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IUCN REVIEW

World Heritage Nomination

1. NAME: Dinosaur Provincial Park
2. LOCATION: S.W. Alberta, Canada
3. NOMINATED BY: Mr. Peter H. Bennett
Special Adviser
PARKS Canada
UNESCO World Heritage Convention
4. DOCUMENTATION:
 - i) Nomination, dated February 14, 1979
 - ii) Nomination includes nine appendices:
 - I and II Legal description and order-in-Council
 - III and IV Maps and Resource Summaries
 - V and VI Audio-visual material (not seen by IUCN at time of review)
 - VII Bibliography
 - VIII Interim management plan
 - IX Statement of significance: Dr. D. Russell, Chief, Division of Paleobiology, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa.

5. BACKGROUND:

The World Heritage Site encompasses 5,965 ha. of the 8,994 ha. Dinosaur Provincial Park which was established on June 27, 1955 under the authority of the Alberta Provincial Parks Act.

The nomination submitted to the Government of Canada by the Government of Alberta states:

"The Province of Alberta will undertake to abide by all the provisions of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention with respect to the site, and will maintain and protect it in accordance with acceptable international standards."

6. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

- i) The Park represents the most important remaining fragment of the Dinosaurian world known to mankind - the strata which has yielded remains of 29 species of Dinosaur was deposited 75 million years ago.

- ii) The Park contains exceptional natural features of a riparian nature as well as badlands of outstanding aesthetic value.
- iii) Endangered species of plants and animals are included in the Park.

7. JUSTIFICATION:

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

Item 10 Outstanding universal value

- i) Major stages of the earth's evolutionary history - "the age of reptiles"

- this site is unmatched in terms of the number and variety of high quality specimens.
- 60 species of more than 45 genera of seven families of dinosaurs have been found in Dinosaur Provincial Park. These include representations of every known group of cetaceous dinosaurs. The best representation occur in the families:

Coluridae
Ornithomimidae
Tyrannosauridae
Nodosauridae
Pachycephalosauridae
Ceratopsians

Dr. Dale Russell, Curator
Paleobiology, National
Museum of Canada

- over 300 specimens have been removed and these are found in the following museums:

The National Museum of Brazil
The Museum of Natural History, Buenos Aires
British Museum of Natural History, London
American Museum of Natural History, New York
The National Museum of Canada

Dr. Dale Russell

- International scientific interest in the Park is high, as evidenced by paleontologists attending the "First Round Table on the Continental Ecosystems of the Mesozoic, Paris, September, 1978".

- iii) Contains rare or superlative natural phenomena

The site is an outstanding example of a major geological process and fluvial erosion patterns in semi-arid steppes - this is combined with a stretch of high quality and virtually undisturbed riparian habitat, forming a landscape of exceptional natural beauty.

The foregoing has been recognized through the International Biological Programme and the USFS Symposium on the Management of Riparian Habitats.

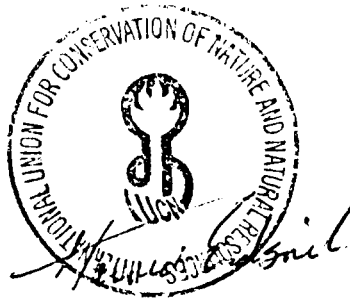
8. INTEGRITY:

The area included in the World Heritage submission includes all of the area required to maintain the integrity of the proposal. In addition any palaeontological resources found outside the area are protected by the Alberta Historical Resources Act of 1978.

An interim management plan has been prepared and is attached to the nomination as Appendix VIII.

9. RECOMMENDATION:

That Dinosaur Provincial Park be placed on the World Heritage List.



International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

March 1979