

MISSION REPORT / RAPPORT DE MISSION

Coiba National Park and its Special Zone for Marine Protection (Panama) (N1138)

12-17 January 2014



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Finally, the mission expresses its thanks to the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and in particular Dr. Juan Maté for ensuring information was provided in response to questions and requests for clarifications about points that came to the mission team's attention.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection (SZMP) (hereafter referred to as the property) was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2005 under then natural criteria (ii) and (iv), corresponding to the current criteria (ix) and (x) respectively.

Since then, the focus of the Committee's decisions has been on the need to finalise the management plan, to undertake an independent management effectiveness evaluation and to develop and implement a coastal development and conservation policy. The removal of wild cattle and the minimization of impacts from the naval base were also called for. At its 37th session, the Committee requested the State Party to invite a reactive monitoring mission to consider the state of conservation of the property as a whole, including in regards to impacts from the development of a naval base, and to advise on the development of a management plan and on coastal policy development issues. The mission took place from 13 to 17 January 2014.

The mission concludes that the State Party is making progress with the removal of livestock from the property, but that it is important that the World Heritage Committee assess closely its implementation in view of having all livestock removed from the property by end of 2014, as suggested by the State Party. The presence of the naval base on Coiba Island seems to pose no major threat to the OUV of the property. The State Party is progressing with biosafety measures and foresees full integration of biosafety training in the navy's official curriculum by 1 January 2015.

Fisheries, and in particular illegal and sport fisheries, but also industrial fishing, pose a threat to the health of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and the lack of clear information on the scope of resource extraction as well as a lack of effective management and enforcement are a serious problem. Sport fisheries are of particular concern, as they seem to increase rapidly and are targeting zones where spawning/nursing areas and rare coral/high endemism occurs. The mission further considers that an increase in tourism, if not well managed, will pose a threat to the long-term conservation of the property's OUV and that current proposals for coastal development within the boundaries of the property are inconsistent with the property's OUV and should be relocated to areas outside the property's boundaries. Frequent changes and the small amount of adequately trained staff among the property's management personnel are negatively affecting the long-term conservation of the property and should be addressed.

It is critical that the management plan for the park is extended beyond mid-June 2014 and all regulations, in particular, those related to fisheries management, are fully implemented as a matter of priority. The management plan needs to be strong and should not be overruled by other regulations that might weaken the long-term conservation of the property, such as those currently proposed for development on the northern islands of the property. The mission further concludes that the implementation of adequate fisheries regulation in the SZMP is a key priority and that effective management of the areas most under threat and most critical to the OUV of the property needs to be established with immediate effect. Such measures should include no-take zones and seasonal closures for important areas (e.g., Hannibal Bank, Montuosa Island and Uva Island) and particular fisheries, limits on the amount/capacity of fishing vessels that can

operate in the property as well as quotas for the total allowable catches and minimum sizes for key species. Such measure can ensure an interim solution in anticipation of a fully developed management plan for the area. It is furthermore essential that the Coiba Fund becomes operational as soon as possible and supports the establishment and maintenance of an adequate surveillance and patrolling system that is conducted by professionally skilled staff and enforces regulations for fisheries and tourism throughout the property. The mission also concludes that the Executive Council's decision-making power requires strengthening and the council needs to include representatives from the tourism sector and the local communities from the coastal areas opposite the property, in particular those of Zoná and Mariato municipalities, among others.

Finally, the mission considers that the property would benefit from the expertise available at the World Heritage Centre and IUCN in view of making an assessment of the effectiveness of the management plan and an analysis of the scope and trend of the impact of fisheries on the OUV of the property.

Based on the assessment of the State of Conservation of the property, considering its values, integrity and protection and management system, the mission proposes 10 recommendations, as follows:

Recommendation 1:

Remove all livestock from Coiba Island by end of 2014 as envisioned by the State Party at the time of the mission and taking into account the need to monitor and evaluate whether all cattle is completely removed after the operation is finalized.

Recommendation 2:

Ensure that the Coiba Fund becomes fully operational at the earliest time possible and provides for adequate human and financial resources for the implementation of the management plan for the park as well as the surveillance and enforcement of fishing regulations throughout the property and the 1-mile no take zone, including Hannibal Bank, Montuosa Island and Uva Island in particular.

Recommendation 3:

Establish, as a matter of high priority, a rigorous system of fisheries regulations (including seasonal closures, no-take zones and input/output limitations and targets) that is thoroughly controlled and enforced and ensures effective protection of the most critical areas to the property's ecosystem, in particular those zones with high endemism, rare corals and spawning and nursery zones and including the 1-mile no-take zone, Hannibal Bank, Montuosa Island and Uva Island.

Recommendation 4:

Not permit any coastal development within the boundaries of the property, and not permit any coastal development in the areas opposite the property that would individually and/or cumulatively impact on the OUV of the property.

Recommendation 5:

Ensure that the management plan for the park is extended beyond 2014, is fully implemented and enforced as soon as possible, and is not overruled by any legislation that is contradictory to the plan's objectives, weakens the conservation of the OUV of the property and/or impacts individually or cumulatively on the OUV of the property.

Recommendation 6:

Ensure that the fishing regulations for the SZMP are being adopted and are fully implemented as soon as possible. It is critical that these regulations are sufficiently robust to ensure the long-term conservation of the property and are adequately enforced to ensure illegal fisheries and sport fisheries do not infringe on them. Such regulations should establish adequate protection measures for Hannibal Bank and Montuosa Island as a first priority.

Recommendation 7:

Ensure that no shark finning takes place in the property, and also establish and implement bans on unsustainable and industrial fishing within the property, including bans on all gillnet fishing and the targeting of yellow fin tuna.

Recommendation 8:

Establish a monitoring mechanism in order to obtain an adequate overview of the level of sport fisheries and industrial fisheries (legal and illegal), the spatial and temporal distribution of their operations, and the overall amounts and types of resource extractions (including targeted species, size) in view of obtaining a clear indication of the scope and trend of the impacts of fisheries on the OUV of the property.

Recommendation 9:

Strengthen the decision-making power of the Executive Council to ensure it is re-established as the principal body that ensures the coordination and long-term conservation of the property. Representatives from the tourism sector and the local community need to become full members with equal decision making powers of the council.

