

U.S. National Park Service

International Programs



Quarterly Bulletin

April – June 2007

Welcome to the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) International Programs Quarterly Bulletin, issued by the NPS Office of International Affairs (OIA). Additional information on NPS international activities can be found at the NPS OIA webpage: <http://www.nps.gov/oia>

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World Heritage Committee Meeting in New Zealand

U.S. Department of the Interior leadership, NPS officials and the U.S. Ambassador to UNESCO represented the United States at the 31st meeting of the World Heritage Committee, in Christchurch, New Zealand, at the end of June. Notable actions taken by the Committee, of which the U.S. is one of 21 member nations, included the first de-listing of a World Heritage Site – the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary in Oman and the inscription of twenty-two new Sites to the World Heritage List, bringing the total to 851 Sites. While the Committee voted to add Galapagos to the List of Sites in Danger, it also voted to remove **Everglades National Park** from the In Danger list, in recognition of the ongoing efforts to protect and set benchmarks for the restoration of the Everglades ecosystem. For more information, contact Stephen Morris, at stephen_morris@nps.gov, or see <http://inside.nps.gov/index.cfm?handler=viewnpsnewsarticle&type=Announcements&id=5590>.



U.S. World Heritage Tentative List Application Review

The NPS Office of International Affairs is completing a second stage staff-level review of the applications for inclusion in the new U.S. World Heritage Tentative List. More than thirty applications were received by the April 1, 2007 submission deadline. An initial review involved both the staff of the Office of International Affairs (OIA) as well as NPS subject matter experts and professional review by external World Heritage experts in natural and cultural heritage. Based on these reviews, OIA requested additional information from a number of applicants. Following consideration of the supplementary information, OIA will develop a draft tentative list for consideration by the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO and key Federal agency representatives. The draft tentative list will be published for public comment in the Federal Register next fall before final approval by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior at the end of 2007. View site applications at <http://www.nps.gov/oia/topics/worldheritage/Applicants.htm>. A press release is also available at



<http://inside.nps.gov/pressrelease/wasodetail.cfm?id=736>. For further information, contact Stephen Morris, (202) 354-1800, or stephen_morris@nps.gov

NPS assistance to South China Karst

Four NPS specialists traveled to the South China Karst region, recently inscribed on the World Heritage List, to provide the Tourism Administration of Guizhou Province and the World Bank with recommendations for sustainable tourism at a variety of natural and cultural sites. The NPS team met and held discussions with park managers, tourism officials, and prefecture/city officials representing a broad spectrum of parks and protected areas, ranging from heavily managed sites with large visitation such as Longgong to remote ethnic villages such as Yao Sahn Dong Meng village that have not yet been developed for large scale tourism and consequently receive few visitors throughout the year. For more information, contact Mike Tranel, at mike_tranel@nps.gov



Sister Parks Established with Chile and Greenland

Yosemite National Park and **Chile's Torres del Paine National Park** have established a sister park relationship between the two sites. The Yosemite and Torres del Paine partnership is the outcome of extensive collaboration between the U.S. National Park Service and CONAF that began in 2000 with the signing of a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the protection and management of national parks. This partnership forms part of the framework of the U.S.-Chile Environmental Cooperation Agreement initiated in June 2003 and resulted from a U.S. Study Tour by Chilean park officials in late summer 2006. For more information, contact Chris Stein, at chris_stein@nps.gov or see <http://www.nps.gov/yose/parknews/torresdelpaine.htm>



