THE waters of the Bering Strait separate the continents of Asia and North America, but they do not divide the people, the resources or the heritage of “Beringia”.

It is this simple premise that brought about the first discussions regarding the establishment of an international park that would include lands on both sides of the Bering Strait, in Russia and the United States.

About 50 miles apart today, the continents were once connected by the Bering Land Bridge — not a thin peninsula but broad shoulders of continents pushed together to form a seamless transition from Asia to North America.

The migration and dispersal of plants, wildlife and people across the land bridge, and later across the narrow sea, has left the Chukotka Peninsula in north-east Russia and the Seward Peninsula in north-west Alaska with a common natural and cultural heritage.

That common heritage has been explored more in the past 10 years than ever before, thanks in large part to the National Park Service’s Beringian Heritage International Park Programme. The move toward an official relationship between resource managers in the two countries got its start in the 1960s, but there was little action until the mid-1980s when a working group was established to address “Conservation and Management of Natural and Cultural Heritage”. Specific themes were developed by the working group in 1987.

A river flows by the Great Kobuk sand dunes, in north-west Alaska.

A CULTURAL BRIDGE OVER THE BERING STRAIT

by JOHN QUINLEY,
Assistant Regional Director – Communications, US National Parks Service, Alaska.

ON OTHER PAGES...

AUSTRALIA
Bushfires postscript ........................................ 5
AFRICA
Saving the rhino ............................................. 7

PAN PARKS
Linking people and nature .............................. 8
NEW ZEALAND
Pureora Forest Park .................................. 10
VIETNAM
Protecting natural treasures ....................... 12
AUSTRIA
Monitoring visitor flows ............................ 14

UK
Visitor payback ........................................ 17
NETHERLANDS
Dwingelderveld National Park .................. 20
NEWS REVIEW
Including the launch of the International Year of the Mountains ......................... 22
SUBSCRIPTION FORM .............................. 24
In 1989, American and Soviet planning teams presented the concept of an international park during a tour of Native villages in northwest Alaska and the Chukotka Peninsula. A major step forward came at a summit conference on June 1, 1990, when President Bush and Soviet President Gorbachev announced their intention to create an international park spanning the Bering Strait. The park would include already existing National Park Service units in Alaska and as yet undesignated national park units on the Russian side.

The summit conference agreement called for co-operation in studying ecology, archaeology and cultural heritage on both sides of the Strait. While park management policies would remain with each government, the international park agreement would encourage co-operative efforts among park managers and researchers, the easing of travel restrictions between the nations for research, and joint projects on issues of common concern.

Progress was halted, though, as the Soviet Union collapsed, new Russian governments pursued other priorities and American administrations changed. What has remained in place, supported by the governments in both the United States and Russia, and by communities, universities and Native organisations on both sides of the Bering Strait, is a research and community heritage programme that fulfils many of the international park goals without the official designation.

"This programme recognises and celebrates the contemporary and historic exchange of biological resources and cultural heritage shared by Russia and the United States," said Rob Arnberger, regional director for the National Park Service in Alaska. "We're encouraging local resident and international partnerships, and working to help sustain the cultural vitality of Native peoples in the central Beringia region."

The National Park Service, through its annual operational appropriation, funds a $700,000 programme to support these research and community projects. Project funding is guided by a five-member panel, with two members representing the NPS and the other three members representing Alaska Native Regional Corporations in north and north-western Alaska.

Work in 2001 was typical, in that it varied considerably in scope and discipline. "We had a University of Washington team working with Russian researchers to investigate past vegetation and geological changes," said Arnberger. "Archaeologists looked at artifacts dating back more than 11,000 years to..."
DEAR READER,
Many thanks to all of you who have placed a subscription order.
To help our readership grow, let us know of anyone who might not have seen NPIB and we will send them a free back copy.
Your support will enable us to continue sending complimentary copies to colleagues working in protected areas in developing and Third World countries, many of whom have written to express their appreciation for this new opportunity to keep up to date with initiatives, research and news from around the globe.
This issue contains contributions from readers in Vietnam, Alaska, Hungary, New Zealand, the UK, Austria and Australia.
Whether you wish to write about a specialist subject — your park or protected area perhaps — send a short news item or a letter for publication in response to an NPIB article, I would be delighted to hear from you.

Editor — Stewart Bonney
Editorial contributions can be e-mailed to: stewartbonney@nationalparkinternationalbulletin.com

Right: the emblem of the Beringian Heritage International Park.
Below: map of the central Beringia area, showing the main settlements.

some of the earliest North Americans at a site along the Noatak River. This type of work, and earlier projects that looked below volcanic ash layers, are giving us a better picture of what that part of the continent was like thousands of years ago, and providing insights on how the climate has changed.

"This year we’re also dealing with some recently emerging needs. Alaska Pacific University (in Anchorage) conducted training for local Russian tour operators and craftspeople, working on ways to conduct tourism on protected lands. National parks in Alaska get about two million visits a year, while at the same time protecting the resources. How to encourage use, regulate it, and sustain tourism are all very timely topics in the Russian Far East."

Under the decade-old proposal to establish an international park, the United States would designate four existing park units (Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Kobuk Valley National Park and Noatak National Preserve) to be the American component to the international park. Already the programme uses these parks as a basis for the research being accomplished, as it works with many of the surrounding communities from St Lawrence Island to Barrow.

At a recent meeting of researchers, Vladimir Etylin, Chukotka’s representative in the Russian parliament, said he is working to move the park idea forward, a plan that is also favoured by Chukotka’s governor. If Russia establishes a federal park in Chukotka, discussions could begin in earnest with the United States regarding an international designation by both countries. At this time, no legislation is being considered by the United States Congress.

While the political wheels slowly move, international research has moved briskly. Increasingly, Beringia projects — whether academic or community-based — have a “Russian component”. Some of the studies involve doing some or all of the research on the Russian side. In 2001, Beringia projects in Russia included a survey of the traditional use of seabird habitat, the facilitation of Native-to-Native co-opera-
tion on polar bear habitat use in both countries, and a retrospective study of how the border between the two countries being opened for the past 10 years has affected people on both sides of the Strait.

For the past several years, the Park Service has also supported the translation into English of several Beringian-related Russian books of interest to the academic and general community, including works by regional archaeologists. In a related project, the University of Alaska Fairbanks’ Native Language Institute has worked on a dictionary for the Naukan Eskimo language of Chukotka, Russia. Park Service funding has assisted the institute in gathering data from visiting Native speakers, and with the publishing of a dictionary. These and earlier projects related to Native place names provide for a more common understanding of the resources, improved communication among researchers and the dispersal of local knowledge.

In addition to published research and community projects, another technique used to increase cross-border awareness and appreciation for the unique natural and cultural values found in the region is the annual “Beringia Days” Conference held each autumn in Anchorage, Alaska. These meetings allow American and Russian park managers, scientists, Native and non-government organisations, and the public to discuss topics of interest, present research papers, and to reiterate the benefits of an international park for Beringia. In 2001, several Russian specialists attended in addition to researchers, representatives of Alaska Native organisations and the general public.

Other Beringia programmes have emphasised the inclusion of local residents in the work. Golovin, a small village south of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, has hosted archaeological field schools for the last four years. The Golovin Village Corporation is an organisation started as part of the settlement of Alaska Native land claims, and

the local school gave students training in archaeology. In 2000, in addition to classroom training conducted by personnel from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the group assessed cultural sites on village corporation lands; six students and two adults from Russia participated. In 2001, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference assisted the Golovin Field School with a reciprocal student exchange with Provideniya, Russia.

