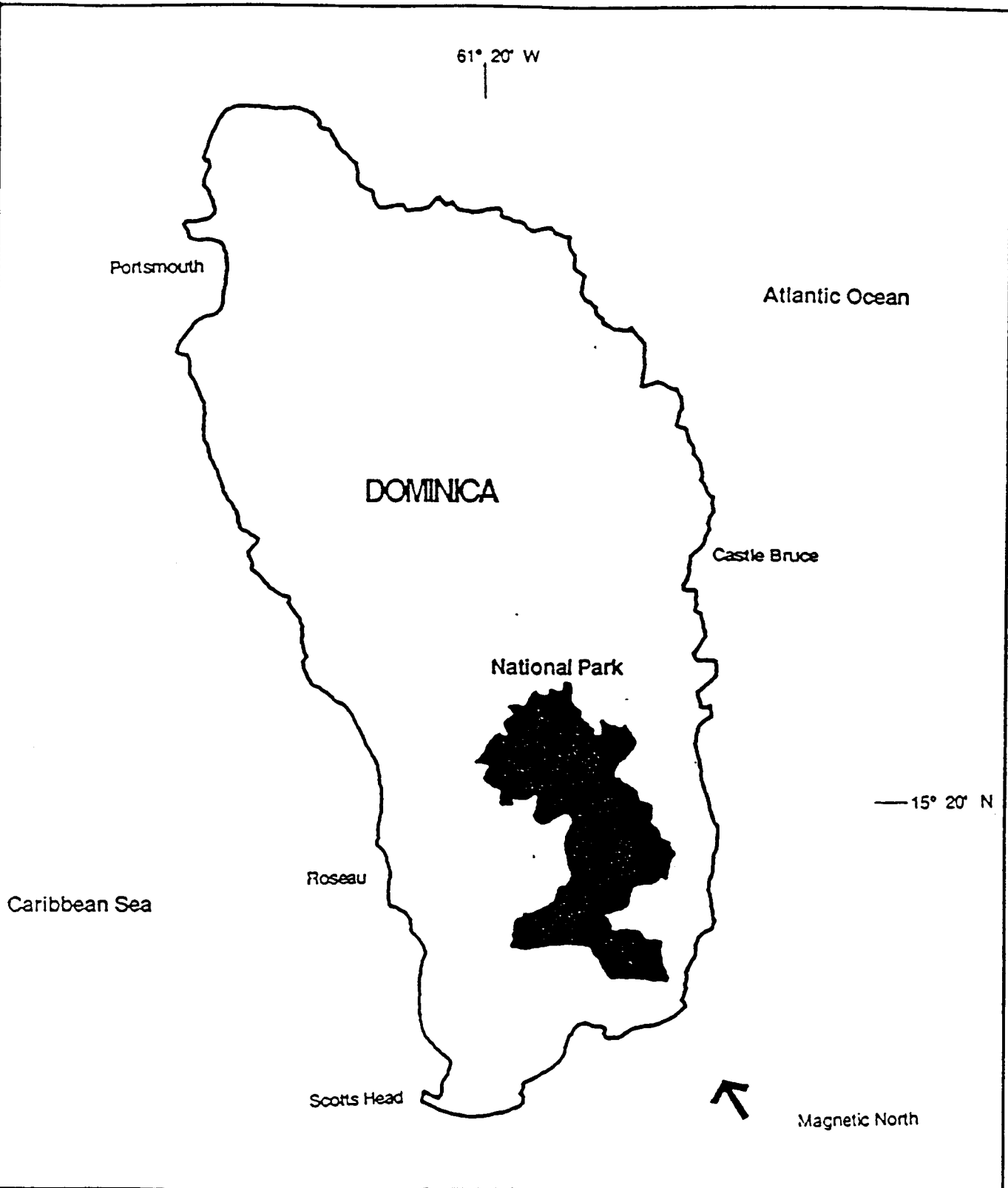
En conséquence, l'UICN conclut que le PNMTP satisfait au critère (i) pour sa géologie et sa topographie remarquables, ainsi qu'au critère (iv) pour la diversité de ses forêts tropicales, les plus spectaculaires des Antilles. Les conditions d'intégrité attachées à ces deux critères sont remplies. Le critère (iii) n'est pas justifié de façon convaincante et l'UICN conclut qu'il est secondaire par rapport aux critères i et iv.

7. RECOMMANDATIONS

Le Bureau recommande d'inscrire le PNMTP sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial, sur la base des critères naturels (i) et (iv). Le Comité est invité à examiner la possibilité de communiquer, au gouvernement de la Dominique, les recommandations suivantes, relatives aux problèmes mentionnés dans cette évaluation:

- nécessité de disposer d'un plan de gestion officiel et actualisé;
- mettre un terme à toute nouvelle mise en valeur hydro-électrique dans le parc qui serait incompatible avec le statut de bien du patrimoine mondial;
- agrandissement de la superficie du parc et suppression de la zone cultivée près de Freshwater Lake; et

- éventuel accord de “jumelage” avec un parc forestier insulaire semblable inscrit au patrimoine mondial.



MORNE TROIS PITONS NATIONAL PARK

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