Recommendation 10:

Develop, in consultation with the local communities of the municipalities opposite the property and the local tourism industry, a tourism strategy for the property that:

- a) includes an estimate of the carrying capacity of the property,*
- b) establishes zones where tourism can operate in ways that it does not individually or cumulatively impact on the OUV of the property,*
- c) sets standards to ensure and adequately control the safety of visitors across all boat operators,*
- d) establishes a transparent mechanism that prevents irregularities with tourism permits and entry fees, and*
- e) reflects on ways to ensure socio-economic benefits to the local communities.*

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1 BACKGROUND TO THE MISSION

Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection (SZMP) (hereafter referred to as the property) was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2005 under natural criteria (ii) and (iv), corresponding to the current criteria (ix) and (x), respectively. A retrospective statement of OUV has been completed and is attached in Annex I. At the time of inscription, the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to consider options to expedite the preparation, adoption and further implementation of the revised management plan for the property and to very carefully control and monitor fisheries management.

In 2009, the World Heritage Committee urged the State Party to finalize the management plan for the Special Zone of Marine Protection of the property and ensure its effective implementation. The Committee further noted with concern the continued and growing presence of cattle in the property as well as the growing potential for coastal development on the shores opposite the property. Thus, the Committee requested the State Party to develop and implement a coastal zone development and conservation policy to ensure that cumulative development impacts to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) are foreseen and effectively averted (Decision 33COM 7B.38).

In 2011, the World Heritage Committee reiterated its request to the State Party to urgently finalize the management plan for the SZMP, to undertake an independent management effectiveness evaluation and to develop and implement a coastal development and conservation policy. It further strongly encouraged the State Party to re-submit its request for international assistance for the removal of cattle from the property, based on the recommendations made by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN (35COM7B.33).

In its most recent decision (37COM7B.31 – Annex II), the World Heritage Committee reiterated the above-mentioned requests. In addition, the Committee requested the State Party to implement a set of necessary measures to minimize the impacts from the naval base and to invite a World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission. The terms of reference, programme, and composition of the mission team as well as people met are provided in Annex III-VI to this report. Annex VII provides the current boundaries of the property.

2 NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

2.1 Legislation and institutional framework

The General Environmental Law (Law 41) states that the National Environmental Authority (ANAM) is the governing body of the State's natural resources and environment, and administers the National Protected Area System (SINAP). Through the enactment of Law 44 published in the Official Gazette 24104, the National Park's legal status was strengthened (29 July 2004) and the SZMP was established. Law 41 establishes the Commission for Sustainable Fisheries Management, which is responsible for developing the regulation for the SZMP, and for defining policies for conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. These regulations must be approved by the Executive Council (see section 2.2 for details) and be incorporated into the management plan. The Aquatic Resources Authority (ARAP) leads the above-mentioned Commission. It is composed of 11 members of whom five belong to the government sector.

2.2 Management structure

Law 41 (Articles 19 and 20) establishes the governance framework for the property and creates the Executive Council as the main mechanism for managing the protected area. The main objectives of the Council are to develop and approve the management plan, approve functions and monitor compliance, establish policies for conservation and sustainable use, as well as to evaluate and approve the regulations and policies proposed by the Commission on Sustainable Fisheries for the SZMP. The Council also approves plans for scientific research and provides support to ANAM regarding the required investments for scientific research, ecotourism and environmental education.

The Executive Council is composed of 12 members, five representing the government, three representatives of the municipal governments of the province of Veracruz, two representatives of the productive sector, 1 of the academia, and 1 person who represents the non-governmental organisations.

The legislation that enacted the park further establishes the Commission for the Sustainable Management of Fisheries in the SZMP. The Commission's main function is to develop regulations on extractive activities in SZMP and policies of conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, which must be incorporated into the management plan.

The Park is currently protected through the management plan that came into effect in 2009. The management plan covers Coiba National park, but is not applicable to the SZMP. It is expected to expire by mid-2014. At the time of the mission's visit, negotiations were ongoing for the renewal and extension of the management plan beyond June 2014.

The SZMP is currently not managed through any plan or system of regulations and thus open for any activity. Line fishing has been banned as part of Panama's national policy in 2010. Fishing regulations for the zone are in an early drafting process and will take time to mature and become fully implemented. It should be recognized that some basic inter-institutional coordination for the monitoring and controlling of fishing activity in the area is put in place by ARAP, the Naval Force and ANAM. While this work is encouraging, it should be noted that this coordination is in its very early stages and more specific and systematic actions, as well as sufficient financial resources, are urgently required.

2.3 Response to the recognition to values under international treaties and programmes

The property is protected under the World Heritage Convention since 2005. No other international Conventions, treaties or programmes recognizing its exceptional value are applicable.

3 IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES/THREATS

3.1 Management effectiveness

The assessment of the management effectiveness of the property is done on the basis of the framework provided in the World Heritage Centre publication *"Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit: Assessing management effectiveness of natural World Heritage sites."*

i) Identification of the property's values and management objectives:

The values of the property are partly described in the management plan for the park. The main goals are well articulated in the management plan and translated into measurable objectives. However, the management plan is not applicable to the SZMP. There is no management system in place for the SZMP which essentially indicates that this part of the property has no management objectives.

ii) Identification of threats

The management plan provides a clear overview of the threats posed to the property which include essential weaknesses in the management system. The State Party and the management staff of the property have a good understanding of the threats.

iii) Relationships with stakeholders

The management of the property seems to involve very few stakeholders that are relevant for and/or dependent on the property. The mission was informed that tourism operators are neither involved nor consulted in the management of the property. It was indicated, however, that tourism is a very fast growing sector and good park management is essential to this sector. It was further indicated that the local communities in the coastal areas opposite the park could benefit substantially from a better integration of their concerns in the park management, or more broadly in the tourism management for the property and its surroundings. It was noted that a

better integration of the local communities in the management of the property and its surroundings could result in improved economic conditions for the local communities and in turn strengthen the property's overall conservation. There seems to be very little cooperation between fishing communities and the management authorities for the property in view of protecting its OUV.