Ilulissat Park Area, **Greenland**, and **Cape Krusenstern National Monument**, U.S.A., entered into a Sister Park Cooperative Arrangement, in May. Rich with arctic plants and animals and related cultural resources, the areas have similar management goals and face similar management challenges – large areas, fragile ecosystems, and limited staff. The arrangement, which grew out of the August 2004 Joint Committee meeting of the U.S., Greenland and Denmark, promotes international cooperation for the benefit of the Greenland Home Rule Government and the United States, and it allows Ilulissat and Cape Krusenstern to benefit from sharing successful experiences and approaches. Potential areas of cooperation include sharing resource management techniques, exchanging best practices and technical information, and increasing environmental education efforts. For more information, contact George Helfrich, at george_helfrich@nps.gov or visit the U.S. Embassy-Denmark page at <http://www.usembassy.dk/Events/2007/Spring/JointCommittee-05-26-07.htm>



Digital Video links NPS with Turkish and Uruguayan Counterparts

Responding to requests by the State Department Education and Cultural Affairs Bureau and overseas U.S. Embassy staffs, NPS officials participated in two digital video conferences (DVC) with park and environmental officials from in Turkey and Uruguay. Without having to leave the country, NPS specialists in visitor and resource protection, as well as marine protected areas, were able to engage in dialogues with their international



colleagues through onsite video conference facilities in Washington, DC. For more information, contact Jon Putnam, at Jonathan_putnam@nps.gov or Rudy D'Alessandro, at rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov.

Sister Cultural Parks Conference

Mesa Verde National Park served as the host for a Sister Cultural Parks Conference, cosponsored with the President's Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Representatives from several U.S. and Mexican parks and protected areas attended the meeting, with officials of three World Heritage Sites – Mesa Verde, and the Mexican Archeological Zones of Paquime and Monte Alban – establishing a sister parks relationship that also includes Belize's Caracol. The Conference highlighted how such linkages help promote international tourism and foster cooperative approaches to interpretation and preservation as a mechanism for working across national borders. For more information, contact Jon Putnam, at Jonathan_putnam@nps.gov see <http://www.pcah.gov/international/sistercult.htm>



Independence Hall Lesson Plan Highlights Global Significance

A new online lesson plan for **Independence National Historical Park**, recently added to the NPS's "Teaching with Historic Places" program website, is the first to focus on explaining the World Heritage Convention and describe how sites become inscribed on the World Heritage List. Independence NHP was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979. Titled "Independence Hall: International Symbol of Freedom," the lesson plan highlights the global significance of this seminal American site where three landmark documents - the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution - were written and adopted, each offering inspiration for national constitutions around the world. The lesson plan is available at www.nps.gov/inde as well as at

<http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/132independence/132Independence.htm>



Summary of International Engagement

NPS staff engaged in a number of activities with international counterparts over the past three months, both overseas and at home. Some of these included:

- A marine protected area specialist from **Channel Islands National Park** provided advice on restoration strategies and monitoring approaches for adaptive management at a Park Design Seminar in **Brazil**. For more information, contact Gary Davis, at gary_davis@nps.gov
- Queen Elizabeth II attended ceremonies commemorating the 400th anniversary of America's first permanent British settlement, at the Jamestown unit of **Colonial National Historical Park**. For more information, contact Mike Litterst, at mike_litterst@nps.gov
- **Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area** staff attended the Pan American Advanced Studies Institute meeting in **Mexico** to discuss the impacts of climate change on natural and managed ecosystems. For more information, contact Susan Teel, at susan_teel@nps.gov
- After meeting with international colleagues at the 5th Brazilian Congress on Protected Areas, an **Everglades National Park** representative visited Pantanal National Park to reinvigorate the existing sister parks relationship between Pantanal and Everglades. For more information, contact Bob Johnson, at bob_johnson@nps.gov
- In preparation for the centennial of Wilbur Wright's 1908 flight to LeMans, **France**, staff from **Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park** accompanied members of the Wright Family at the Paris Air Show and met with French counterparts. For more information, contact Lawrence Blake, at Lawrence_blake@nps.gov

This newsletter is distributed quarterly to NPS staff, partners and other interested parties. If you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please contact Rudy D'Alessandro at rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov. OIA encourages NPS colleagues to submit brief summaries of international activities and accomplishments suitable for inclusion in this bulletin.