In another project, the school district based in Kotzebue, Alaska, has adopted a new curriculum for writing based on this project. Students maintain journals on natural and cultural observations and have developed web and graphics products based on the material written.

“The Beringia programme is an exceptional international example of what the National Park Service is doing more frequently around the country — work with universities, communities, native organisations and others in partnership to further our knowledge of the natural and cultural resources of a region,” said Arnberger. "Whether or not there is ever a formal international park, the kind of relationships that have been built among the academic world, local residents and land managers is a wonderful accomplishment."
The general picture is that although in excess of half a million hectares/1,930 square miles and 50 parks and reserves have been impacted by the fires, there are 611 of these in New South Wales, covering an area of some 5.4 million hectares/21,000 square miles," he explained. "So although the damage in some cases was locally devastating, in terms of New South Wales' total parks area, less than 10% were affected by the fires."

While figures for total areas burned are a useful quick assessment of the fire's scale, Mr Gilligan suggested they did not give an accurate picture of the local impacts. Fire intensity is a key factor in how quickly the habitat will recover, and can vary considerably depending on the terrain and weather conditions. The best way to get an idea of the extent of the damage rapidly is by close observation of the sites from the air.

"Flying over the affected areas, you can see that the tops of the ridges are the most badly burned," said Mr Gilligan. "High intensity fires here leave little but charred remains — blackened stumps with no leaves. The up slopes that suffered less intense flames as the fire moved onward toward the ridges have burnt trees, but there are some with leaves. Other areas are still green — the low swales and gullies. It is this mosaic pattern of burnt areas which is critical for recovery: these green areas provide reservoirs of wildlife that will eventually recolonise the forests as they regrow."

This process of regrowth begins sooner than might be expected. As early as a week after rainfall quelled the last of the January fires, new shoots could be seen rising from the ashes of the forest floor. These shoots start off a sequence of regrowth that will eventually restore the vegetation and biodiversity of the affected areas.

The ashes left by the fire are mineral-rich. As rains wash these nutrients into the topsoil, the surviving trees begin to utilise this new resource. As they access the enriched soils many put on a spurt of growth, producing new leaves, buds and flowers. The surviving leaf-eating and nectar-drinking animals including koalas, sugar gliders, flying foxes and many birds have a feast.

Some plants, like the banksia trees, actually require intense fire to initiate the expulsion of fruiting bodies. Eucalypt trees are also particularly well adapted to bushfires and recover more quickly than most other species of trees. Recent research by Dr Geoff Burrows from the Department of Agriculture at Charles Sturt University showed that eucalypts regrow in a way unlike any other trees. Instead of budding from near the bark surface like other trees, new buds form from deep within the bark. The special bud-forming tissue survives the fire, although the outer bark may be severely burnt. On the cue of fire, the tissue begins to form buds which initiate the regeneration of the tree.

Eucalypt trees use strong toxins in their leaves to dissuade hungry leaf-eating species like koala, but new leaves contain little of the poli-
ity is best, explained Martyn Robinson, a naturalist with the Australian Museum, Sydney. "That's what they tell you when there's a bushfire: to lie flat on the ground and breathe the air where it's cleanest," he said.

It is a successful strategy. Scientists at Sydney University, studying populations of small ground-dwelling mammals in other fire-affected areas of Australia, have been surprised by their findings that intense bushfires have no immediate effect on the population size.

Fire ecologists of the National Parks and Wildlife Service have been monitoring the regeneration of the burnt forests and their findings are encouraging. The natural process of regrowth after fire is in full swing in the New South Wales bushland.

However, Brian Gilligan warns that while the bush is adapted to the effects of periodic bushfires, the frequency of the fires is critical if the habitat is to recover its biodiversity. Many species like the geebung trees (Persoonia sp) are adapted only to infrequent burning. If the period between fires is too short, the new saplings are burned before they have a chance to seed. "In cases like these we may get local extinctions," warned Mr Gilligan.

Natural fires caused by lightning strikes and aboriginal fire regime management are one thing; frequent arson is another. The bush is bouncing back again this time, but it is clear the natural cycle of regrowth needs time to establish itself if the parks are to fully recover.

Three months after the 1994 bushfire, and there are signs of initial regrowth among eucalypts.

son and the mammals can eat to their hearts' — or more importantly their livers' — content.

After the plants, insects and other invertebrates are the next important link in the food chain to recover. Winged insects easily escape the fire, and ground-dwelling animals like centipedes survive by seeking the dampest areas or the cover of rocks. Other survival strategies include burying eggs that hatch in the period of plenty which follows the fire, or using silk threads to 'balloon' their way out of danger. Using these methods some insects can rapidly recolonise an area. They also have the capacity to reproduce astonishingly quickly. As their numbers rise, the relative lack of plant cover means they become easy pickings for insectivorous animals, including small mammals, reptiles and birds. This plentiful food helps the populations of these animals to recover.

A time of new plant growth and abundant insects represents a great period of opportunity for many of the surviving animals. The burrowing animals like many reptiles, echidnas and small marsupial mammals do particularly well, as they stay hidden underground while the fire passes overhead. It's here where the air qual-
The African Rhino Specialist Group (AFRSG) is one of the hundred-plus Specialist Groups in theSpecies Survival Commission of IUCN. Based at the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Service in South Africa, where Chairman, Dr Martin Brooks, and Scientific Officer, Dr Richard Emslie, are located, the AFRSG has 32 members representing 10 African range states and four other countries. This overview of the Group’s work precedes its next biennial meeting which will be held in Zimbabwe in June this year, and at which information about the latest sub-Saharan rhino population statistics will be revealed.

THE status of African rhinos compiled in 2000, from estimates made in 1999, revealed that while some populations had increased well under protection and others appeared to have stabilised during the 1990s, there was little room for complacency. Most of the black and white rhino in Africa are conserved in just four range states, where the estimated population figures were:

South Africa: black 1074, white 9574;
Namibia: black 695, white 163;
Zimbabwe: black 435, white 208;
Kenya: black 420, white 164.

With estimates of just 80 black and 116 white rhinos in the rest of Africa, this indicated that the Big Four held 97% of the continent’s total black rhino population and 99.9% of the white rhino population.

In the 1960s it was estimated that there were more than 100,000 black rhino roaming Africa, yet as a result of poaching and inadequate field protection this animal was classified as critically endangered in the IUCN’s 1996 Red List of threatened animals.

Of the four black sub-species, the future of the western black is most critical today, with only about 10 animals scattered across northern Cameroon, while the northern white, estimated to number 2,250 in 1960, is now reduced to a mere 25 animals in one single population. The AFRSG’s action plan provides very specific recommendations and proposes detailed projects with the goal of ensuring survival and recovery of all rhino species and subspecies.

Its objectives are to compile and synthesise information on the status and conservation of Africa’s rhinos; to provide and improve technical information and advice on rhino conservation to a variety of clients; to promote and catalyse conservation activities; and to build capacity through the exchange of ideas, information and technical expertise among its members.

In the past three years, technical assistance provided by members has involved:
- the revision of South Africa’s black rhino plan;
- the development of the first South African white rhino strategy;
- the revision of a Tanzanian rhino plan;
- the development and reassessment of Zimbabwe’s rhino policy management plan;
- the revision of Kenya’s rhino plan and a study tour;
- a high-level Cameroon mission; and
- the revision of rhino plans in Botswana and Namibia.