iv) National and international policies affecting the property

The State Party is currently implementing a national masterplan for tourism in which the property is considered as a special region and is envisioned to be promoted as a top tourism destination in the country. The masterplan foresees infrastructure development to facilitate access to tourism destinations with high levels of activity in the areas opposite the property. The mission was not informed about any other national or international policies that might affect the property.

v) Size, location and boundaries of the property

The size and remote location of the property seem to aid the protection of the property's OUV. The size of the property seems sufficiently large to ensure protection of its integrity.

vi) Management planning

The management plan for the park seems sufficiently well prepared but requires updating. The property lacks substantial information about the level of fishing activity and extraction of resources taking place in the property, and in particular in the SZMP. A range of fishing activities is currently taking place in the SZMP, including artisanal fishing, sport fishing and industrial fishing (Costa Rican vessels). The management authorities have very limited information on where fishing activities are taking place and how they conflict with essential support areas to the ecosystem, such as nursery and feeding areas. The property lacks a clear view of the overall scope and amount of resources that are extracted from it, in particular from sport fisheries and illegal fishing practices. No efforts seem to be undertaken to collect such information and build it into the management planning for the property.

A systematic monitoring strategy that allows the continuous and periodic evaluation of the extent, magnitude and trend of the impact of main threats on ecological integrity and levels of biodiversity is currently non-existent. The lack of periodic and solid data makes an evaluation of the state of conservation of the property difficult.

vii) Management needs and input

The property lacks sufficient funding to implement the necessary arrangements of the management plan, in particular surveillance, monitoring and evaluation of fishing activities. Law 41 created the Coiba Fund that aims at providing the required financial resources for the management of the property. The funds are generated from tourism income of which 78% are foreseen to go to the management of the property and the remaining amount to the academic sector and municipalities. Although its operationalization should have started in 2009, the Fund is not yet functioning due to several administrative requirements that remain to be fulfilled. The mission was informed that the fund would generate approximately 1.5 million USD annually. The mission was further informed that currently 2.5 million USD are available to be transferred to the fund as soon as the administrative requirements (reports of the municipalities, minutes of the Executive Council meeting, among others) are completed. Indications were also made that the Fund now should contain almost 6 million USD in revenues from the property. The State Party informed the mission that it is progressing well with the remaining requirements and expects to have the Fund fully operational in May 2014.

The property also suffers from a high turnover among staff, including in high management positions (Director of the Park), which prevents continuity in the property's management and which has a negative effect on the implementation of the management plan. Few staff seem to be adequately skilled to implement the tasks at hand. There is further a lack of park rangers with the required skills and adequate equipment necessary to implement the management regulations established in the management plan.

Additionally, the mission was informed that regulations (particularly those for fishing) are widely violated and tourism permits and visitor fees are frequently irregular, as a result of which the property misses out on revenues.

viii) Management processes

The mission was informed that the power of the Executive Council, a central body in the management of the property, has been weakened over the past years. It was noted that the Council started operating a few years ago but institutional strengthening is required if it is to be fully functional. The mission was informed that a key barrier to the council's strength is the high turnover of the Council representatives and their irregular participation at the meetings. It was further noted that participation of local government representatives would substantially benefit the outcomes and decision-making power of the council.

ix) Management plan implementation

Implementation of key aspects of the management plan is nearly non-existent, in particular for fishing activities. The property has a no-take zone across the park, but surveillance and monitoring is scarce and not systematic. The plan lacks sufficient funding for the patrolling and enforcement of the regulations that manage access to and use of the property's natural resources. Tourism activities and fishing activities both operate in violation of the established rules, which can become a considerable increasing concern when tourism activities and fishing in the property continue to rise in forthcoming years.

No management system is in place for the SZMP. The fishing regulations for the SZMP are in an early drafting process. The mission was informed that the regulations will take time to mature and be fully implemented, despite the long-standing request by the World Heritage Committee. Hannibal Bank seems an area of particular concern as fishing activities (particularly sport fishing of which the scope is unknown) impact on an area important to the functioning of the ecosystem (spawning areas) and is not adequately reflected in any of the management arrangements.

x) Outcomes of management

Considering that the implementation of the management plan is nearly non-existent, few outcomes have been achieved, in particular in relation to resource use within the property. However, the State Party has assured a strategy to remove the cattle of Coiba Island and has taken measures to ensure the operating teams of the Naval base are informed about the exceptional value and conservation requirements of the property. Courses for Naval base operators will become full part of the official curricula for the education of naval officers as of 1 January 2015.

3.2 Nature and extent of threats to the property

i) Presence of Naval base on Coiba Island

The presence of a naval base on the main island of Coiba has over the past years triggered much debate as to the extent of impact it has on the property's OUV. After visiting the base and meeting the respective representatives, the mission considers that the base is not a major concern and has not been a source for introduction of alien species, wildlife trafficking, or agricultural production. The State Party has started a training programme with the naval base residents on the wildlife and biosafety measures in the park. The programme is scheduled to become part of the regular national training courses for the navy as of 1 January 2015. Plans for further development of the naval base are limited to the optimization of the existing landing strip. The naval base could even be a source of strength for the Park management. While focused on reducing drug trafficking in the Park, the navy takes on an increasingly important role in surveying the park for illegal fishing practices and could be considered as part of the solution for controlling fisheries throughout the property.

The mission had the opportunity to visit the shore facilities and discuss the impacts with experts from which it was understood that all the required measures are being taken in order to minimize the impact. A fence around the naval base, as requested by the World Heritage Committee, should be put in place.

ii) Presence of wild cattle on Coiba Island

An estimated 1500-2500 feral horses and cattle are present on Coiba Island, which the World Heritage Committee considers as incompatible with the property's OUV. At the end of 2013, the State Party declared the removal of the cattle a matter of "national emergency for health reasons". The State Party published the Terms of Reference and made a call for proposals for a suitable contractor to remove the cattle from the property. At the time of the mission, the State Party was in the process of selecting the contractor which it envisioned to have finalized by mid-February 2014. The mission was informed that the start of the removal of the cattle is scheduled to take place in March 2014 and will take a maximum of 7 months to complete. The mission was informed that all cattle is due to be removed from the island by end of 2014. Several other stakeholders were positive about the progress but warned that the World Heritage Committee should remain vigilant to ensure that the plans are executed as intended.

iii) Fishing activity

A key threat to the property's OUV is posed by fishing activities. This includes artisanal fishing, industrial fishing, and sport fishing all of which are also taking place illegally. The full scope of the fishing activity throughout the property, as well as the level of extracted resources, is currently unknown. Estimates provided suggest that the actual fishing activities might be more than double than what is currently known. Fisheries in the park are managed through the management plan and include a 1-mile no-take zone. However, regulations are not adequately enforced and thus ineffective. The SZMP has no regulations and is thus open to all fishing activities, except for long line fishing which is banned by a national policy.

