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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL
AND NATURAL HERITAGE

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-third session
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5 - 10 July 1999

**Information Document: Report of the Mission to Canaima National Park (Venezuela),
16-19 May 1999**

SUMMARY

Following the invitation from the Authorities of Venezuela to the Centre and IUCN to field a site visit to Canaima National Park and in accordance with the decisions of the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-second session a mission has been undertaken from 16-19 May 1999. The Bureau may wish to recall that the Committee (Kyoto, 1998) had requested that the findings of the mission and its recommendation concerning whether or not Canaima be included in the List of World Heritage in Danger be submitted to the twenty-third session of the Bureau in 1999.

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau may wish to take note of the report and the recommendations made therein.

Prepared by Pedro Rosabal (IUCN) and José Pedro de Oliveira Costa (UNESCO/WHC)

Background

This mission responded to the concerns of the World Heritage Committee regarding the integrity of Canaima National Park due to the threats posed by a proposal to erect a series of transmission lines across this World Heritage site. This issue was discussed by the Committee at its twenty-first session (Naples, 1997). Meanwhile IUCN and the Centre received numerous communications and messages from different institutions, including indigenous peoples organisations, concerning the threats to this National Park. The Committee in its twenty-second session (Kyoto 1998) called upon the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to field a mission to Canaima for a site assessment of the situation and to meet and discuss with all concerned parties. The goals of the mission were to:

- (a) enable the Bureau and the Committee to obtain an up-to-date and balanced view of any ascertained and potential threats posed by the power line construction project and other development in the mining, forestry and tourism sectors, to the World Heritage values of Canaima National Park; and
- (b) facilitate discussions of the Bureau and the Committee, concerning the state of conservation of the site, during their respective sessions in Paris (July 1999) and Marrakesh, (November-December 1999), to reach at a set of recommendations which will effectively address any significant issues and problems that may be threatening the World Heritage values of the Park.

Field trip to Canaima National Park

The Park was visited by the mission on 21 and 22 of May. A number of representatives from INPARQUES, MARNR², and EDELCA participated in the field trip (see Annex 1). The inspection was carried out from Kavanayen (see Map in Annex 2), a small village located in the central part of the Park, where INPARQUES³ and CVG/EDELCA⁴ have a permanent base for operations. Due to time constraints the inspection was undertaken by helicopter, thanks to the contribution of EDELCA to this mission.

On the first day the team flew over the Great Plain (Gran Sabana) to evaluate the power-line construction. They started from the northern part of the Park to the south following the road El Dorado-Santa Elena, which is the boundary of the Park on the east (marked on Map of Annex 2). To the north, the mission flew over Sierra de Lema, outside the boundaries of Canaima National Park, in the proximity of the Itacama Forest Reserve. In Sierra de Lema a 12-metre wide corridor for the construction and maintenance of the transmission line has been

¹ This is a summary of key points arising from this mission. A full detailed report in Spanish is available on request from IUCN Programme on Protected Areas.

² MARNR- Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources.

³ INPARQUES – National Institute for National Parks.

⁴ CGV/EDELCA- Venezuelan Corporation for Guyana/ Electrification of Caroní River.

established by deforesting the primary forest covering this area. With the exception of this, Sierra de Lema is well preserved and contains primary tropical forest very important for biodiversity conservation.

The transmission line is parallel to the road between El Dorado and Santa Elena, as previously recommended by IUCN. At the point where this road enters into the National Park (Km 190, South), the lines will be located always on the eastern side of the road to reduce the visual impact when looking west from the road to the Tepuyes. Within the Park, the construction of the transmission line will use 30-metre high posts instead of traditional 45-metre high towers used for this kind of project. This makes a fundamental difference in relation to their visual impact (see Annex 3 for comparison between the two structures) because the posts are more transparent structures than the towers. Furthermore, the posts will be installed using helicopters with very limited deforestation on the ground, consisting of that necessary to anchor them, thus minimising environmental impacts. The construction of the transmission line is only crossing areas of the Great Plain (Gran Sabana), not affecting any forest areas of the park. The construction of the transmission line, while minimal, certainly will have a visual impact on the Park and, desirably, should never have been implemented. However, representatives from MARNR note that its implementation responds to major economic and political priorities.