The Group has sought to encourage increased regional co-operation in sub-species meta population management where the key measure is the overall growth rate of national rhino populations, and these are best indicated by the reproductive performance of individual cows. Translocation is another key feature of meta population management, especially with a view to increasing population growth rates.

Among the many challenges the Group face are declining government budgets and the need to develop increased self-sufficiency and maintain sufficient funding to ensure effective field conservation. It believes that for conservation to have a future, they need the support of local people who, instead of viewing conservation as a low priority, a waste of land or a luxury for rich foreign tourists, need to be persuaded that it is a valid form of land use of major benefit to them and to their country.

To this end, it is necessary to maintain and increase incentives both for local communities and the private sector to conserve rhinos, in addition to continuing efforts to eliminate illegal trade and reduce the illegal demand for horn. Despite an international trade ban, demand for horn from Asia and the Middle East persists and the threat of large-scale poaching is ever present.

Much encouragement has been derived as the result of efforts by one Group member, Namibia-based Blyth Loutit of the Save the Rhino Trust, who is regarded as having been central to the remarkable recovery of desert-dwelling black rhino in that country.

In 1982 when the Trust was established, poaching had decimated local populations of Namibia’s wildlife including the black rhino. Based in the north-western province of Kunene, she has worked tirelessly to help the local people improve their lives while safeguarding their natural resources, including the black rhino.

Twenty years ago black rhino numbers in the area had declined to under 70. Now, due to her dedication and commitment, the population has doubled in size thanks to anti-poaching patrols, ecotourism development and research, all involving the local communities.

AFRSG has identified desert rhinos in Namibia as key to the survival of desert rhino throughout the world. This sub-species, Diceros bicornis bicornis, is largely limited to Namibia although there are also a few small, newly-introduced populations in arid western areas of South Africa. The two major populations in Namibia are rated as key to the survival of this sub-species.
PAN PARKS: BRINGING PEOPLE AND NATURE TOGETHER

by EDIT BORZA, Communications Officer, PAN Parks Foundation.

The international conservation organisation WWF, in partnership with the Dutch leisure company Molecaten Groep, founded PAN Parks in 1997.

PAN Parks, which stands for Protected Area Network Parks, brings all the stakeholders of Europe’s wilderness areas together. It employs a comprehensive approach to meet the complex ecological and social needs of Europe’s protected areas, striving to raise awareness of its natural heritage and thus build public, political and financial support.

The core of the initiative is the PAN Parks Principles and Criteria: five principles covering relevant environmental, social, economic and cultural aspects.

The first three principles — natural values, habitat management and visitor management — apply to the protected area and its management body.

The fourth and fifth principles set criteria for a sustainable tourism development strategy and for participation of local partners.

Protected areas and business partners must fulfil these strict demands to qualify for PAN Parks certification. Partners who meet the requirements can then benefit from the parks’ work to bring people and nature together.

For local community partners, this can lead to increased collaboration in park management, small business promotion and offer a showcase for traditional crafts and culture. For partner protected areas, PAN Parks offer improved visitor management and long-term economic viability based on sustainable tourism and conservation of natural values.

We believe that PAN Parks can become the driving force for healthy economic development in Europe’s rural areas. For example, the pilot project — Gateway to Bialowieza, launched last year — enables tourists around the world to learn about this Polish national park and help preserve the endangered primeval Bialowieza Forest.

Since its foundation, PAN Parks has grown steadily in its effort to set a new standard of protected area management in Europe. Last year saw 12 protected areas in 10 countries, representing a multitude of habitats, working towards certification.

Current candidates are the national parks at Abruzzo, Italy; Bieszczady, Poland; Fulufjällets, Sweden; Mercantour, France; Oulanka, Finland; Slovensky Raj, Slovakia; and Triglav, Slovenia.

Prospective candidates are Bialowieza and Biebrza National Parks, Poland; Dadia Forest Reserve, Greece; Duna-Dráva National Park, Hungary; and Retezat National Park, Romania.

In June 2001, the seven current candidates gathered at the first PAN Parks conference in the Netherlands to define what steps they would need to take in order to fulfill the principles and criteria. With the help of PAN Parks staff these
areas developed a verification strategy defining their strengths and weaknesses. Strategies were especially focusing on problems that need to be solved in order to help the protected area complete verification.

One of the candidates was Oulanka National Park of Finland, which was represented by the Director, Matti Hovi.

After discussions there were three problematic areas identified that Oulanka has to tackle on the way to becoming verified:
- hunting by local people,
- fishing, and
- setting up a local organisation that co-ordinates sustainable tourism development in the Kuusamo region.

At present the first two issues are subject to lobbying at a national level as these are general problems in most Finnish National Parks. For establishing a local organisation, the PAN Parks Foundation provided financial contribution from its Small Grants Fund, enabling all relevant stakeholders to meet and lead discussions. The inaugural meeting with local entrepreneurs is scheduled for the end of April.

The process is slightly different for prospective candidates such as Dadia Forest Reserve of Greece. Support from the Small Grants Fund is not accessible for these areas, so local WWF offices are usually taking the lead in the development process towards PAN Parks verification. For instance WWF Greece runs a local project in Dadia Forest Reserve with the following objectives:
- designation of the protected area as National Park,
- preparation of the management plan,
- support of local tourism entrepreneurs.

All of these will likely lead to improving management effectiveness of Dadia Forest Reserve, which is the only area in Europe that hosts three species of vulture. Later in the year, the PAN Parks verification manual, which is a basic document of the verification process, was completed and the first independent head verifiers took part in a training session to prepare for the start of the process this year, when the first national parks will be verified.
NEW ZEALAND
PUREORA: WHERE ANCIENT MONUMENTS ARE STILL ALIVE
by DES WILLIAMS

NEW ZEALAND writer Terry McLean describes in one of his books how a young All Black touring Britain many years ago suffered an uncharacteristic loss of form.

The decline of an outstanding rugby talent remained inexplicable until, finally, the team's acerbic coach concluded the former 'star' had become 'ancient monument happy'. A fondness for visiting the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey and similar landmarks had completely overtaken his affection for the oval ball.

There's a good 18,000 kilometres/11,000 miles separating Pureora Forest Park in the central North Island of New Zealand from those ancient British distractions. But you too could be like that young All Black and become afflicted with ancient monument happiness, should you venture into Pureora.

There are no structures of stones, bricks and mortar like those that diverted our young tourist. Pureora's ancient monuments are of nature's creation — podocarp forests of kahikatea, rimu, totara, miro and matai that many have proclaimed as the finest left on Earth. And they were already well established when William the Conqueror held his coronation at Westminster in 1066!

There's a good 18,000 kilometres/11,000 miles separating Pureora Forest Park in the central North Island of New Zealand from those ancient British distractions. But you too could be like that young All Black and become afflicted with ancient monument happiness, should you venture into Pureora.

There are no structures of stones, bricks and mortar like those that diverted our young tourist. Pureora's ancient monuments are of nature's creation — podocarp forests of kahikatea, rimu, totara, miro and matai that many have proclaimed as the finest left on Earth. And they were already well established when William the Conqueror held his coronation at Westminster in 1066!

The beauty of Pureora's 50 metre/165 foot high ancient monuments is their accessibility. Past logging in the park has left a legacy of roading — a 150 kilometre/90 mile network that remains suitable for the family vehicle. Two such places where you can virtually step from the car to the forest floor are the Totara Walk at Pureora Village, and the Rimu Walk on the eastern side of the park.