Gillnet fisheries were mentioned as part of the illegal fisheries in the property. Longnet and speer fishing are also taking place. Industrial fisheries capture yellow fin tuna which is listed on the IUCN red list as "near threatened". Sharks are captured throughout the property with landings of increasingly smaller juveniles. It is uncertain whether shark finning is occurring in the property.

While the artisanal fishing input is reported to be decreasing from 42 to 15 vessels, sport fishing is rapidly growing. The mission received contradictory information on the increases in industrial fisheries but estimates that the pressure for such fisheries is rising. Sport fisheries are not regulated in the property and most stakeholders the mission met consider it as a key problem to the conservation of the property. Sport fisheries seem to target key areas of high endemism and spawning areas in the park and the SZMP. The mission was further informed that the amount of juveniles in the fish landings in general is increasing and their size is becoming smaller. See Annex VII for a spatial distribution of fishing threats.

iv) *Coastal development in the park*

New legislation is being developed by the national government that will allow small islands in the northern part of the park (as part of range of islands of which the majority lies outside the property) to be open for private development (hotel or private houses; the specific purpose of the concessions is unclear). The new regulation is currently in development and will overrule the existing regulation of the management plan that prohibits all coastal development in the park. The mission considers this issue as being of concern for maintaining the integrity of the property, particularly because of the precedent it would set and the seemingly easy way with which the management plan regulations can be overruled.

v) *Increase in tourism activity*

Approximately 5,000-6,000 tourists are visiting the park annually, of which two-thirds are foreigners (mainly from Europe). The property is visited mostly on 1-day tours, with some tourists staying overnight in the park, either in the existing park rangers' building or by camping in the park. Diving and sightseeing are the major tourism activities. The peak season for visitors is from December-April. Professional tour operators are currently still limited to three, in addition to 5-7 boats operated by local communities. The latter are often transformed artisanal fishing boats that operate at 20% lower cost per tour and adhere to very poor safety standards. Cruise ships departing from Costa Rica enter the park about twice per week. As part of the national master plan for tourism, Coiba is considered as a priority region for promotion as a key destination (the jewel of Panama) for tourism in forthcoming years.

As part of the master plan, coastal development and infrastructure improvements are rapidly moving forward in the coastal region opposite the park. Large hotel complexes are being constructed, mainly by foreign companies. If well managed, and if regulation is well enforced, tourism would not necessarily become an issue, although neither a tourism strategy nor a plan for ensuring that activities do not impact individually and/or cumulatively on the OUV of the property and that local communities benefit from the tourism influx is currently being developed or envisioned. Tourism regulation is part of the management plan for the park but regulations are not well enforced. Tour operators are not coordinating any of their activities as a sector and do not have any representation in the management structures of the property. The mission was informed that the system for the payment of entry fees is opaque and about 10% of the tourists come in the property without paying any fees.

3.3 Information on any specific threat or damage to or loss of Outstanding Universal Value and integrity for which the property was inscribed

No evidence of major damage or loss of OUV and integrity of the property was reported to the mission team. The mission team also saw no indication during its visits of loss or damage to the property's OUV.

While no comprehensive data or scientific evidence was available to the mission team, suggestions were made that the natural resources in the property are declining. Fisheries are of particular concern for a number of reasons, including:

- a) the regulations in the management plan are not enforced effectively due a lack of financial resources and skilled/equipped staff;
- b) there is no regulation in place for the SZMP;
- c) the scope of illegal fishing as well as the amount of resources extracted is currently unknown; and
- d) the pressure to extract more resources from the park through the unregulated sport fisheries and industrial fleets is persistent. Furthermore, some fishing (particularly sport fishing) seems to target areas which were also indicated to the mission team as being key fish spawning and nursery zones and thus essential to the long-term conservation of the property.

The mission was informed that tourism development on the coastal mainland in the municipalities of Zoná and Mariato is rapidly growing. There are medium-scale hotel projects in development and an airport construction is being considered. The property is a priority area for tourism development under the Master Plan of the National Authority of Tourism. According to interviews with scientific experts, there is a biological connectivity between the coastal areas and islands system of the Gulf of Chiriquí. For example, the development of juveniles of some fish species occurs in coastal areas from which they migrate to the open seas at specific sites off the islands. This implies that potential impacts from the development could affect these critical ecological processes. The expected rise in tourism is a concern considering that the current regulations are often violated and the property lacks a comprehensive strategy to define the carrying capacity of the park as well as a good cooperation with the tourism industry.

The recent changes in legislation allowing coastal development within the property are also of concern and form a threat to the future conservation of the OUV of the property.

4 ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY

4.1. Review of criterion IX

Following consultation with scientific experts, review of literature, and field visits, the mission considers that the property's ecosystem is in a healthy condition. No major changes in the ecosystem's health were reported. Analysis of the spatial and temporal distribution of activities and ecosystem components provided to the mission indicates that sport fisheries tend to target nursing/spawning areas, which are critical to the health of the ecosystem. NGOs and academia warned that, if the current increase of fishing activity is maintained in the absence of any good management, which includes seasonal closures and patrol/surveillance, the ecosystem would not be able to maintain its ecological functionality.

4.2. Review of criterion X

The property's forest areas appeared in very good condition with substantial regrowth of forest that was previously erased due to the presence of cattle and a level of biodiversity similar or higher than that at the time of inscription. The endemic species on Coiba Island that were observed during the mission appear to be prospering.

