

2. NAHANNI, CANADA

Criteria (10) - Outstanding universal value

The Nahanni National Park represents an unexploited natural area, 4,700 sq.km in extent. The major geological and geomorphological features: three river canyons (290 km) cutting at right angles to the mountain ranges, the 99 m Virginia Falls, the 17 m tufta mounds of the Rabbit Kettle Hotsprings, ^(~~of~~) the Karst topography, provide a combination of geological processes which are unique in the World.

The undisturbed nature of the regions vegetation provides habitat for breeding and nesting populations of four endangered species; Peregrine falcons, Golden eagles, Bald eagles, and Trumpeter swans. Mammal populations (40 species) include grey wolf, grizzly bear, Dall's sheep and mountain goat.

The ongoing geological processes and the superlative natural phenomena justify the inclusion of the Nahanni under criteria C. 10(ii) and (iii) and to a lesser extent (iv).

Criteria (11) - Integrity

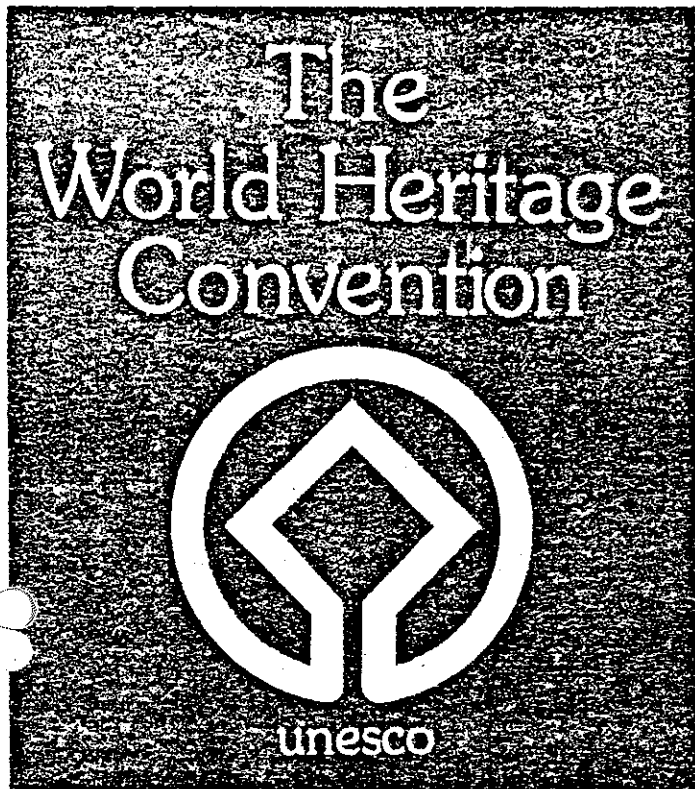
The area is of sufficient size to be self-perpetuating vis-à-vis criteria (ii) and (iv). With regard to criteria (ii) it would be desirable to incorporate the entire upstream watershed in the World Heritage Site even if it is not included in the National Park.

Recommendation

✓ Declare a World Heritage Site

IUCN
May, 1978

1978



IUCN TECHNICAL REVIEW FOR 1978
EVALUATION TECHNIQUE DE L'UICN POUR 1978



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TELEGRAMMES: UNICORN MORGES

In your reply, please refer to:
En répondant, veuillez rappeler:

D/1/2
CN/2/15

H. Eidsvik

Mr. Bernd VonDroste
UNESCO
7, Place Fontenoy
75700 PARIS
France

31 May 1978

Hand
Dear Mr. Von Droste,

World Heritage Sites - Screening Process

You will be receiving under separate cover IUCN's recommendations on five World Heritage proposals. Briefly we have recommended the following:

✓ (1) Galapagos - accept

✓ (2) Nahanni - accept, with a request that the total watershed be included.

diff (3) Simien - accept if committee is satisfied that integrity can be maintained.

