

WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION

IUCN TECHNICAL REVIEW

1. IDENTIFICATION NUMBER AND NAME 196 RIO PLATANO BIOSPHERE RESERVE
2. LOCATION: Between 15° 57'N Latitude, and 84° 35' and 85° 38'W longitude
3. NOMINATED BY: Ministry of Natural Resources, Honduras
4. DOCUMENTATION:
 - (i) Nomination form
 - (ii) Supplementary information by IUCN
 - a) Carr, A.F. 1950. Outline for classification of animal habitats in Honduras. Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History 94(10)
 - b) WWF/IUCN Project 1645: Progress report 1979-80: Initial Protection of the proposed Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve, Honduras.
 - c) Glick, Dennis A. 1981. Indigenous Technology Transfer and the MAB Biosphere Reserve Programme. University Microfilms, Ann Arbor. 157 pp.
 - d) Consultations: Arne Dalfelt, NORAD, Oslo; Kenton Miller, Chairman, IUCN Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas.

5. BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

Rio Platano covers 350,000 hectares, including a wide range of habitats ranging from the sea coast through coastal savannas and lagoons to several types of tropical rainforest. Its virgin forests contain a variety of plant and animal species, including IUCN Endangered animals such as Giant Anteater, Ocelot, Jaguar, Central American Tapir, Caribbean Manatee, Harpy Eagle, Scarlet Macaw, Military Macaw, American Crocodile, and Brown Caiman; 377 species of birds have been recorded, along with 126 species of reptiles and amphibians. The lower areas are of considerable anthropological interest, with Miskito and Paya Indians and several areas with stone inscriptions and petroglyphs. The site is a Biosphere Reserve, and a number of research projects are being conducted.

6. INTEGRITY

The reserve has clear boundaries and is surrounded by a large buffer zone. It has a comprehensive and modern management plan and operational plans, though management has been minimal to date due to insufficient funds. The area has formed a stable and integrated unit for hundreds of years, and the management plan provides a unique option for controlled and sustained development for the benefit of the local indigenous population.

7. COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS

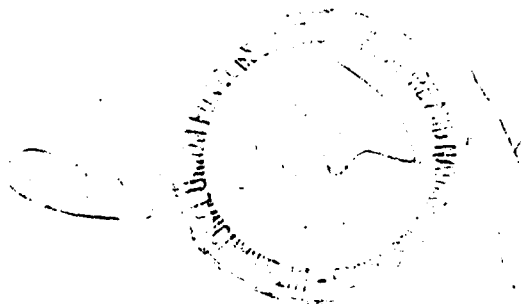
Rio Platano was selected after painstaking surveys, so there is no comparable site in Central America; other areas may have some of the same characteristics, but not the full range of features found in Rio Platano. The unique value of Rio Platano lies in its being a complete watershed going from the coast to the tops of mountains and containing a very high diversity of biological and anthropological features.

8. EVALUATION

Rio Platano is an outstanding example of a large natural area of extraordinary interest being managed for both nature conservation objectives and human social and economic development objectives. It meets natural criteria i, ii, iii, and iv as well as cultural criteria for inclusion on the World Heritage List.

9. RECOMMENDATION

Rio Platano should be added to the World Heritage List. The Committee may wish to urge the Government of Honduras to submit an appropriate technical assistance request to the Committee.



International Union for Conservation of
Nature and Natural Resources

15 April 1982