Flying over the Gran Sabana a number of small fires were observed, all of them related to traditional practices of the indigenous Pemón communities living in this area. Fires are a key element in the dynamic of ecosystems of the Great Plain and the indigenous Pemón communities have been managing fires for centuries in this area and have their own traditional procedures for control. In addition, EDELCA has a number of permanent stations for fire control to prevent any damage in the watershed of the Caroní River.

On the second day, the mission inspected the central part of the Park, where the Auyan-Tepuy cluster is located. This is the region with higher international profile due to the presence of the Angel Falls, and is thus the one more visited by international tourists. In doing so the team flew over the Caruay River and Acanan River, noting that this region as well as the entire Auyan-Tepuy cluster, is in a pristine state. To conclude the inspection, the team flew over the Carrao River down to the Canaima Lake, where a commercial airport is the main entry point of visitors coming to the Park. Flying over the area of Lake Canaima, a disorganised network of trails and secondary roads was observed, most of them as a result of four wheel-drive vehicles used by tour-operators for field excursions. Also, there are a number of constructions for tourism facilities and services. Evidently, the area of Lake Canaima requires particular attention in relation to planning for sustainable tourism.

Technical Discussions:

During the mission a number of meetings and technical discussions were implemented, organised by MARNR on issues related to Canaima National Park. Governmental institutions, NGOs and representatives from indigenous Pemón communities participated in these meetings (see Annex 4). Key issues discussed are as follows:

Management Plan:

For the management of Canaima National Park its territory has been divided in two sectors: the western and eastern sectors. A land-use planning document was prepared for the eastern

sector in 1991 but its implementation has been limited due to the lack of human and financial resources. According to the existing legislation, all land-use planning documents need to be reviewed and updated every 5 years. This work has been initiated for the eastern sector but little progress has been achieved due to the lack of resources. No land-use planning document has been prepared for the eastern sector despite the fact that it includes some of the most important features of this National Park.

At present, the management of this Park is based on operational plans that define the main actions to be implemented on a yearly basis, which does not allow for strategic long-term vision of the management of this site. Lack of financial and human resources as well as the lack of adequate base maps are the key issues limiting the preparation and implementation of a long-term management plan. There are ten (10) rangers and two (2) technical staff working in the Park. While this is an improvement in the situation of five years ago, when only five rangers were working in the Park, it is certainly not enough to ensure effective management of the 3 millions hectares of this site.

Due to these limitations, INPARQUES created an alliance with CGV/EDELCA. On the basis of this arrangement, INPARQUES receives support for activities such as patrolling, forest control, and rescue missions, by having access to EDELCA's helicopters, cars and other infrastructure. This infrastructure reflects EDELCA's mission of protecting the Caroní River watershed, that feeds the Guri Dam, where one of the most important hydroelectric power stations of South America is in operation. This hydroelectric power station generates energy for all of Venezuela and soon will export energy to Colombia and Brazil.

During discussion on the management of Canaima National Park with representatives of INPARQUES, MARNR, NGOs and the indigenous Pemón communities, some other important issues were highlighted:

- It is considered essential that the boundaries of Canaima National Park coincide with those of the World Heritage site, due to the ecological linkages between the Gran Sabana and the Tepuyes cluster. There is agreement that reducing the World Heritage site to only include the Tepuyes could considerably reduce their overall protection. Such an alternative could substantially reduce the control over the Gran Sabana, which could allow the development of projects that in the long term might produce an impact on the Tepuyes.
- Also, in relation to the boundaries of the World Heritage site, specialists from INPARQUES and MARNR consider that it would be desirable to include in the future the Tepuyes cluster formed by, Tramén, Ilu, Karaurin, Wadakapiapó, Yuruanió, and Iwarkarima. All these tepuyes are already declared as National Monuments (Category III, IUCN) under the Venezuelan Law for Protected Areas. Whether or not these tepuyes meet the criteria for World Heritage natural sites should be explored. It is also seen by specialists from INPARQUES as highly desirable to promote a joint nomination with Brazil to include the tepuyes cluster of Roraima in a future bi-national World Heritage site.
- It is important that INPARQUES promote and implement as soon as possible co-management arrangements with the indigenous peoples living in the Park. At the present there is little dialogue between INPARQUES and the Pemón, despite the fact that co-management arrangements are in place in other national parks of Venezuela, particularly

those in the Amazon region. It was agreed that a priority should be to submit a request for technical assistance to the World Heritage Convention to organise a national workshop, with participation of international experts, to discuss this issue as part of the design of a long term management strategy for this site.