Fortunately for our young All Black, his affliction proved temporary. Your reward, though, for 60 minutes invested in walking these two tracks could be a lifetime of permanent memories. You may even want to come back for more, because there is much more to Pureora than meets the eye. But despite the extensive roading, facilities for trampers, hunters and other park users are still basic.

Department of Conservation Area Manager Ray Scrimgeour explains: "We provide places to camp, there's water in the creeks, a few wild animals to chase and that's about it. People come here because of the untouched nature of the place."

Pureora offers a feeling of isolation, of distance from civilisation, according to Ray. And it takes some time to comprehend the sheer physical size of the park, with its boundaries stretching from Kuratau, near the southern edge of Lake Taupo, to Mangakino and beyond in the north.

You may gain an even better impression of the vastness from Pureora's summit (on a fine day!), a three-hour walk from the Link Road traversing east-west across the park. Or perhaps you'd prefer to gain your appreciation on the three-day walk across the Hauhungaroa route, almost all of it under bush canopy.

At 78,000 hectares/300 square miles, Pureora is about the same size as its more illustrious southern neighbour, Tongariro National Park. Quite enough space for those who come because, as Ray puts it: "there's nothing there".

Ray Scrimgeour by a centuries-old rimu tree at Pureora.

There used to be something at Pureora. Native timber mills with giant whining circular saws operated there for 30 years following the end of the Second World War. Pureora Village, established in 1946 and flourishing during the 1950s and 1960s, had 350 residents. They were serviced by shops, a community hall, fire brigade, post office and secondary school. The hardened bush workers played rugby in the King Country competition and lost nothing by comparison with teams from civilisation like the Te Kuiti club side containing the famous Colin Meads (coincidentally, a tourist with our monument happy visitor).

As the native timber fell, the debris was cleared and burned to make way for radiata pine and Douglas fir plantations. That regime continued, implemented unchallenged by the New Zealand Forest Service (NZFS), for more than 20 years. The first hint of change came in the early 1970s when New Zealand Wildlife Service researchers came to Pureora and found a significant population of North Island kokako, a hauntingly melodic songbird unmatched by any other species.

At the same time, the forest conservation movement was gather-
ing momentum in New Zealand and people like Guy Salmon (Native Forests Action Council) and others were realising that lowland podocarp forest such as that being milled at Pureora was becoming an endangered forest type, especially in the North Island.

What had until then been no more than frosty opposition from minority conservationist groups to the milling of those ancient monuments quickly developed into a full and frozen winter of discontent. Efforts to save the forest and the kokako intensified. The story of how Aucklander Stephen King and colleagues became “tree-dwellers” in order to stop the logging was stopped.

Rod Morris, writing in Wild South (TVNZ Century Hutchinson, 1988) says: “The feelings which the conservationists developed about Pureora led them to conceive a protest movement more dramatic than any seen before in New Zealand.

“At Christmas time, 1977, the logging gangs went on holiday. When they came back, 14 protesters including five women and a boy of 12 were hidden in the tree tops, 20 metres/65 feet up, with whistles to communicate with each other and provisions for a long stay — until the logging of the ancient trees was stopped.”

It didn’t happen overnight but, as Rod Morris noted: “In the end, the loggers stopped logging, and the protesters came down out of the trees.”

Government placed a three-year moratorium on logging to enable completion of in-depth kokako research and by 1981, it was decided the podocarp forests should be protected permanently.

Park management passed from the NZFS to the Department of Conservation in 1987. And while the preservation action started by Stephen King and friends in 1977 took 10 full years to run its course, former NZFS officer-in-charge, John Gaukrodger, maintains there had long been an underlying management philosophy in action at Pureora.

“The one thing we always promoted at Pureora was that it must retain that sense of mystique and vastness; that reputation, too, as the place where rimu, totara and other giants grow in their countless thousands. You can stand among all those huge hills and think to yourself: Where do they end?”

Ray Scrimgeour agrees the feeling of remoteness could be so easily lost: “All it would take is one track in the wrong place. My personal view is that we have to resist for as long as possible the temptation to make some of these places more accessible to more people.”

The air of mystery surrounding Pureora is especially strong to the people of Ngati Maniapoto — the tangata whenua. Pureora is a powerful source of spiritual and physical renewal, where the cycle of nature and life itself can be experienced first hand; where human frailties and failings can be put back into perspective and restored.

Restoration, or “saving the forest”, has taken on new meaning from the days when Stephen King and friends took to living among the lofty branches. At Waipapa, in Pureora’s North Block, a 5,000-hectare/12,350-acre area is being managed as though it were a “mainland island”. Intensive pest and weed control programmes are aimed at providing the populations of kokako, kaka, yellow-crowned parakeets, kereru, NZ falcon, striped skink, long and short-tailed bats and other endemic species with unthreatening habitat where they may flourish in peace.

So when he contends there’s nothing at Pureora, it’s Ray Scrimgeour’s offbeat way of saying: “There’s everything here that anyone could wish for — isolation, peace and quiet, water in the creeks, places to camp, animals to hunt and intensive management programmes to be implemented.”

Agreed, if traffic lights, pedestrian crossings, gaudy billboards, six-lane highways and reflecting glass tower buildings are your idea of aesthetic beauty, Pureora is not for you. But if it’s true reflections you’re after, Ray would happily point you in the direction of Waihora Lagoon.
VIETNAM is a beautiful country with rich and diverse natural resources, located in the east of the Indo-China peninsula. Its total land area is around 330,000 sq km/128,570 sq miles, and it lies between 8 and 23 degrees north, and between 102 and 110 degrees east.

It is bordered by China to the north, Laos and Cambodia to the west and the Eastern (or South China) Sea to the east and south-east. Mountains and highlands with tropical rainforests account for almost three quarters of its inland area.

Geographically, Vietnam can be divided into three specific zones. The north is characterised by the highest mountains, which lie in its north-eastern and north-western wings (Phansipan, at 3,143 metres/10,310 feet, is the highest peak) and the flat Red River delta. The central zone contains the steep Truong Son range, at an average height of 800-1,000 metres/2,625-3,280 feet, which is cut by a system of short rivers. In contrast, the southern zone of Vietnam is very flat, consisting of the fertile and famous Mekong delta.

**BRIEF HISTORY**

After a request from a specialist team conducting a timber inventory in the newly-created Vietnam Democratic Republic, Cuc Phuong National Restricted Forest was established for scientific purposes on July 7, 1962. On August 9, 1966, the General Department of Forest Protection decided to convert the 25,000 hectare/61,800 acre forest into Cuc Phuong National Park — Vietnam’s first national park. Cuc Phuong is characterised by a rich variety of flora, with 1,994 species having been discovered (including 908 genera and 229 families) belonging to Bryophyta, Lycopodiophyta, Equisetophyta, Polypodiophyta, Gymnospermae and Angiospermae. This means that 68.9% of Vietnam’s floral species, from 24.6% of genera and 43.6% of families, can be found in the park.

Cuc Phuong is also rich in fauna, and contains 71 species of mammal, 319 birds, 33 reptiles and 16 amphibians. Its rare and precious animals include the clouded leopard (*Pardofelis nebulosa*), Asiatic golden cat (*Catopuma temminckii*), Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*), black gibbon (*Hylobates concolor concolor*) and Delacur’s langur (*Trachypithecus delacouri*); the latter is an endemic species which has been adopted as the park’s symbol.