→ *diff* (4) Ichkeul - accept if "regional international significance" (i.e. most important wetland site in northern Africa) satisfies committee criteria. See letter from M. Smart

(5) Zembra and Zembretta - reject. *diff* *diff*

Proc. Rec. (6) yellowstone (A) (7) Djoudj (8) BIAZOWIEZA

IUCN's screening committee consisted of the following:

Mr. Harold K. Eidsvik, Chairman
Mr. Mats Segnestam, Marine Programme Officer
Dr. Chew Wee-Lek, Asian Desk Officer
Mr. Felipe Matos, Latin America Desk Officer
Dr. Marten Bijleveld, Special Projects and Birds of Prey
Mr. John Kundaeli, African Desk Officer
Dr. Pierre Hunkeler, European and North American Desk Officer

Consultation was also carried out with the International Waterfowl Bureau, Galapagos Foundation and Pro Simien in Switzerland as well as other IUCN staff.

In all cases except one there was either direct field knowledge of the site or our files contacts were sufficiently comprehensive to arrive at a judgement.

In future screening I would strongly urge that full documentation be forwarded to IUCN including maps, bibliography, photographic documentation. This data can of course be returned later.

There were weaknesses in all submissions, for example:

(1) Galapagos

- Boundaries of the proposed area were not clear, the bibliography was inadequate;
- the support of the Director of national parks was not indicated and in essence he will be the management authority.

(2) Nahanni

- Without specific field knowledge of the area it would not be possible to judge the proposal from the data received.

(3) Zembra and Zembretta

- The source of the scientific information, e.g. 10,000 monk seals, 10 pairs of nesting falcons, the marine resources, requires further scientific documentation as the information appears contradictory to normal conditions.

(4) Simien and Lake Ichkeul

- Where the integrity of an area is doubtful, e.g. proposed water diversions (Ichkeul), control of hunting, pasturage and agriculture (Simien) the WHC should require further documentation from a higher government authority, than the managing agency that the protection efforts will be increased to ensure the integrity of the site.

It would be useful if the WHC could clarify the question of "conditional acceptance". For example the natural values of an area may without doubt be of World Heritage quality and yet related factors such as management, protection, etc. may place the potential area in an extremely doubtful position. IUCN would appreciate receiving clarification on its role on reporting on other than "natural values".

The question of legal protection is perhaps one which could be pursued, along with the same question for Biosphere Reserves under contract with IUCN's Environmental Law and Policy Commission. Your view in this respect would be appreciated.

It goes without saying that the screening time available on this occasion was inadequate. We would like to be able to consult IUCN members in relation to many scientific matters. It is suggested that the schedule be adjusted so that a deadline for accepting nominations screening be established six months prior to the Council meeting. In this respect I must say that we are guilty parties in not producing model files in time for early submission. Having now had the opportunity to utilize the

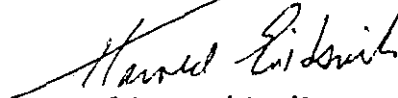
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nomination forms and to screen several applications I really wonder whether there is a need for the model files?

I hope that we may discuss the content of this letter sometime prior to the meetings of the secretariat on June 8th and 9th.

With best regards.

Yours sincerely,



Harold K. Eidsvik
Executive Officer, CNPPA

Enclosure

c.c. Françoise Burhenne-Guilmin, Bonn

CANADA-Nahanni National Park

CANADA - Northwest Territories

NAME Nahanni National Park

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY II (National Park)
X (World Heritage Site - Criteria: ii, iii, iv)

BIOGEOGRAPHICAL PROVINCE 1.04.03 (Canadian Taiga)

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION South-west corner of Northwest Territories, along the South Nahanni River and part of the Flat River. 61°04'-62°00'N, 123°36'-127°30'W

DATE AND HISTORY OF ESTABLISHMENT Established as a national park reserve in 1972. Accepted as a World Heritage site in 1978.