- Finally, it was pointed out by representatives of IUCN National Committee for Venezuela that INPARQUES and MARNR should establish alliances and co-operative arrangements with national NGOs in order to make full use of their technical capacity and experience to enhance the management of Canaima National Park.

Power line construction Las Claritas – Santa Elena de Uaiari:

This project is considered of national and regional importance by the Government of Venezuela and contributes to the integration of Venezuela to MERCOSUR. According to national legislation (Decree 1257 of 1996), an EIA was prepared for this project. The TOR for this EIA was approved by MARNR in 1997 and the EIA final report was approved also by MARNR in 1998. The mission team received a copy of this study and, after the review of the document, the team found it to be of high technical quality and noted that a number of alternatives were identified to minimise the impact of this construction on Canaima National Park.

For example, in one of the initial alternatives the transmission line penetrates into the Park for 128.8 kms, however the final construction only penetrates 72 kms into the Park (see Map on Annex 2). On the other hand, the use of posts instead of towers (see Annex 2) to be installed using helicopters instead of conventional deforested corridors of service, increased substantially the cost of this project within the Park. According to EDELCA's estimation these mitigating measures represent an additional cost to this project of over 7.5 Million US dollars. As described in Section I, the actual impact of this construction in the Park has been kept to a minimum by the implementation of environmentally sound alternatives.

To have a balanced view of this construction and its impact on the Park, it is important to take into account that, due to the existence of a zone under territorial reclamation by the Governments of Venezuela and Guyana, it is impossible to implement this project completely outside the Park. The only possibility to avoid this would have been the construction of the transmission line closer or even inside the area under international reclamation. However, according to experts interviewed from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela, this is politically unacceptable and was against international regulations in this kind of conflict. This is a question of politics rather than a technical issue. Representatives of EDELCA pointed out that no other transmission line is proposed or under study that could affect Canaima National Park.

However, during discussions with representatives of NGOs, indigenous Pemón communities and the Permanent Commission for the Environment of the Venezuelan Senate, it was stressed that the EIA did not follow the legally established process of public consultation with all stakeholders and particularly with indigenous peoples' communities. The project was neither discussed nor endorsed by the Senate of Venezuela, and this is why it is on hold and under revision by the Supreme Court of Justice of the country at present. In addition, the NGOs and indigenous Pemón communities are particularly concerned with the indirect socio-economic impacts from this project, which could promote migration and further expansion of mining activities.

Indigenous Pemón Communities:

There are around 80 indigenous Pemón communities within the Park, with a population between 12,000 to 15,000 people. In a meeting with 22 representatives of indigenous peoples' communities they all ratified their strong position against the power line construction. The construction penetrates into land and territories traditionally occupied by them, without a proper process of consultation and endorsement. In addition, they are greatly concerned about its potential impact on their culture if the project promotes uncontrolled economic development around Canaima National Park, mainly related to the mining and tourism sectors.

The indigenous Pemón communities recognised the importance of Canaima National Park to preserve and maintain the natural and cultural values of this territory. It is important to note that they give strong emphasis to the spiritual and cultural linkages between the Gran Sabana and the Tepuyes and the need to consider them as one entity. However, they strongly claim their rights to be fully involved in the planning and management of Canaima National Park, allowing them to be key actors in its protection. To date they have been key players to stop illegal mining and other activities within their lands and territories, and this should be fully recognised.

Imataca Forest Reserve and Mining Activities:

It is important to highlight some issues on this Forest Reserve. Firstly, it adjoins the northern part of Canaima National Park and secondly it has been identified in a number of reports received by UNESCO and IUCN as the main potential source for the expansion of mining to Canaima National Park.

The Imataca Forest Reserve was declared in 1961 and covers an area of 3,600,000 hectares, 80% of which is still covered by primary tropical rainforest. This is an important area for biodiversity conservation but it is also rich in mineral resources, mainly gold, bauxite and iron, thus mining interest in this area started in the last century.

The Decree 1850 of 1998, proposed a mixed management regime, covering over a million hectares of this reserve for mining and forest exploitation. Due to the strong opposition and actions from the NGOs movement and other relevant organisations dealing with conservation, the Supreme Court of Justice of Venezuela was requested to revoke this Decree. As a result the Supreme Court recently prohibited the issuing of new mining concessions in this area.