Its unique limestone landscape, which provides a plentiful choice of food, is an ideal habitat for birds. Some 80 species have been observed in Cuc Phuong forests, including rare and precious green peafowl (*Pavo muticus*), Germain’s peacock pheasant (*Polyplectron germaini*) and silver pheasant (*Lophura nycthemera*). Until now, 17 snake, 13 lizard and some turtle species also have been identified in Cuc Phuong’s forests.

Cuc Phuong is home to 68.9% of all floral species found in Vietnam.
Cue Phuong, Vietnam’s oldest national park, was first designated 32 years ago.

Since then, results of biological surveys gave a strong incentive for Vietnamese leaders to establish a series of national parks and nature reserves. So far, 15 national parks have been officially established: Bach Ma (July 15, 1991), Ba Be (December 10, 1992), Bai Tu Long (June 1, 2001), Ba Vi (December 18, 1991), Ben En (January 27, 1992), Cat Ba (March 31, 1986), Cat Tien (January 13, 1992), Con Dao (March 31, 1993), Cuc Phuong (January 8, 1966), Tam Dao (May 15, 1996), Tam Nong (December 29, 1998), Yok Don (June 24, 1992), Phong Nha Kebang (December 12, 2001), Pu Mat (November 8, 2001), and Phu Quoc (June 8, 2001).

Biodiversity

According to the latest statistics, more than 7,000 species of vascular plants, about 800 species of mosses and 600 species of fungi have been identified within Vietnam. The fauna is equally rich and includes 276 species of mammals, 826 species of birds, 180 species of reptiles, 80 species of amphibians, 471 species of freshwater fish and a thousand species of invertebrates. From this figure, 28 species of mammals, 40 species of birds, seven species of reptiles and one species of amphibians were listed in the IUCN’s 1996 Red List of Threatened Animals. These include the Asian elephant, Java rhinoceros, banteng, kouprey, wild water buffalo, tiger, leopard, clouded leopard, Eld’s deer, piliated gibbon, concolor gibbon, Douc langur, sarus crane, white-shouldered ibis, giant ibis, white-winged wood duck, crested argus pheasant and Siamese crocodile.

Despite this rich biological heritage, a lack of appropriate financial resources has, until now, prevented completion of any systematic study of Vietnam’s fauna and flora. The remarkable discoveries of large mammals like the saola or Vu Quang ox (Pseudoryx nghetinhensis), giant muntjac (Megamuntiacus Vuquanensis) and Truong Son muntjac (Muntiacus Truongsonensis) are tangible evidence of this situation. Jonathan C. Eamas, a scientist working for Birdlife International, has been impressed by the fact that while every year on average only about 10 new bird species are recorded worldwide, in Vietnam’s central highlands alone three new birds have been recorded in the last few years: Actinodura sodangorum, Garrulax ngoclinhensis and Garrulax konkakinensis.

Discoveries like these have turned Vietnam into a biodiversity hotspot and attracted the attention of the international community. Whereas only 1,500 visitors came to Ba Be National Park in 1995, in five years visitor numbers had grown to 20,000. Today the park has a 30-room hotel.

Bach Ma National Park, located close to the historic city of Hue, now has two guest houses with 12 rooms. Other popular parks include Cat Ba and Con Dao, on islands in the South China Sea: Con Dao was in former times used as a prison for Vietnamese communists by French and American forces.

The need for systematic surveys, with contributions from international experts, is very urgent in order to help the Vietnam government to justify its biodiversity action plan.

The government has taken several steps to improve environmental management and provide for the protection of biodiversity. The forest law was enacted by the National Assembly in 1992 and amended in 2001. CITES membership became effective in April 1994 and the application for saola or Vu Quang ox (Pseudoryx nghetinhensis) and giant muntjac (Megamuntiacus
Vuquanensis) for Appendix I was submitted and approved at the 1994 CITES member meeting in Fort Lauderdale. Vietnam’s National Assembly ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity in October 1994. A Biodiversity Action Plan was officially approved in August 1996 and can be seen as evidence of Vietnam’s efforts to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Today Vietnam’s national parks are facing a number of issues which should be addressed as soon as possible, such as low living standards and education levels of local people, inadequate administrative mechanism and operational capacity of the park staff, “many of Vietnam’s national parks and nature reserves are too small and too isolated to maintain unique habitats, species assemblages, or viable populations over the long-term”. Thus, the application of new approaches, fresh management ideas and technical innovations for improving situations at national parks is very important. In addition, results of systematic surveys and research will provide a strong case for seeking financial support from the international community.

On a recent visit to Ba Be National Park I was informed by the park director, Mr Dinh, that all of Vietnam’s national parks faced a shortage of funds. The parks receive about $100,000 US from central government, which is not enough to cover even their day-to-day running. Park managers are trying hard to get more funds from other sources, and would certainly like to attract more visitors from overseas.

Recently, in order to improve management of the national parks, Vietnam’s government, in close cooperation with the international community, has identified a number of priority areas for donor interventions. These include supporting public administration, supporting local people to improve their livelihood, raising awareness of environmental protection among local communities, and adopting a joint-management approach in the parks’ operational practice. Such international co-operation should be diversified in order to meet the urgent needs of Vietnam’s national parks.

**LANGURS AT RISK**

THE population of langurs in the Cat Ba island district, near the northern port of Hai Phong, has now fallen dramatically to as few as between 50 and 60.

According to Rosi Stenke, director of the Cat Ba langurs conservation project, the number of Cat Ba langurs has steadily declined from 2,400-2,700 to 200 in the early 1980s, and between 105 and 137 in early 2000.

Hunting for endangered langurs — the only leaf-eating monkey in the world — for food and medicinal properties has been the major threat to its declining population. Establishment of a langur protection zone is an urgent requirement, Rosi Stenke added.

A report on the Conference on Monitoring and Management of Visitor Flows in Recreational and Protected Areas, held in Vienna. By ARNE ARNBERGER, ANDREAS MUHAR and CHRISTIANE BRANDENBURG, Institute for Landscape Architecture and Landscape Management, Bodenkultur University, Vienna.

BETWEEN January 30 and February 2 about 180 managers of conservation lands and urban parks, social science and natural resource researchers, and members of governmental agencies — as well as landscape planners from 34 countries — discussed the current trends and research issues concerning monitoring and management of visitor flows in recreational and protected areas.

More than 80 presentations, several workshops and field trips to Austrian national parks were on the conference agenda. The conference was organised by the Institute for Landscape Architecture and Landscape Management at Bodenkultur University, Vienna, as a contribution to the International Year of Ecotourism, as well as to the Year of Mountains 2002.

Organisational partners were the Task Force on Protected Areas, World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA International and CIPRA Austria), the Network of Alpine Protected Areas, the Association of Austrian Nature Parks, the National Parks Danube Floodplains and Lake Neusiedl, the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment, and Water Management (Austria), the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture (Austria), the City of Vienna (Forest Department), the School of Resource and Environmental Management, the College of Social and Behavioural Sciences (University of Arizona, USA).

CONFERENCE THEME

Recreational and protected areas experience ever-increasing pressures from recreation and tourism, in particular in densely populated regions. This leads to extensive ecological impacts, and to increasing conflicts between user groups. In order to manage protected areas within acceptable ecological and social carrying capacities, one needs to monitor visitor activities and behaviour, and deepen the understanding of expectations and motivations.