REA 476,560ha

LAND TENURE Government of Canada

ALTITUDE 180m-2,700m

PHYSICAL FEATURES The park encompasses parts of the Hyland Plateau, Selwyn Mountains, Liard Plateau, Mackenzie Plain and Mackenzie Mountains and a major part of the Nahanni River, one of North America's finest wild rivers. The Flat and South Nahanni rivers are older than most of the mountain ranges they cut through. In the northern area of the park are the peaks of Ragged Range, Hole-in-the-Wall Lake and a 41°C hot spring. In the valley below, Rabbit kettle hot spring rises in a succession of terraces to a height of 30m. Other features of the area include three major canyons up to 19km long and 1,000m-1,300m deep, spectacular waterfalls with 100m drop, caves in the steep limestone cliffs, extensive spectacular karst terrain and large areas that have been unglaciated for up to 300,000 years.

CLIMATE Cold continental with wide monthly variations in temperature and precipitation from year to year.

VEGETATION The park contains transitional and vegetation of two major biomes, the Nearctic boreal forest and Nearctic alpine tundra. All stages of boreal occur, from recent burns to mature spruce forests, with the variations associated with wet, mesic and dry habitats. Dense growth on valley bottoms, with white spruce Picea glauca and poplar Populus sp. dominating. At higher altitudes and on the northern slopes, black spruce Picea mariana is more prominent. Near Virginia Falls a good area of spruce-larch/lichen taiga is present with many orchids as well. Alpine tundra characterised by sedges Carex spp., lichens, grasses and shrubs, occurs on the higher mountains of the Tlogotsho, Headless and Funeral ranges. Wild mint Lamium sp., golden rod Solidago sp., yellow monkey-flower Mimulus guttatus and aster are among the many flowering plants that grow in abundance near mineral springs in the vicinity of Flat

Infobase produced by WCMC, January 1992

River. Almost 600 species of vascular plants and 325 species of bryophytes have been identified in Nahanni.

FAUNA Forty species of mammals including grey wolf Canis lupus (V), grizzly bear Ursus arctos, black bear U. americanus, woodland caribou Rangifer tarandus caribou, moose Alces alces, white-tailed deer Odocoileus virginianus, mountain goat Oreamnos americanus, Dall's sheep Ovis dalli and beaver Castor canadensis. 170 species of birds in 29 families have been observed including peregrine falcon Falco peregrinus anatum (V), golden eagle Aquila chrysaetos, trumpeter swan Olor buccinator and bald eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus. Arctic grayling Thymallus arcticus signifer and Dolly Varden trout Salvelinus alpinus malma, as well as a number of more common species, occur in the streams that flow into the Nahanni and Flat Rivers.

CULTURAL HERITAGE No information

LOCAL HUMAN POPULATION No information

VISITORS AND VISITOR FACILITIES 1,277 park visits in 1988; 600 visits to the Administration Office in Fort Simpson, NWT.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND FACILITIES Ecological land classification, faunal inventories, limnological studies, geomorphology studies and paleozoological studies of Dall Sheep all completed. There are no facilities.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT The park is zoned. The bulk is Zone II (wilderness), with seven Zone I areas (special preservation) and two Zone III areas (natural environment). The special preservation zones contain hot springs, caves, sheep licks and other spectacular geomorphic landforms. The environment designation is for Virginia Falls and Rabittkettle Lake access area.

MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS Native land claims exist and traditional hunting and fishing is undertaken by indigenous native peoples. Mining outside the park would influence water quality within the park.

STAFF 8.93 person-years, fiscal year 1989/90

BUDGET Can\$312,000 (Operation and Maintenance), capital \$389,500

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION Superintendent, Nahanni National Park, PO Bag 300, Fort Simpson, NWT COE ONO
Director, Parks Canada, Prairie Region, 114 Garry Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 1G1

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DATE 1982, updated November 1989
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