The most important mining area within the Imataca Forest Reserve is Las Claritas, located only 100Kms from Canaima National Park. All the experts consulted during the mission agreed on the need to monitor and control the mining development in this area. Due to its proximity to Canaima National Park an uncontrolled expansion of this site can eventually produce an impact on it.

In this regard there is technical consensus among the specialists consulted from INPARQUES and MARNR on the possibility of establishing the 500,000 hectares of Sierra de Lema as a buffer zone to the Canaima National Park. Another desirable possibility is to integrate Sierra the Lema to Canaima National Park due to its biodiversity values and good state of conservation, the later being evident during the field inspection. Sierra de Lema, due to its

geomorphology, is a natural defence against the expansion of mining activities to Canaima National Park. Under Decree 1850 of 1998, Sierra de Lema forms part of Imataca Forest Reserve and is categorised as an “Integral Protection Zone”. However, due to the possibility of revocation of this Decree, it is important to rethink the legal status that this area requires to ensure its conservation and to support that of Canaima National Park.

The creation of a buffer zone for Canaima National Park is necessary also on the southern part of Canaima to prevent the expansion of mining activities from Brazil. According to the specialists consulted in INPARQUES and MARNR, this is a more difficult task due to the land tenure characteristics of this area. Thus, it is considered as a priority to reinforce patrol and control of INPARQUES in the southern portion of the Park. However, the indigenous Pemón communities are playing a key role in defending the Park in this area against illegal mining coming from Brazil, by advising on intruders to the local authorities and INPARQUES.

Finally, there are two other issues related to mining that are worth considering:

- There is a traditional mining of gold in some of the rivers within Canaima National Park by the indigenous Pemón communities living within the Park. This use is very limited and mainly responds to their particular needs for specific sacred rituals. Specialists from INPARQUES have not detected any significant impact related to this activity.
- The possibility of pollution of the rivers within Canaima National Park due to the use of mercury by illegal miners operating in the south of the Park is very low due to the fact that almost all waters originate in the Park and drain from it. However, this is an issue of concern due to its potential impact to the Caroní River, which feeds the Guri Dam.

Institutional Capacity:

As already mentioned, the institutional capacity of INPARQUES and MARNR is very limited at present. This is the result of the lack of stability and the systematic weakening of institutions due to structural changes and lack of priority from the past governments on environmental matters. As a result, an important number of protected areas specialists moved from the government to work in different NGOs and other institutions. In addition, the financial resources allocated from the government to these institutions are very limited. In the specific case of Canaima National Park it was possible to increase the staff and infrastructure due to a loan from The World Bank dedicated to strengthening the National System of Protected Areas. However, this support is insufficient due to the size and complexity of Canaima National Park. The representatives of UNESCO and IUCN that took part in this mission were highly concerned to know whether there are plans to restructure INPARQUES and MARNR that would reduce their capacity even further.

On the other hand, it is important to note that the present government seems to be more committed to environmental matters. The situation mentioned above has been very much inherited from the past government. However, considering the difficult socio-economic situation of the country it is clear that to strengthen these institutions considerable international support will be required. In this regard in all meetings and technical discussions it was stressed that UNESCO should take a more pro-active role in supporting the Government of Venezuela to obtain this support. All specialists consulted, both from the

government and NGOs, agreed that whatever support could be obtained for Canaima National Park might have a positive influence for the overall National System of Protected Areas.