The overall goal of the conference was to improve the management of conservation and recreation areas and to demonstrate the importance of collecting data on public use for visitor management. Its aim was to forge a link between practitioners and researchers.

Therefore, one main focus of the conference was a thorough exploration and discussion of efficient and cost-effective monitoring and survey methods, as well as modelling visitor flows. The second main focus was on visitor management issues based on the results of visitor monitoring and surveys. Emphasis was also given to topics such as ecotourism, user conflicts, conflicts between natural conservation and recreational goals, economics, and monitoring and management of visitor flows in urban parks.
TRENDS AND RESEARCH IN VISITOR FLOW MANAGEMENT

OBSERVATION METHODS AND COUNTING DEVICES
The set of methods applied for visitor monitoring forms the basis of every successful data collection on public use. Advantages and disadvantages of various methods of recording quantitative and qualitative data were discussed.

In his introductory talk, Andreas Muhar (Austria) presented a systematic overview on methods used for visitor monitoring in recreational areas emphasising quantitative methods. For the design of a visitor monitoring scheme in a specific recreational area it is necessary to determine the best combination of devices and methods, depending on the objectives of the monitoring program. Additionally, ethical aspects of the application of the various methods should be considered.

Innovations for improving the efficiency of equipment, in particular for long-term observation periods such as better counting devices, were presented by Gordon Cessford (New Zealand) and Sue Rundle (Australia). New developments in video monitoring systems and the need for automatic data transfer were discussed in a workshop chaired by Mark I. Ivy (USA).

Within the conference's framework emphasis was also given on new methodological approaches for better understanding the nature of recreation in the investigated area. Wolfgang Haider (Canada) provided an overview to stated choice research by explaining the essential considerations during the design and analysis of this approach.

In outdoor recreation research and visitor management applications, stated preference and choice methods have not enjoyed the same amount of popularity when compared with other directions of applied research, although decisions that managers of protected areas and outdoor recreation in general face are typically multi-attributive in nature, and require an understanding of the trade-offs that decision-makers of clients are willing to make.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN MODELLING AND SIMULATION OF VISITOR FLOWS
Recent improvements in computer technology have ushered in a new era of visitor travel simulation modelling. Simulation models of recreational use patterns are a valuable tool for managers of wilderness areas and national parks. They assist managers in evaluating the likely effects of increasing recreation use and the implementation of new management programs.

Within the conference, current simulation models with respective approaches were presented and deepened in a workshop chaired by David N. Cole (USA). Some presentations described advancements in recreation management using new technology which couples Geographic Information Systems (GIS) with Intelligent Agents to simulate recreational behaviour in real world settings.

Bob Itami (Australia) and a group of researchers have developed such a system and applied it to the Port Campbell National Park in Victoria, Australia. Other models propose approaches to modelling.
visitor flows in the context of weather and outdoor recreation in order to predict visitor flows (Christiane Brandenburg, Alexander Ploner, Austria).

Terry C. Daniel (USA) demonstrated dissociations between verbal reports and actions, based on relevant psycho-physiological and neurological research and theory. Traditional verbal survey methods cannot in principle provide an adequate basis for models of human landscape navigation. Therefore, for the development of a valid and useful park visitor study, and for more effective visitor management, it is essential to answer the question of: “Who is Where When, doing What?” (W4).

Knowing the answers now and in the past provides the building blocks for models and theories that enable predicting changes in W4 in the future, and for understanding why those changes occur. Yet surprisingly few parks and protected areas can answer the W4 question with any precision or certainty in either the past or the present, and far fewer have any scientific basis for predicting the W4 implications for the alternative futures among which they must be prepared to choose.

Randy Gimblett (University of Arizona) with Pip Forer (University of Auckland) and Andreas Muhar (Bodenkultur University, Head of the Organising Committee).

All management of protected and recreational areas is dependent upon information. The better the quality of information, the better the opportunity for good management. A lot of practical applications were presented, with examples from all over the world.

There was also a special focus on protected areas near densely inhabited areas (Losiny Ostrov National Park near Moscow, presented by Vera Kiseleva, and the Danube Floodplains National Park near Vienna, presented by Carl Manzano and Gottfried Haubenberger). Presentations ranged from trail management, visitor management in information centres to avoidance of conflicts between nature conservation and recreational needs.

Determining how much recreational use can ultimately be accommodated in a park or protected area is often addressed through the concept of carrying capacity. Robert E. Manning (USA) presented contemporary approaches to carrying capacity, including the Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (VERP) framework developed by the U.S. National Park Service. VERP relies on formulation of indicators and standards of quality of natural/cultural resources and the visitor experience.

Monitoring of vegetation and wildlife in recreational and protected areas has a long tradition, but a systematic monitoring of recreational uses and visitor flows is rarely carried out. This is particularly true of the situation in most European countries, where visitor monitoring — if done at all — is usually organised on an ad-hoc basis without systematic planning. Very often, results from improvised one-day countings are being extrapolated and used for management decisions without consideration of the significance of the results.

The organisers hope that the exchange of knowledge about current methods, the comparison of different approaches, and the world-wide compilation of methods at the conference will lead to rising awareness of this topic, as well as to better application of such methods. Moreover, new approaches to improved survey methods and monitoring devices can be expected. The conference was therefore a step to support wildland and urban park managers in identifying best practices and techniques for monitoring and management visitors. The conference was also designed to help in their everyday work both practitioners and researchers who are engaged in park planning and administration, as well as in research projects.

Conferences on conservation of nature and management of protected areas are regularly held all over the world. This was the first in Europe to deal specifically with the issues of monitoring, modelling and management of visitor flows. The organisers and conference partners hope that follow-up conferences will take place at two-yearly intervals.

A report on the conference proceedings is now available and can be ordered from: Institute for Landscape Architecture and Landscape Management, Bodenkultur University Vienna, Attn. Mr Arne Amberger, Peter Jordan-Straße 82, A-1190 Vienna, Austria, or e-mail: amberg@edv1.boku.ac.at
THE WAY AHEAD FOR THE PEAK DISTRICT?

Attempts by local councils in high volume tourist areas to make use of the visitor payback concept to raise much-needed funds for conservation projects have met with resistance in parts of the country where local authorities have tried to introduce a tourist tax. Many of the assumptions that the tourist would be willing to pay for the environment have been based on personal views rather than evidence. LYN SENIOR examines the public’s feelings towards the concept, and the problems faced by rural areas in implementing it.

PEAK District National Park is the oldest in England. It was created, along with many other national parks throughout the world, to preserve areas of outstanding natural beauty, whilst at the same time providing a recreation area accessible to all.

But herein lies a paradox: by attracting visitors, the park management are creating a potential state of harmful impact upon the environment into which the visitors are coming.

Over a quarter of the population of England is estimated to live within a 50-mile radius of the park (Deloitte & Touche: National Parks Visitor Survey 1994). It is therefore situated between some of the most densely populated areas of the United Kingdom, and is unique in the number of people who live and work within its boundaries.

One of the key pressures for change within the tourism market has arisen from the visitors themselves and the demand for ‘green’ products, along with the environmental quality of the tourism experience. Research carried out in 1985 indicated that 20% of tourists surveyed would not return to certain destinations, as their experiences were so bad (Boers and Bosch: 1994). So why not try to use tourist spending power to recycle the tourism product?

