WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION -- IUCN SUMMARY

402: MANU NATIONAL PARK (PERU)

Summary prepared by IUCN (April 1987) based on the original nomination submitted by Peru. This original and all documents presented in support of this nomination will be available for consultation at the meetings of the Bureau and the Committee.

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1. LOCATION:

The park is located in the provinces of Manu and Paucartambo comprising lands on the eastern slopes of the Andes and in the Peruvian Amazon. The limits to the North are the watershed separating the catchment basins of Manu and Las Piedra rivers (72°01'W, 11°17'S); to the South the area where the road from Paucartambo to the NW turns to Tres Cruces (71°30'W, 11°11'S); to the East the region on the left margin of the Alto Madre de Dios River to the Pilcopata River, (71°10'W, 12°18'S); and to the West the watershed separating the catchment basins of the Manu and Camisea Rivers (72°22'W, 11°45'S).

2. JURIDICAL DATA:

Established by Decree No. 644-73-AG, 29 May 1973, and fully protected. Accepted as part of a MAB Biosphere Reserve March 1977. Manu National Park covers 1,532,806ha and the whole of the park is state property.

3. IDENTIFICATION:

The Manu National Park includes the catchment basin of the Manu River and part of the catchment of the Alto Madre de Dios River. There are three major landforms within the park, alluvial plains, hills and mountains. The most widespread vegetation types found are tropical lowland rainforest, tropical montane rainforest and Puna vegetation (grasslands). The management plan maps 14 forest types, 1147 plant species have been identified in the park within quite a small area, and it is likely that the number of species to be found within the park is well over this figure.

A total of 526 bird species and 99 species of mammals have been identified from the lowland forests around Cocha Cashu Biological Station. The bird species found in Manu represent 52% of all species in Peru and 15% of all the species in the world. There are also 12 species of reptiles within 7 families. It has been estimated that the park contains around 500,000 species of arthropods. Species known to be globally threatened which occur in the park include woolly monkey, Emperor tamarin, red uakari, giant otter, giant anteater, giant armadillo, ocelot, Andean cat, jaguar, small-eared dog, bush dog, North Andean Huemul, spectacled caiman, and black caiman.

The park is inhabited by at least three different native groups: the Machiguenga, the Yaminahua and the Amahuaca. The forest indians are nomadic, mostly subsistant on some form of rootcrop agriculture on alluvial soils along river banks and lakes, on hunting along water courses and inside the forest, on fishing and on the collection of turtle eggs. Shifting cultivation is the basic agricultural practice.

4. STATE OF PRESERVATION/CONSERVATION:

The Manu National Park is fully protected by a National Supreme Decree. There are two main objectives for the National Park, to preserve the environment and species diversity, and to provide an area for recreation and education of the general public. The management plan is being implemented by means of three programmes: Environmental Management, Public Use and Operations. The park has been divided into 4 zones. The restricted zone is mostly undisturbed forest and comprises most of the park area. There are two recreational areas, in Akcacaco-Tres Cruces (200ha) and in Cosha Cashu (5,000ha). In both places there are paths and facilities for visitors. There is also a recuperation zone located in the Andean pastures, where burning and cattle raising are being controlled. Service zones comprises small areas around control posts or the Biological Station.

There are about 4,000 head of cattle in the upper parts of the park (Puna). Cattle owners burn the grasslands regularly to provide new grasses for the cattle. Since it is very difficult to remove the cattle, grazing will have to be controlled by zonation. Colonization is threatening the reserve on the eastern boundary, along the Palatoa and Pinipini rivers. A North American company has the rights for gold mining along the Palatoa River on the eastern limits. On the eastern edge and on the south boundary of the park (uplands) there are illegal and licensed loggers.

Other threats from petroleum exploration and new road development near the park boundaries also exist. Since 1968 WWF has supported development of the administrative infrastructure of the park, training of staff and educational programmes.

5. JUSTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST:

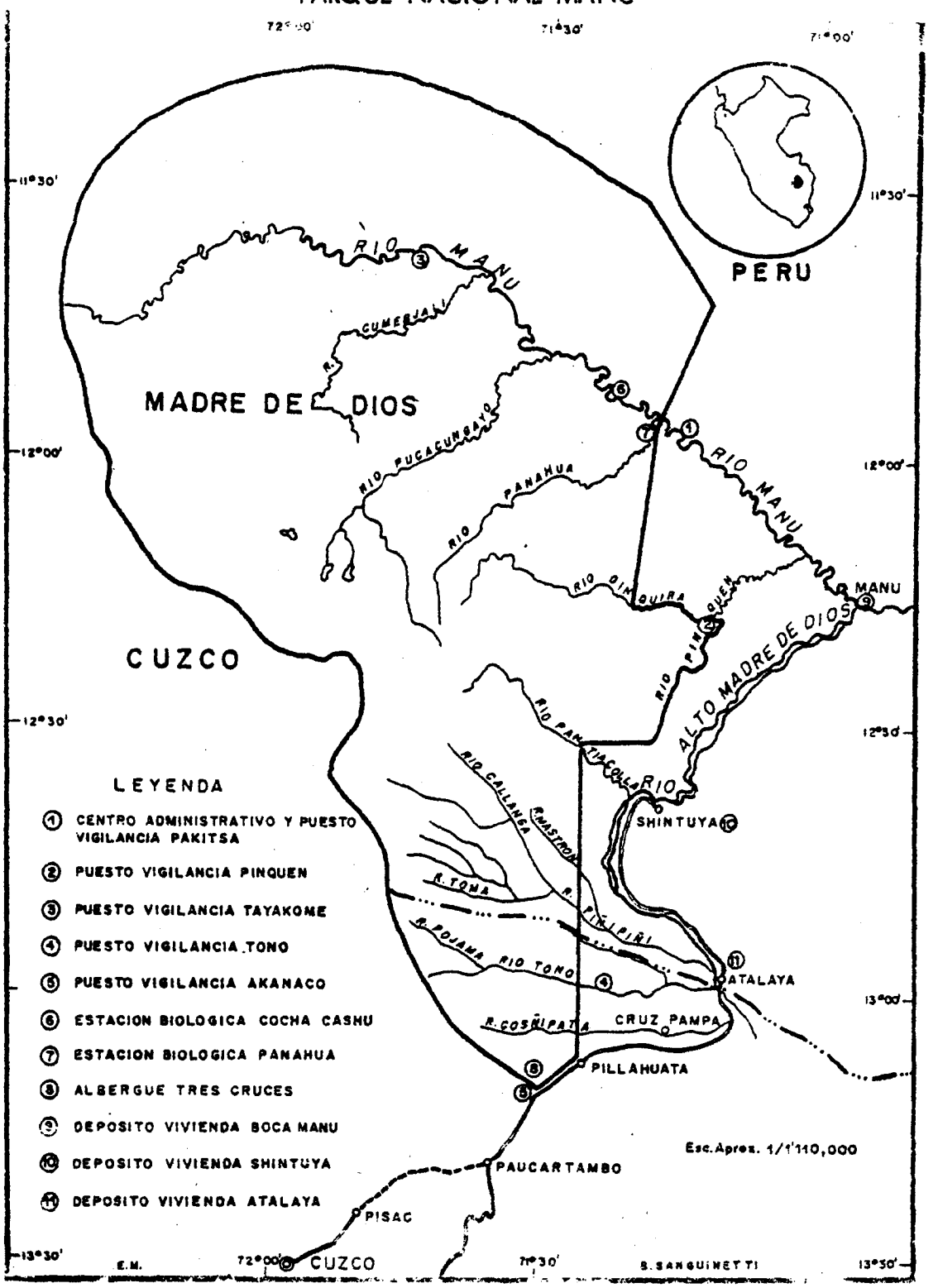
The Manu National Park nomination, as presented by the Government of Peru provides the following justification for designation as a World Heritage property:

a) Natural property

(iii) Exceptional combination of natural and cultural elements. Native populations living in the park are still largely unaffected by modern civilization and provide special opportunity for anthropological study.

(iv) Habitat of Rare and Endangered Species. The biological diversity found in Manu National Park exceeds that of any other place on earth.