Conclusions

1. The posts for the transmission line have been installed practically in the entire sector that penetrate into Canaima National Park. The implementation of this project has been done with the maximum possible care (installation using helicopters with no deforestation and using small and more transparent structures), so its environmental and visual impact is minimum. They do not interfere substantially with the main aesthetic values of the Park that are associated with its Western Sector. **However, the representatives of UNESCO and IUCN that took part in this mission considered that this construction should never have been allowed to penetrate into the Park.** Nevertheless, it is recognised that, due to the political problem related to a territorial dispute between Venezuela and Guyana, the option of avoiding the construction of this project within the boundaries of the Park, was impossible.
2. So far, all mining activities are happening outside the Park. Within the Park boundaries only traditional mining in very limited areas is reported, associated with traditional activities of the indigenous Pemón communities. It is considered that this traditional practice does not represent a threat to the integrity of the Park.
3. The expansion of mining activities from Las Claritas at the north of the Park, and from Brazil on the south, is a potential threat to the integrity of Canaima, however no actual impact was detected. Experts from INPARQUES and MARNR agreed on the need to create a buffer zone around Canaima National Park, including Sierra de Lema on the north. It is also considered as a priority to enhance control and protection of the Park, particularly on the south, to stop any potential expansion of illegal mining activities from Brazil.
4. The mission did not find evidence of deforestation within Canaima National Park. Flying over the forest included in this area it was possible to confirm its integrity and good state of conservation. However, in the Gran Sabana there are small areas under shifting cultivation associated with the traditional activities of the indigenous Pemón communities.
5. The mission did not find significant impacts related to tourism activities within Canaima National Park. The major centre of tourism development is located around Canaima Lake, in the western sector of the Park. In this area a disorganised network of trails and secondary roads was observed, most of them as a result of 4 wheel-drive vehicles used by tour-operators for field excursions. While at the present this only represent a local impact, it is important to prepare a special plan for sustainable tourism development in this area. In the rest of the Park the indigenous communities have created camps for small groups of visitors (10-15 people) to support trekking in the Gran Sabana and the Tepuyes. These camps are fully integrated into the landscape and should be considered as examples for future infrastructure. This activity generates direct benefits to the indigenous peoples' communities living within the Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS

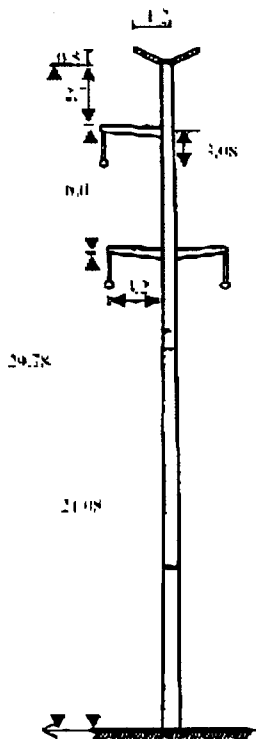
From the above conclusions, the UNESCO-IUCN mission would like to propose that the Bureau recommends to the World Heritage Committee the following:

1. The boundaries of the World Heritage site should be those of Canaima National Park, as currently inscribed in the World Heritage List. There are strong ecological and cultural linkages between the Tepuyes clusters and the Gran Sabana. The Gran Sabana is a representative sample of the Guyana Plateau Biographic Province (Udvardy 1975), so far only represented in the World Heritage List by Canaima National Park. This area is also representative of an important global centre of plant diversity (WWF/IUCN, 1997). The Gran Sabana area protected by the Park contains six vegetation complexes, 300 endemic species and six endemic genus of flora. A number of global endangered species are also living in this area. The exclusion of the Gran Sabana would reduce the overall significance of this site and could potentially undermine the long-term protection of the Tepuyes cluster.
2. The mission considers that the construction of the transmission line is not compatible with the objectives of Canaima National Park and World Heritage site. However, this construction is causing a localised impact and its environmental and visual impact have been minimised and do not interfere with the main values for which this site was inscribed in the World Heritage List. No significant impacts within the Park have been detected in relation to mining, deforestation or tourism. Thus, the mission considers that there is not evidence that justifies the inclusion of this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger.
3. The mission proposes to the World Heritage Committee to recommend to the Centre to give an adequate follow-up to the implementation of the Short Term Action Plan proposed in Annex 5. On the basis of this Action Plan, the Committee might like to invite the State Party to submit annual progress reports on the state of conservation of this site. Another field mission could be organised if the Committee considered necessary, but no later than in five years' time. The Committee might like also to recommend the Centre provide support to the State Party to obtain additional financial resources to enhance the management of this site.
4. The World Heritage Committee should recommend to the State Party to create, as soon as possible, mechanisms to promote the dialogue between all relevant stakeholders interested in the conservation and management of this area. This should include INPARQUES, MARNR, EDELCA, the government of the Bolivar State, representatives of indigenous Pemón communities, and NGOs. As a matter of priority this dialogue should seek to find common ground and acceptable solutions to all parties to conflicts arising from the construction of the transmission line. The Committee should request that the Centre and IUCN support this process as far as possible, including the provision of technical information on co-management arrangements in other World Heritage sites.