One method of resolving some of the economic difficulties is to introduce visitor payback as a means of collecting visitor funds. The concept itself has arisen directly from the lack of money made available to maintain tourist destinations. Visitor payback means the process of visitors choosing to give money (or other help) to assist in the conservation or management of the places they visit (The Tourism Company 1998), as opposed to compulsory payments — for example tourist taxes or admission charges. It is a direct way of tapping into tourist money, which has the added advantage of being linked to specific local needs. In real terms the concept means that any tourist-receiving area could, in theory, be looking at a new source of money. This could be particularly important for places that are freely accessible to the public and where entrance charges are impractical.
INCOME AND ENVIRONMENT

The best-documented aspect of environmental impact concerns recreational activities (Pearce 1991). These studies are particularly pertinent to the Peak District National Park, as they relate to the trampling on soil and vegetation by the various activities taking place. The Peak District sees its fair share of walkers, cyclists, horse riders and campers, all of whom are accused of being the cause of erosion, soil compaction, changes in plant cover and species diversity (Price 1985).

In addition, the Peak District suffers from environmental consequences of road traffic growth, in particular air pollution and congestion, disruption to local road users, and conflicts with local communities where parking provision is poor.

Barrett (1995) suggests that while car ownership levels are high within the Peak District, urban-based motorists generate much of the burden on the roads, with at least 55% of all rural road traffic growth being leisure-related.

Sustainability and sustainable tourism are notions conceived in response to global concerns about the speed with which the natural resources of the Earth are being consumed (Countryside Commission: Sustainable Rural Tourism 1998). This document acknowledges that sustainable tourism will have an increasing influence on the tourism of the future — which may be particularly pertinent to the Rio +10 summit in 2002.

The phenomenal growth and growth potential of the tourism industry has led to many concerns about the environment and the issues facing tourist receiving areas. According to Middleton (1995), the UK, along with other European countries and the USA, has over the last 30 years experienced the full range of positive and negative tourism impacts. It also, along with its European counterparts, has the necessary controls and regulations to manage these impacts.

Within the tourist industry the key arguments have focused on the need to achieve a balance between visitor activity and conservation, community needs and employment creation. Sustainability has been expressed as a way of conserving an attractive environment whilst at the same time achieving a healthy tourist industry (Godfrey 1998).

The European Union has introduced more than 200 pieces of legislation which cover pollution, and in 1992 they produced 'Towards Sustainability: A European Community Programme of Policy and Action in Relation to Environment and Sustainable Development'. The tourism industry has been affected directly by a number of these policies, in particular in relationship to new development.

In the words of the Government Task Force Report, Maintaining the Balance (English Tourist Board 1991), sustainable tourism is: "about seeking a harmony between the needs of the visitor, the place and the host community".

According to Godfrey (1998), one of the main principles of sustainability is that "the polluter pays". Whilst residents in tourist-receiving areas make payments for the infrastructure and facilities through local taxes, the visitors to an area use them freely and without paying compensation for any damage caused. It is further suggested: "visitors should be asked to contribute to the costs of the amenities and facilities provided for their use and enjoyment" (Godfrey, 1998).

As tourism is one of the major earners for the United Kingdom — 1997 figures put tourism receipts at US$19.7bn (World Tourism Organisation 1997) with a contribution of more than 65% of the nation's GDP (WTO 1997) — surely this is justification enough.

Visitors to the Peak District, in turn, make a substantial contribution to the local economy. The 1994 Deloitte and Touche Visitor Survey showed that 88% of visitors spent money in and around the park, with an average spend of £7 per day for day visits and £19.50 per day for holiday-makers staying in the park. Although most of this extra money is retained locally very little is put back into the environment and, as with many other tourist receiving areas, the park suffers from leakages into the surrounding area from businesses owned by people living outside. Displacement effects are also noticeable within the park, with many traditional businesses turning to tourism as an alternative or to supplement their income. Initiatives on agricultural diversification, with tourism substituting traditional industries, are included. Therefore, in line with the European Union, rural tourism is now considered crucial to the area. In recent years the park has seen more and more traditional farms taking in paying visitors as an alternative form of income. These displacement problems are also exacerbated by the financial pressures being placed on farming businesses through the foot-and-mouth crisis, which in turn has cut tourism receipts in the area.

In contrast, the means of securing extra payments for resourcing these impacts is relatively small, as the parks themselves have few resources to do this and within the UK very little funding is available from central government for visitor management within the national park. However, an announcement by the then Environment Minister, Michael Meacher, increased the money available for 1999-2000 by 8%, which brought the total funds available from central government to £437,000 in the 1999-2000 season. Finance provided by the 12 local authorities within the park, in addition to other grants, was required to make up the shortfall (Peak District National Park News, July 1998).

To address the funding issue, the payment of a tourist tax has been common practice overseas as a means of raising extra funds for several years. More recently certain areas within the United Kingdom have attempted to introduce a tourist tax. Kent County Council made a proposal to introduce a tourist tax that would be levied as a transit charge. The proposal, dating back to the early 1990s, was that passengers and freight departing from the Channel Tunnel and Kent ports would be taxed about £1 per car and 10p per passenger (March, Tourism Enterprise: 1998). However, in today's economic climate the prospect of more taxes has not been received favourably, and other fund-raising methods need to be examined.

RECOVERING ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS

There is a lack of preparedness among visitors to pay towards environmental repairs. Such an investigation would require data on visitor attitudes to and reasoning on making payments. It would also require an approach capable of assessing the thinking beyond
the attitudes of visitors to payback, as well as how the park authorities communicate with the tourist on resourcing for environmental repairs.

The visitor payback concept was first introduced into the Peak District in the early 1990s following research which showed that, in theory, 74% of visitors would be willing to contribute towards conservation (The Tourism Company 1997). It was introduced by the Peak Environment Fund — an independent charitable trust whose main objective was to raise funds for conservation and visitor management projects.

The visitor payback initiative introduced by the fund in 1996 involved ticket machines in 11 car parks which were used to collect both parking fees and voluntary donations from visitors. Throughout its lifetime each machine collected between 1240 and 1860 ECU per year (The Tourism Company 1997).

One of the main issues with the visitor payback concept is whether the visitor should be expected to pay for the upkeep and maintenance of areas that are seen to be part of the national heritage, and therefore accessible to everyone. Croall's argument is that trying to get tourists to pay towards the upkeep of the environment is “fraught with difficulty” as “they consider any access to the countryside should be free”.

My own research undertaken in 1999 would indicate that visitors to the area have mixed feelings towards paying for the environment, and local businesses have equally mixed feelings about asking for extra money for conservation schemes.

An equal split of male and female visitors were questioned about their feelings and attitudes towards conservation. This sample, while not entirely a cross-section of the population in terms of age, represented the stereotypical visitor to the area, in that most people were on a day visit and were in the area to participate in some form of activity. Most of those questioned were in fact ramblers and, whilst not wishing to tar all walkers with the same brush, this was the group who did not believe that the public should pay for conservation, and that it was the government's job to support the countryside. The group most willing to participate in conservation and visitor payback schemes was the family walker. Perhaps the tourists who stay close to the car park regard the environment as akin to a centre in which payment is expected, while those who actually make more use of the environment feel a sense of detachment in securing the environmental quality as they are not staying in one place and therefore not part of the problem. Interestingly, 68% of all people surveyed did not feel that they contributed to the environmental problems faced by the park in that they were not in the area long enough to be significant.