PARQUE NACIONAL MANU



WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION -- IUCN TECHNICAL EVALUATION

402 MANU NATIONAL PARK (PERU)

1. DOCUMENTATION:

(i) IUCN Data Sheet
(ii) Consultations: INFOR Director, FPCN staff, field staff, CORDEMAD staff, D. Ricaldi, M. Dourojeanni, L. Yallico, I. Grimwood, C. Munn, J. Brocklehurst, M. Goebel, H. Hazebroek, M. Rios, H. Jungius, G. Ruiz.
(iii) Literature consulted: H. Jungius draft management plan 1975-79; University La Molina, 1986; Plan Maestro; APECO Parque nacionale del Manu.
(iv) Site visit: May 1987.

2. COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS

There are 7 terrestrial protected areas in the Neotropical Realm larger in size than Manu. These are Canaima (Venezuela), Alacalufes, Bernado O'Higgins and Laguna San Rafael (Chile), Jau and Neblina (Brazil) and Manipuri Pando (Bolivia). Of these the last 3 fall within the Amazonian Biogeographical Province. Manu is the only park which actually includes part of 3 biogeographical provinces - Amazonia, Yungas and Puna. Because of its wide altitudinal range, Manu contains a greater diversity of plants and animals than any of the other sites. No other site includes an entire river basin within its boundaries. The nearby Tambopata Wildlife Reserve also has high biological diversity but is much smaller in size, has less legal protection and lacks the altitudinal variation of Manu. No other area in the neotropics except Barro Colorado Island in Panama has attracted the scientific interest that Manu has generated.

3. INTEGRITY

The nominated area has ideal boundaries in that it includes the whole of the upper catchment area of the Manu River and part of the catchment of the Madre de Dios. The park is the core of a larger area which includes two buffer zones and is a designated Biosphere Reserve. It is the largest single conservation unit in Peru.

The park has an officially approved management plan and a trained cadre of 31 staff. Over the past 15 years it has developed, with the assistance of IUCN/WWF, a substantial infrastructure for protection including five guard posts, vehicles and boats. There is an active education programme and much publicity on the park. A visitor centre is planned in future. A local community advisory group has recently been formed and proposals for sustainable buffer zone development are being prepared.

In 1984, due mainly to a proposed road through the park and a canal, the park was put on IUCN's Register of Threatened Protected Areas of the World. A local campaign resulted in cancellation of these plans and the park has been removed from the threatened list.

There are, however, still a number of management issues that need to be resolved:

-- grazing of up to 4,000 livestock in the Paramo zone of the park;

-- oil and gas development north of the park;

-- agriculture encroachment and removal of timber along the south east boundary in the "cultural zone";

-- attempts by Dominican missionairies to settle the native population in the park. At present, native groups range over at least 60% of the park and although hunting by traditional means and harvesting of forest resources is permitted, they are thought to have little impact on park resources. The exception is at the village of Tayakome where 55 people now permanently reside and have created an enclave of some 6 sq km within the park.

The management authority is attempting to address those issues by building more guard posts, involving local people to a greater extent, expanding the education programme and employing a park anthropologist and a park medical doctor. Threats to the area thus continue to exist but are being contained by public support and an active management programme.

4. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Manu was accepted as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1977. A reflection of the scientific importance of the park is the many contributions (almost 200 publications) to our understanding of tropical forest ecosystems made by scientists working at the Cocha Cashu Biological Station inside the park.

5. EVALUATION

There is probably no other protected area in the world with the diversity of ecosystems and species that compare with Manu. It contains nearly all the ecological formations of eastern Peru: tropical lowland forest, montane forest and puna grasslands, with their respective flora and fauna. Manu is consequently the most exclusive and representative park in the Amazon basin. Some botanists claim that Manu has more plant species than any other protected area on earth.

The 850 bird species found in Manu represent 15% of all the bird species in the world. There are at least 13 wildlife species in the park known to be globally threatened including the black caiman, the giant otter and the ocelot. There is also a diverse number of fish, amphibians and invertebrates and it has been estimated that the park contains at least 500,000 species of arthropods.

Manu is one of the world's most important national parks and merits inscription under World Heritage criteria ii and iv. The site fulfils all the conditions of integrity.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Manu National Park should be inscribed on the World Heritage List. The Committee may wish to encourage: 1) the continuing involvement of assistance agencies in supporting the management of the park, 2) the role of the anthropology programme in studying and monitoring the activities of the native population residing in the park, and 3) the need for a rural development project in the buffer zone surrounding the park.