ANNEX 1 – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE FIELD VISIT ON 21-22 MAY 1999

Name	Institution
Sr. Pedro Rosabal	Unión Mundial para la Naturaleza (UICN)
Sr. José P. de Oliveira	UNESCO
Sr. Ender Carrizo	Director General del Instituto Nacional de Parques (INPARQUES)
Sr. Jorge Romero	Director de Parques Nacionales (INPARQUES)
Sra. Alicia Quevedo	Secretaria General de INPARQUES
Sr. Martín Leyderman	Asesor de INPARQUES
Sr. Marco Tirado	Encargado de Prensa INPARQUES
Sr. Raúl Antonio Rojas	Director del Parque Nacional Canaima
Sr. Anibal Invernon	Director de INPARQUES del Sector Amazonas
Sr. Gregory Colomine	Director General Sectorial de Calidad Ambiental, MARNR
Sra. Jacqueline Mendoza	Directora General Sectorial de la Oficina Desarrollo Profesional y Relaciones Internacionales (ODEPRI), MARNR
Sra. Haydee Briceño	Directora General Sectorial de Aguas y Suelos, MARNR
Sra. América Cabrera	Jefe de Protocolo del MARNR
Sr. Gerardo Arellano	Jefe de la Unidad de Medio Ambiente del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (MRE)
Sr. Alfredo Lezama	Vice-Presidente de Ambiente, Ciencia y Tecnología (EDELCA)
Sr. Freddy Barreat	Gerente de Ambiente (EDELCA)
Sr. Elio Briceño	Gerencia de Cuencas (EDELCA)
Sr. Johnny Figarella	Equipo Periodístico Globo Visión
Sr. Douglas Godoy	Equipo Periodístico Globo Visión
Sr. Eduardo Blasco	Equipo Periodístico Globo Visión

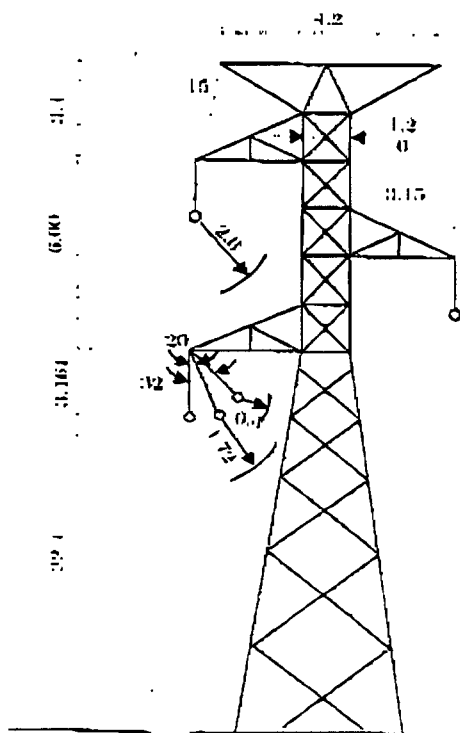
ANNEX 3 – COMPARISON BETWEEN STRUCTURES USED FOR THE TRANSMISSION LINE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE CANAIMA NP



CARACTERISTICAS BASICAS:

- Conductor de Fase:
ACAR 1024.5 MCM 30/7
- Cables de Guarda:
2 Alumoweld 7# 9- OPGW
- Tipo de Aisladores:
Aisladores Poliméricos de Goma de Silicón marca Reliable
- Distancia Mínima a Tierra: 8 m
- Derecho de Paso: 33 m
- Longitud Total Aproximada: 214.64 KM
- N° de Postes Aproximado: 371

Post (25-30 Mts. high) used for the transmission line inside the Park



CARACTERISTICAS BASICAS:

- Conductor de Fase:
ACAR 1024.5 MCM 30/7
- Cables de Guarda:
2 Alumoweld 7# 9- OPGW
- Tipo de Aisladores:
Aisladores Poliméricos de Goma de Silicón marca Reliable
- Distancia Mínima a Tierra: 8 m
- Derecho de Paso: 33 m
- Longitud Total Aproximada: 214.64 KM
- N° de Torres Aproximado: 214

Traditional tower (45 Mts. high) used for the transmission line outside the Park

ANNEX 4 – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS TO DIFFERENT MEETINGS AND TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS DURING THE MISSION.