The major species targeted by fishing activities are mahi-mahi, snapper and grouper. Illegal fishing also targets other species such as sea turtles, sharks (mainly hammerheads), lobster and sea cucumber. Silky snapper has the highest market value and is thus most targeted. There is no scientific evidence that the level of biodiversity is decreasing, although there is concern that snapper and grouper populations are decreasing. While no comprehensive data or scientific evidence was available to the mission team, suggestions were made that the natural resources in the property might be declining.

It was further reported that some shark areas appeared more abundant in the past and juvenile sharks are landed in increasingly smaller sizes which is likely an indication that the population is shrinking. It was also indicated that jelly fish presence is growing fast in the park which is likely an indication that these areas are being overfished.

Since the time of inscription, new species have been found in the property and documented in scientific articles. Considering the substantial lack of information about the full scope of fishing activities as well as the amount of marine resources extracted, the property requires more robust collection of scientific information that illustrates the trend in biodiversity levels, in particular for those species that are part of the OUV of the property.

4.3. Review of the property's integrity

The integrity of the property appears intact. The remote location of the property ensures that human intervention remains limited. However, considering the substantial pressure from increased fishing activity and tourist visits, it is essential that the property as a whole is

managed effectively, important areas such spawning zones and areas of rare coral/high endemism are subject to appropriate closures and an efficient surveillance system is set up as a key matter of priority. The integrity of the property is threatened if coastal development for privately owned infrastructure becomes a practice on the islands of the property as is currently being proposed.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The State Party is making progress with the removal of livestock from the property, but the mission considers it important that the World Heritage Committee assesses closely its implementation in view of having all livestock removed from the property by end of 2014, as suggested by the State Party. It is further concluded that the presence of the naval base on Coiba Island poses no major threat to the OUV of the property. The State Party is progressing with biosafety measures and foresees full integration of biosafety training in the navy's official curriculum by 1 January 2015. A fence around the naval base, as previously requested by the World Heritage Committee, should be put in place.

Fisheries, and in particular illegal and sport fisheries, but also industrial fishing, pose a threat to the health of the OUV of the property and the lack of clear information on the scope of the resource extraction is a serious problem. Sport fisheries are of particular concern, as they seem to increase rapidly and are targeting zones where spawning/nursing areas and rare coral/high endemism occurs.

Furthermore, an increase in tourism, if not well managed, will pose a threat to the long-term conservation of the property's OUV. This is especially relevant considering that (a) the existing rules for tourism operations in the park are currently being violated, (b) the property is promoted as a key tourism destination under the national masterplan for tourism and (c) there is no policy that ensures no individual or cumulative impacts occur on the property's OUV.

The mission considers that the current proposals for coastal development within the boundaries of the property are inconsistent with the property's OUV and should be relocated to areas outside the property's boundaries.

The mission further concludes that it is critical that the management plan for the park is extended beyond mid-June 2014 and all regulations, in particular those related to fisheries management, are fully implemented as a matter of priority. All regulations relevant for fishing activities and tourism visitation in the park require regular and adequate surveillance and enforcement throughout the park at all times. The mission considers it critical that the management plan implementation is strong and is not overruled by other regulation that weakens the long-term conservation of the property, such as those currently proposed for development of the northern islands of the property. It further concludes that the implementation of adequate fisheries regulation in the SZMP is a key priority and that effective management of those areas that are most under threat and most critical to the OUV of the property needs to be established with immediate effect. Such measures should include no-take zones and seasonal closures for important areas (e.g., Hannibal Bank, Montuosa Island and Uva Island) and

particular fisheries, limits on the amount/capacity of fishing vessels that can operate in the property as well as quotas for the total allowable catches and minimum sizes for key species. Such measure can ensure an interim solution in anticipation of a fully developed management plan for the SZMP. The mission further concludes that it is essential that the Coiba Fund becomes operational as soon as possible and foresees in the establishment and maintenance of an adequate surveillance and patrolling system that is conducted by professionally skilled staff and enforces regulations for fisheries and tourism throughout the property.

The frequent changes and the low level of adequately trained staff among the property's management personnel is negatively affecting the long-term conservation of the property and should be addressed. Moreover, the Executive Council should be re-established as the principal body that oversees and coordinates the overall conservation of the property as originally intended. To ensure this, the Executive Council's decision-making power requires strengthening and the council needs to include representatives from the tourism sector and the local communities from the coastal areas opposite the property, in particular those of Zoná and Mariato municipalities, among others.

Finally, the mission considers that the property would benefit from the expertise available at the World Heritage Centre and IUCN in view of making an assessment of the effectiveness of the management plan and an analysis of the scope and trend of fisheries impact on the OUV of the property.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1:

Remove all livestock from Coiba Island by end of 2014 as envisioned by the State Party at the time of the mission and taking into account the need to monitor and evaluate whether all cattle is completely removed after the operation is finalized.

Recommendation 2:

Ensure that the Coiba Fund becomes fully operational at the earliest time possible and provides for adequate human and financial resources for the implementation of the management plan for the park as well as the surveillance and enforcement of fishing regulations throughout the property and the 1-mile no take zone, including Hannibal Bank, Montuosa Island and Uva Island in particular.

Recommendation 3:

Establish, as a matter of high priority, a rigorous system of fisheries regulations (including seasonal closures, no-take zones and input/output limitations and targets) that is thoroughly controlled and enforced and ensures effective protection of the most critical areas to the property's ecosystem, in particular those zones with high endemism, rare corals and spawning and nursery zones and including the 1-mile no-take zone, Hannibal Bank, Montuosa Island and Uva Island.

Recommendation 4:

Not permit any coastal development within the boundaries of the property, and not permit any coastal development in the areas opposite the property that would individually and/or cumulatively impact on the OUV of the property.

Recommendation 5:

Ensure that the management plan for the park is extended beyond 2014, is fully implemented and enforced as soon as possible, and is not overruled by any legislation that is contradictory to the plan's objectives, weakens the conservation of the OUV of the property and/or impacts individually or cumulatively on the OUV of the property.

Recommendation 6:

Ensure that the fishing regulations for the SZMP are being adopted and are fully implemented as soon as possible. It is critical that these regulations are sufficiently robust to ensure the long-term conservation of the property and are adequately enforced to ensure illegal fisheries and sport fisheries do not infringe on them. Such regulations should establish adequate protection measures for Hannibal Bank and Montuosa Island as a first priority.

