

UNION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DE LA NATURE ET DE SES RESSOURCES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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

IUCN REVIEW

World Heritage Nomination

1. NAME: Everglades National Park
2. LOCATION: Southern Florida, USA
3. NOMINATED BY: Mr. David Hales  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, and  
Parks, USDI
4. DOCUMENTATION:
  - i) Nomination form received 2 March 1979
  - ii) Statement for management, Everglades National Park,  
5 May, 1977
  - iii) Applicable legislation (contained in management plan)
  - iv) Topographic map 1:250,000 showing park boundaries
5. BACKGROUND:
  - i) Everglades National Park was authorized by Congress in 1934. It was established on December 6, 1947 by President H.S. Truman. It is the third largest national park in the United States, containing 567,017 ha. approximately 2,000 square miles.
  - ii) Established as a Biosphere Reserve, June 1976.
6. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

For more than 5,000 years, nature had been building one of the most sensitively engineered ecosystems on earth. A huge wet prairie called the Everglades - through the eastern side of this wild-land flowed an almost imperceptible river, only inches deep and 50 miles wide, following a gently curving swathe more than 100 miles long. Along the western side - the Everglades slope of only two inches a mile led the water gently southward.

Fred Ward

National Geographic Vol. 141, No. 8  
January 1972

"The Everglades are unique: they have no counterpart anywhere on earth. Although the region is almost perfectly flat, few landscapes anywhere have a more intricate interplay of physical and biological factors."

Archie Carr  
The Everglades  
Time Life Books  
1973

JUSTIFICATION:

The area has been evaluated against the operational guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, as amended at its 2nd Meeting.

Outstanding universal value

Criteria No. 10 (i) The major stages of the earth's evolutionary history

"The plain is old sea bottom, or, more accurately new sea bottom, since the whole sawgrass region was exposed only a few thousand years ago, by the last retreat of the sea during an ice-age buildup. No folding or warping of the sea bottom was involved. The water simply drained off as the ice at the North and South Poles built up, and the limestone came out as flat as a table top".

Archie Carr  
The Everglades, 1973

Criteria No. 10 (ii) Outstanding sample - biological evolution

"The Everglades provide a habitat for a mixture of animals found nowhere else in the United States and yet contains elements that come from everywhere".

Wm. M. Partington, The Everglades  
Animal Kingdom, December 1967

"Everglades National Park is America's finest, most extensive exhibit of aquatic based biology - it supports the most complex biological community in the country".

Michael Story  
Sierra Club Bulletin  
June 1968

Criteria No. 10 (iv) Habitats where populations of rare or endangered plants and animals still survive

"Everglades is a haven for over 36 rare or endangered animals. The most notable include the Florida panther (Felis concolor corgi)

the manatee (Trichechus manatus latirostris) - the American crocodile (Crocodylus acutus)."

Nomination form (p.4)

"Perhaps the most seriously threatened of all the Everglades birds is the Everglades kite or snail kite. It qualifies as endangered by any definition."

Archie Carr  
The Everglades  
1973

INTEGRITY:

In order to assess the question of integrity a brief history of the area is outlined:

Example 1 - 1905: "The murder of an Audubon warden, Guy Bradley, by poachers of flamingo focused the indignant attention of the world on the bird plume industry".

1973: "Few people are aware that inspite of the environmental disruptions of the past few decades, you can now see more herons and egrets in a day's drive through southern Florida than you could have seen in a whole year back in 1905".

Archie Carr  
The Everglades  
1973

Example 2 - 1938: In fifty years, the Everglades National Park is capable of becoming an outstanding place".

Daniel B. Beard  
Everglades National Park Project  
1938

1969: "Everglades National Park has the dubious distinction of having the most serious preservation problems facing the National Park Service today".

Russell Train  
Sierra Club Bulletin  
July 1969

1972: "A threat to its beauty - and ecology - was thwarted last year when citizens halted the building of a huge jet-port".

National Geographic  
January 1972

1973: "The one and one-half million acre "Big Cypress Swamps" is the natural reservoir for more than one half of the surface waters reaching Everglades National Park."

A. Durand Jones  
Living Wilderness  
Winter 1973-74

1979: "Big Cypress National Preserve" is now 60 percent in federal ownership".

p. 7 Nomination form

1970: Public Law 91-282 - an Act guaranteeing a minimum waterflow to the Everglades.

1978: Congress approved a Wilderness Proposal placing 97.2 percent of the Park under strict preservationist management.

p. 15 Nomination form

SUMMARY re INTEGRITY:

It is evident that the paramount need for the Everglades is a continuing supply of water. The combination of a vigilant public and concerned government recognize this and will act to ensure the integrity of Everglades National Park. Any such action will be enhanced by the placement of the park on the World Heritage List.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the "Everglades National Park" be placed on the World Heritage List.



International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

March 1979