Name	Institution
Representatives from NGOs	
Anna de Ponte	COAMA/ AVVA Frontera Gran Sabana
Maria Kazana	FUNPZA
Franklin Rojas Suárez	PROVITA
Ormando Hernández	Comité Venezolano de UICN
Cristina Pardo	WCPA/ IUCN
Mario Gabaldón	Fundación Parques Nacionales

Representatives from Governmental Institutions

Gisele Camejo	CNC/ UNESCO
Felix G. Arellao	UMA/ Minist. de Relaciones Exteriores
Jaqueline Mendoza	MARNR/DGSODEPRI
Gregori Colomine	Calidad Ambiental/MARNR
jesús Arnaldo Pérez	MARNR/POA
María Paola Gonçalves	Comisión Nacional UNESCO
Mariana Romero	UMA/ Minist. de Relaciones Exteriores
Pedro Delfín	MARNR/ DGSPDA
Miguel Luna	MARNR/ DGSPDA
J. Anibal Invernón	INPARQUES
Jorge Romero	INPARQUES
Miyet Rodríguez	INPARQUES
Gabriel Picón N.	Estación Científica Parupa/CVG
Alfredo Lezama	CVE Vice-Precidencia Ambiente
Esperanza Colón	CGV/ EDELCA
José M. Ferrín	CGV/ EDELCA
Enrique Dorta	MARNR/ DGAS
Maria Valdez	MARNR/ RP

Representatives of Indigenous Peoples Communitites

Name	Community
Jurencio Gómez Suarez	San Francisco de Yuaraní
Silviano Castro	San Rafael de Kamoirán
Dario Castro	San Juan de Kamoirán
Ramón Gil	Ayutii, Paragua
Ladislao Calvaño	Kamarata
Felix Velásquez	Apanao, Imataca
Nicolás Betis	Kamarata
José Luis González	Kamarata
José Poyo	San José de Guanipa
Guillermo Guevara	Puerto Ayacucho
Noely Pocaterra	Maracaibo
Librada Pocaterra	Maracaibo
Tito Poyo	Camunica
Freddy A. Pérez	Qmrakpai

Fernández Basilio
Pérez Emiliano
Ramón Salazar
Inés Peña M.
José Corudo
Carmelo Lexias Godoy
Gabriela Croes Esté

San Francisco de Yuruaní
San Francisco de Yuruaní
Las Bonitas
San Francisco de Yuruaní
San Rafael de Kamoirán
El Plomo
Dirección de Asuntos Indígenas/
Ministerio de Educación

ANNEX 5 – SHORT TERM ACTION PLAN FOR CANAIMA NATIONAL PARK

1. The State Party should submit to the World Heritage Centre a request for technical assistance to organise and implement a national workshop on Canaima National Park. This workshop should aim to prepare a project proposal for the long-term participatory management strategy for this site, to be submitted to international donors. It should count with the participation of all relevant national and local stakeholders, including indigenous peoples' representatives, NGOs, and experts from UNESCO and IUCN. This workshop should be seen as a main step in creating mechanisms for involving all relevant stakeholders in the planning and management of this site.
2. The World Heritage Committee should consider the above-mentioned request for technical assistance as a priority for approval of the necessary funding. The Committee should request the Centre to support the State Party to obtain financial support from UNDP, The World Bank, UN Foundation and other international donors to implement a project proposal for the long term participatory management strategy of this site.
3. The World Heritage Committee should recommend to the Government of Venezuela to provide all possible support to INPARQUES and MARNR and to explore ways to enhance the institutional capacity of these institutions.
4. MARNR and INPARQUES should give maximum priority to establish a buffer zone around Canaima National Park, including Sierra de Lema. This is essential to prevent that further expansion of mining activities in Las Claritas, could affect Canaima National Park.
5. The Government of Venezuela, through INPARQUES and MARNR, should encourage an assessment of the possibilities to include other Tepuyes clusters as part of Canaima National Park and to further evaluate with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN their possible inclusion to expand Canaima World Heritage site.
6. The World Heritage Committee should recommend to the Governments of Venezuela and Brazil to explore the possibility of joining efforts and resources to stop possible mining developments that could affect the integrity of Canaima National Park in its southern part. This co-operation, which might be considered under the framework of MERCOSUR, should also explore the possibility of a joint nomination of the Roraima Tepuyes Cluster as a possible bi-national World Heritage site.