Recommendation 7:

Ensure that no shark finning takes place in the property, and also establish and implement bans on unsustainable and industrial fishing within the property, including bans on all gillnet fishing and the targeting of yellow fin tuna.

Recommendation 8:

Establish a monitoring mechanism in order to obtain an adequate overview of the level of sport fisheries and industrial fisheries (legal and illegal), the spatial and temporal distribution of their operations, and the overall amounts and types of resource extractions (including targeted species, size) in view of obtaining a clear indication of the scope and trend of the impacts of fisheries on the OUV of the property.

Recommendation 9:

Strengthen the decision-making power of the Executive Council to ensure it is re-established as the principal body that ensures the coordination and long-term conservation of the property. Representatives from the tourism sector and the local community need to become full members with equal decision making powers of the council.

Recommendation 10:

Develop, in consultation with the local communities of the municipalities opposite the property and the local tourism industry, a tourism strategy for the property that:

- a) includes an estimate of the carrying capacity of the property,
- b) establishes zones where tourism can operate in ways that it does not individually or cumulatively impact on the OUV of the property,
- c) sets standards to ensure and adequately control the safety of visitors across all boat operators,
- d) establishes a transparent mechanism that prevents irregularities with tourism permits and entry fees, and
- e) reflects on ways to ensure socio-economic benefits to the local communities.

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ANNEX I. RETROSPECTIVE STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

BRIEF SYNTHESIS

Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection, is located in the Republic of Panama in the Gulf of Chiriquí, in the western sector of the country. The property protects Coiba Island along with 38 smaller islands and the surrounding marine area and is immersed in the Tropical Eastern Pacific, forming part of the Tropical Eastern Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR). It is the last refuge for a number of threatened animals and an essential area for migratory species, including the essentials for the maintenance of the ecological balance of the oceanic masses, and valuable habitat for cetaceans, sharks, sea turtles and a large variety of pelagic fish species of high importance to regional level fisheries.

The property contains marine environments that have characteristics of both a continental and oceanic influence, and include insular marine coastal and terrestrial island ecosystems. This wide range of environments and resulting habitats is a result of the property's location, close to the edge of the continental platform and at the same time to the mainland. These features combine to produce landscapes of incomparable beauty that are home to an exceptionally high level of endemism for mammals, birds and plants. An outstanding natural laboratory, the property provides a key ecological link to the Tropical Eastern Pacific and an important area for scientific research.

The size and length of the property allows for the protection of a whole and healthy ecosystem that is one of the last major refuges for rare and endangered species of tropical America. The conservation of the property is the main objective of close cooperation between the several stakeholders that form the Coiba National Park's Directors Board, the authority responsible for the governance and management of the property.

Criterion ix:

Despite the short time of isolation of the islands of the Gulf of Chiriquí on an evolutionary timeframe, new species are being formed, which is evident from the levels of endemism reported for many groups (mammals, birds, plants), making the property an outstanding natural laboratory for scientific research. Furthermore the Eastern Pacific reefs, such as those within the property, are characterized by complex biological interactions of their inhabitants and provide a key ecological link in the Tropical Eastern Pacific for the transit and survival of numerous pelagic fish as well as marine mammals.

Criterion x:

The forests of Coiba Island possess a high variety of endemic birds, mammals and plants. Coiba Island also serves as the last refuge for a number of threatened species that have largely disappeared from the rest of Panama, such as the Crested Eagle and the Scarlet Macaw. Furthermore the marine ecosystems within the property are repositories of extraordinary biodiversity conditioned to the ability of the Gulf of Chiriquí to buffer against temperature extremes associated to El Niño/Southern Oscillation phenomenon. The property includes 760 species of marine fishes, 33 species of sharks and 20 species of cetaceans. The islands within the property are the only group of inshore islands in the tropical eastern Pacific that have significant populations of trans-Pacific fishes, namely, Indo-Pacific species that have established themselves in the eastern Pacific.

INTEGRITY

The boundaries of the property are legally defined and contain a core protection area, consisting of the Coiba National Park and a designated buffer area, providing an essential zoning system to safeguard the beauty of the area and protect its important natural values. It contains the necessary elements to ensure the permanence of the necessary processes for long-term conservation of the ecosystems and the unique biological diversity of the property. The property encompasses the Island of Coiba in its entirety, thus providing refuge for its endemic species as well as for species that have largely disappeared from mainland Panama. It is a large area whose boundaries encompass 430,825 ha, comprising a marine component covering oceanic ecosystems including continental environments, islands with abrupt topography and legal protection. Combined with difficult access in many areas the legal protection assists in keeping the property relatively unaltered and with minimal human intervention.

The existence and integration of other marine protected areas at both national and regional levels, provides additional contributions to the protection of the special values that make the property exceptional. A number of factors could threaten the integrity of it property's attributes and require attention, such as illegal fishing, both in regards to scale and equipment used, introduced species and ecotourism development projects. Additionally, climatic changes could also affect the conservation of the ecosystems within the property.

PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Coiba National Park encompasses over 270,125 ha of which 216,500 ha are marine and 53,625 ha are insular and include Coiba Island along with 38 smaller islands. The Special Zone of Marine Protection is included within the boundaries of the property as a buffer area to the core area of the National Park and encompasses an additional 160,700 ha. Combined the National Park and the SZMP includes 53,761 ha of terrestrial habitats and 377,064 ha of marine area. The property is protected under National Law 44, signed by the Legislative Assembly of the Republic of Panama on 26th July 2004, establishing Coiba National Park and a Special Zone of Marine Protection within the Gulf of Chiriqui. National Law 44 established the boundaries of the National Park along with its Zone of Marine Protection as well as the protection and management regulations for both of these areas.

The property is subject to national level management which is supported by the legal and institutional framework that allows for the execution of an innovative governance model, through cooperative and coordinated participation of different stakeholders. The National Park was created by Resolution No. 021 (1991) of the National Authority of the Environment and the property is operationally managed by the National Environmental Authority and administratively by both national and local authorities along with members of civil society such as environmental NGOs and productive sectors. This approach to management works towards ensuring the property has the basic funding requirements for its management. It also assists in achieving the management objective of ensuring the conservation, protection and continuity of the ecological processes. In order to achieve this it is necessary to maintain and promote coordinated and participatory environmental management among communities, national authorities, users and stakeholders.

Fishing pressures on both the Coiba National Park and the Special Zone of Marine Protection is one of the threats and impacts on the property and along with infrastructure development, agriculture, forest cutting, human settlements and exploration and exploitation of mineral resources, while strictly prohibited remain potential threats. These issues have been extensively addressed by the management authority, along with NGOs that support continued conservation efforts and require ongoing investment in regards to monitoring.

Tourism interest in the property has grown and is expected to increase with the number of visitors growing rapidly. Tourism activities include use of the beaches and coastal areas as well as underwater activities and need to be monitored and managed so as to prevent significant impacts on the property and its values. As with other Marine Protected Areas, both in the region and world wide, the property faces the threats and impacts resulting from climate change such as coral bleaching, stronger and more frequent hurricanes and sea level rise.

ANNEX II. DECISION 37 COM 7B.31

Decision: 37 COM 7B.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.33**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Requests the State Party to urgently finalize a draft Management Plan for the Special Zone of Marine Protection, adopt it and initiate its implementation, and to start with the independent Management Effectiveness Evaluation in order to inform the effective management for both Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop and implement a coastal zone development and conservation policy in order to ensure that cumulative and combined coastal zone development impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value are effectively addressed, and encourages the State Party to develop this policy on the basis of a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the coastal zone's development potential;
5. Expresses its concern about the potential impacts of the naval base on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and also requests the State Party to take the necessary measures to minimize these impacts, in particular:
 - a) Put in place biosecurity measures to avoid that the naval base become a source of introduction of alien species,
 - b) Educate personnel to ensure they do not engage in trafficking of wildlife,
 - c) Ensure that personnel does not engage in agricultural production,
 - d) clearly mark boundaries, ideally with a fence, and as small as possible, with restrictions on movement of people beyond those boundaries,
 - e) Ensure that shore facilities are built and managed in such a way as to not destroy sea bottoms and contribute to erosion,
 - f) Not permit the airport to contribute to development pressures, such as tourism and hotels;
6. Urges the State Party to finalize the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value;

7. Further requests the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission to consider the state of conservation of the property as a whole, including in regards to impacts from the development of a naval base, and to advise on the development of a management plan and on coastal policy development issues;

8. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2014**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, and on the progress made on the issues mentioned above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014.

ANNEX III. TERM OF REFERENCE OF THE MISSION

The objective of this monitoring mission is to consider the state of conservation of the property as a whole, including in regards to impacts from the development of a naval base, and to advise on the development of a management plan and on coastal policy development issues, against the decision of the Committee (**Decision 37COM 7B.31**). The mission team will be composed of Mr Bernal Herrera, representative of the IUCN World Heritage Programme, and Ms. Fanny Douvere, representative of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre's Marine Programme.

In particular, the mission should address the following key issues:

1. Evaluate the state of conservation of the property as a whole;
2. Provide guidance to the State Party to finalize the management plan for the Special Zone of Marine Protection and a timeline for its implementation;
3. Provide guidance to the State Party for the development and implementation of a coastal zone development and conservation policy to ensure that the coastal zone development impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) are effectively addressed based on a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the coastal zone's development potential;
4. Assess the impacts of the naval base on the OUV and the progress of the State Party to implement the necessary measures to minimize those impacts with particular attention to the following measures:
 - a. Put in place biosecurity measures to avoid that the naval base become a source of introduction of alien species,
 - b. Educate personnel to ensure they do not engage in trafficking of wildlife,
 - c. Ensure that personnel does not engage in agricultural production,
 - d. Clearly mark boundaries, ideally with a fence, and as small as possible, with restrictions on movement of people beyond those boundaries,
 - e. Ensure that shore facilities are built and managed in such a way as to not destroy sea bottoms and contribute to erosion,
 - f. Not permit the airport to contribute to development pressures, such as tourism and hotels;
5. Evaluate the progress that has been made with regards to the removal of livestock from the property, which was due to start in March 2013;
6. In line with paragraph 173 of the *Operational Guidelines*, assess any other relevant conservation issues that may negatively impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including the conditions of integrity and protection and management.

7. Present options to the State Party in terms of carrying out a management effectiveness assessment, with a focus on the Enhancing our Heritage methodology, designed specifically for World Heritage properties;

The State Party should facilitate necessary field visits to key locations. In order to enable preparation for the mission, it would be appreciated if the following items could be provided to the World Heritage Centre (copied to IUCN) as soon as possible and preferably no later than 1 month prior to the mission:

- a. Results of the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the coastal zone's development potential;
- b. The Environmental Impact Assessments of the naval base, the expansion of the dock and the restoration of the abandoned penal colony infrastructure;
- c. A list of all the on-going measures to minimize the naval base's impacts and their implementation progress status;
- d. A list of all major project conducted in view of conservation of the OUV of the property
- e. The most recent version of the management plan of the property;

The mission should also hold consultations with the Panamanian authorities at national, provincial and municipal levels. In addition, the mission should hold consultation with a range of relevant stakeholders, including i) researchers; ii) NGOs; iii) representatives of local communities; and iv) representatives of the naval base.

Based on the results of the above-mentioned assessments and discussions with the State Party representatives and stakeholders, the mission will develop recommendations to the Government of Panama and the World Heritage Committee with the objective of providing guidance to the State Party for the implementation of an integrated management for the property, and for improving the conservation of its Outstanding Universal Value. It should be noted that recommendations will be provided within the mission report (see below), and not during the mission implementation.

The mission will prepare a concise report on the findings and recommendations within 6 weeks following the site visit, following World Heritage Centre reactive monitoring mission report format.

ANNEX IV. COMPOSITION OF THE TEAM

Mission team:

Dr. Bernal Herrera
Representative IUCN

Dr. Fanny Douvere
Coordinator,
World Heritage Marine Programme, UNESCO

People who accompanied the mission team throughout the visit to the property:

H. E. Mr Flavio Mendez
Ambassador,
Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Panama to UNESCO

Dr. Juan L. Maté T.
Scientific Advisor for Marine and Coastal Affairs,
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

ANNEX V. ITINERARY/PROGRAMME OF THE MISSION

Day 1, Sunday 12 January 2014

- Arrival to the International airport of Tocumen, Panama.
- Check-in at hotel in Panama City.

Day 2, Monday 13 January 2014

- Meeting with the General Administrator, the Secretary General and Directors (APVS, DIORA).
- Meeting with the Ministry of Public Security, Naval Air Station in Coiba.
- Meeting with the institutions/Associations of livestock State: The National Environmental Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Government, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Finance, Comptroller General of Panama.
- Transfer to Coiba Island.

Day 3, Tuesday 14 January 2014

- Departure from Puerto Mutis (6:30 a.m.).
- Arrival at Coiba National Park / former camp Central.
- Tour of the Naval Air Station.
- Lunch / refreshments (Naval Air Station).
- Walking from the Central to the Feria, dairy (livestock project), departure by boat on the river Catival
- Leaving at 12:00. Arrival at the National Environmental Authority.
- Meeting with the management staff of Coiba National Park, Regional Administrator of Veraguas and Protected Areas and Wildlife Department.
- Dinner at Coibita, provided by Dr. Miriam Amaya, Scientist at Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and National Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation.

Day 4, Wednesday 15 January 2014

- Travel by boat, return to Coiba Island and Hannibal Bank (Special Zone of Marine Protection) depending on the weather.
- Travel by boat / by foot: "La Ceiba" (scientific research station), "Granito de Oro", "Islotes Cocos" (monitoring dive buoys), "Rancheria Island", "Frijoles".
- At 12:30: trail, facilities, etc.

Day 5, Thursday 16 January 2014

Departure from Coiba National Park towards the mainland, Santiago de Veraguas.

Meeting/interviews with key stakeholders:

- Members of the Executive Board of Coiba National Park.
- Leaders/communities (small service providers, diving company, other).
- NGO representatives
- Groups of researchers (scientific committee) / University of Panama
- Meeting with representatives of the fisheries sector, fishermen/ The Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama
- Meeting with Tourism Authority of Panama

Day 6, Friday 17 January 2014

- Departure from Santiago de Veraguas to Panama City
- Evaluation meeting in the National Environmental Authority-Protected Areas and Wildlife Department (Albrook, Panama City)
- Transfer to the hotel

Day 7, Saturday 18 January 2014

- Transfer to the International Airport of Tocumen

ANNEX VI. LIST OF PEOPLE MET

Name	TITLE/INSTITUTION
15 January 2014 (7:30)	
Etmara Donoso	ANAM - Regional Administrator of the Veraguas
Didiel Nunez	ANAM - Head of Coiba National Park
Santiago Rojas	Administrator of the Coiba National Park
Santiago Concepcion	Ranger of Coiba National Park
Alexis Robles	Ranger of Coiba National Park
Edgar Gonzales	Ranger of Coiba National Park
Bladimir Bejarano	Ranger of Coiba National Park
Omar Abrego	ANAM - Head of Wetland of International Importance Gulf of Montijo
Eddy Arcia	ANAM - Director of Protected Areas
Leticia Samaniego de Polo	ANAM-DAPVS - Head of Department of Protected Areas Management
Ibelice Anino	ANAM - Director of Protected Areas and wildlife
Geremias Aguilar	ANAM - General Secretary
Israel Tejada	ANAM- Head of the Biodiversity and Wildlife Department
15 January 2014 (11:30)	
Federico Hernandez	Deputy Commissioner of SENAN (The National Air and Navy Service of Panama)
Didiel Nunez	ANAM - Head of Coiba National Park
Omar Abrego	ANAM - Head of Wetland of International Importance Gulf of Montijo
Eddy Arcia	ANAM - Protected areas of Coiba National park
Leticia Samaniego de Polo	ANAM-DAPVS - Head of Department of Protected Areas Management

Ibelice Anino	ANAM - Director of Protected Areas
Geremias Aguilar	ANAM - General Secretary
Israel Tejada	ANAM- Head of the Biodiversity and Wildlife Department
16 January 2014	
Luis Cubilla Rios	University of Panama
Ángel Javier Vega	University of Panama
Camilo consuegra	Coiba National Park, Panama
Evidelio Adames	University of Panama
Angel Balint	
Silvio Caleño	
Faustino Camaño	Alcalde soná, Panama
Herbert Sunk,	Scuba Coiba, Panama
Edgar Arauza	Fundación NATURA, Panama
Alejandra Blasser	Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama
Nikolas Sánchez Espino	Marviva Foundation, Panama
Malena Sarlo	Conservation International, FUNDESPA, Panama
Marvin Correa	Fundación Nacional de Pesca, Panama
Ricardo Montenegro	Conservation International, FUNDESPA, Panama
Ariel B. Carranza	Panama Tourism Authority
Claudio Atencio	Panama Tourism Authority
Arisla Atencio	Panama Tourism Authority
Isis Pinto	Marviva Foundation, Panama
Miguel Varugir	Fisherman

17 January 2014	
Didiel Nunez	ANAM - Head of Coiba National Park
Omar Abrego	ANAM - Head of Wetland of International Importance Gulf of Montijo
Eddy Arcia	ANAM - Protected areas of Coiba National park
Leticia Samaniego de Polo	ANAM-DAPVS - Head of Department of Protected Areas Management
Ibelice Anino	ANAM - Director of Protected Areas
Geremias Aguilar	ANAM - General Secretary
Israel Tejada	ANAM- Head of the Biodiversity and Wildlife Department

ANNEX VIII. MAPS



Figure I. Property official boundaries. Data provided by National Environment Authority of Panama (ANAM).

ANNEX VII. PHOTOGRAPHS



1. Aerial view of natural forest of Coiba National Park.



2. Navy Station Facilities in Coiba National Park.



3. Tourism activities at the main island, Coiba National Park.



4. Legal fishing activity in the main island, Coiba National Park.



5. Surveillance facilities recently built in the main island, Coiba National Park.