Some 75% of respondents regularly donated to charity, with the most popular charities being cancer-related; 70% of all respondents were prepared to donate to conservation and environmental causes, whilst only 50% had actually done so in the past. Could it be that national parks have been slow to communicate their needs of environmental resourcing to the public, and therefore are missing out on potential funds?

In terms of local businesses, many owners were worried about the public's perception of an 'extra tax', in particular if they were the only hotelier or business seen to be imposing this charge. Many hoteliers cited competitors as a reason for not asking for that extra voluntary 50p on top of the hotel or restaurant bill — a problem that may be exacerbated by the recent outbreak of foot-and-mouth, and the down-turn in tourist numbers in that entrepreneurs will be disinclined to finance the repairs either directly or by passing on a cost to the visitor.

THE ROLE OF AGENCIES AND THE VISITORS

So what is the problem? The car park initiative had problems in that the method of donating was confusing and visitors believed that, by paying the car park fee, they were donating automatically. However the problem goes much further, in that many visitors to the park believed that maintenance should be the responsibility of the government. My findings would suggest that over 75% of visitors to the Peak District felt that conservation was the responsibility of the government, and a further 9% felt that the responsibility lay with local residents: an echo of the earlier work by Thomas (1992)? There is also the question of the correct way of approaching the visitor, as the 1999 research showed that many visitors were opposed to radical measures of collecting money such as tolls or taxes, instead favouring the choice factor provided by a donation box.

Further research needs to be undertaken to assess visitor attitudes to the concept, together with an analysis of the best forms of communication. The present research has to be built upon to make more responsive policy instruments and to identify further improvements in the way we communicate to our visitors and encourage their participation in resourcing environmental repair.

Where do we go from here? Certainly visitor payback has many advantages for the Peak District if conducted in the correct way, as many visitors were happy to be given the choice of whether or not to donate. As a tourist-receiving destination it needs to consider ways of perfecting visitor payback so that it is not perceived as onerous, but as an important method of conservation for the area. Tourists need to be re-educated and encouraged to take ownership of the areas that they visit so that the harmony envisaged by the UK government task force report can be realised. Maybe the message to re-educate should be that, without conservation funds, the countryside will be ravaged by tourism.

*www.Peakdistrict.org
For a full bibliography, contact Lyn Senior,
e-mail: L.Senior@derby.ac.uk
DRENTHE'S harsh, wet beauty has made an impact on many people. None more so than the artist Van Gogh who, on visiting in 1883 and finding his emotions strongly stirred, is said to have declared that the area attracted him so much he almost wished not to have seen it.

In the 19th century the province, situated in the north-east corner of the country, was mostly a huge heath—a wasteland of sandy soils and peat bogs.

Centuries of erosion caused shallow valleys to be gradually carved out by the streams which flowed across it—oases of fertility in an unproductive wilderness. Here grew the nutritious grasses which provided winter hay for the sheep and cattle which grazed—and subsequently fertilised—the land; flocks which provided a source of income for the herdsmen who daily led them out to feed.

As might be expected, this continual grazing led to Drenthe having very little natural woodland cover. The pattern began to change in the 1930s, when landowners anxious to see a better return for their poor-quality holdings turned to artificial fertilisers in order to establish arable farming and forestry. This action reduced the number of grazing flocks, destroying much of the heathland and changing the economic status of the area, as well as its appearance.

Today, two flocks of heideschaap (heathland sheep), part of the land management team, graze around 1,000 hectares/2,470 acres of enclosed land within the park. This not only reflects the area's history, but helps to preserve a landscape typical of a time when sheep grazed freely.

During the changes in the 1930s many Dutch people became concerned to retain some part of their heathland heritage. Their insistent pressure had positive results in 1986 when it was decided that the area of heathland between the villages of Dwingeloo, Ruinen and Pesse should be preserved. Since 1991 it has formed the centre of the Dwingelerveld National Park, from which the three communities have benefited through increased employment in tourism-related activities, and through jobs created by the need to maintain and develop the physical aspects of the park.

Managed jointly by the Staatsbosbeheer (Dutch forestry service) with 1,808 hectares/4,467 acres, Vereniging Natuurmonumenten (Dutch national heritage service) with 1,356 hectares/3,350 acres, and 528 hectares/1,304 acres under private ownership, the park has an area of 3,692 hectares/9,121 acres, making it Europe's largest wet heathland.

A consultative group formed by the above managers, plus local and provincial authorities and representatives of conservation groups, make joint decisions and policies. Great care is taken during the planning process to ensure that a balance is maintained between the park's conservation and recreational requirements. Approval of—and funding for—planned undertakings is sought from the Ministry of

Composed of 45% woodland, 43% heathland and peat bog, 12% arable and meadowland which supports nature reserves, plus many ponds and pools, the park has areas of dry scrubland as well as the sandy outcrops where juniper bushes make an attractive feature. Some parts of the heath now stand as rough grasses, which are attributable to a combination of drainage, acid rain and unsuitable land management activity.

Van Gogh may have found the area appealing to his painter’s eye, but earning a guilder wasn’t easy for the inhabitants of this rough terrain. Veens or fens have been created across the area by the peat-cutting which provided much-needed employment until 1992, when the last turf was lifted.

The plantations of the 1930s represent the major part of the park’s woodland, Scots pine predominating along with oak, beech, birch and willow. In spring the white blossoms of the amelanchiers, Amerikaans krenteboomje (known locally as ‘currant trees’), attract visitors to Drenthe’s Krentebloesem Tocht (Currant Tree Blossom Route). My host assured me he ate the berries produced by the tree and suffered no ill effects!

Forested areas are thinned, not only to enhance their visual appeal by giving a more natural appearance, but also to encourage a range of tree and plant species, so creating a better habitat for animals living in and around the many tiny pools scattered throughout the park.

As well as those plants and creatures indigenous to upland bog areas, the park’s differing habitats support some rarities, like the alcon blue butterfly. There are also species not found elsewhere in the Netherlands, like the endangered cranberry (Vaccinium oxycoccus) and its associated cranberry fritillary butterfly (Boloria aquilonaris), the asphodel (Narthecium ossifragum) and narrow-leaved Arnica (Arnica montana), while the heath-spotted orchid (Dactylorhiza maculata ssp. elodes) survives in a few suitable bogs.

Wooded areas support a wide range of birdlife such as the wheatear (Oenanthe oenanthe) and the stonechat (Saxicola torquata). The black tern (Chlidonias niger) can also be spotted. Songbirds flourish on the abundant food supply of insects and their larvae, as well as a variety of seeds and fruits. Winter heralds the arrival of the hen harrier (Circus cyaneus), rough-legged buzzard (Buteo lagopus), peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus), merlin (Falco columbarius) and the bean goose (Anser fabalis). A bird-hide and a bird observation wall sited in different parts of the park offer the visitor opportunities to study these and other birdlife and waterfowl.

The park is a popular recreational area offering walking (including the 263 km/163 mile Lange-Afstands-Wandelpaden), many cycle routes and horse-riding facilities. It offers a programme of educational and recreational events and activities throughout the year which aims to develop the public perception of the past, present and future of this interesting and diverse region.

A sculpture trail, where natural...
materials are used to reflect the artist's response to the area, incorporates the work of 11 international sculptors, and certainly provides visitors with a talking point.

In Drenthe province the museum village of Orvelte celebrates Van Gogh's admiration for the area on its Schilderspad (artist's footpath), where huge landscape paintings can be admired.

Although the Dwingelderveld has three grave mounds, better evidence of past civilisation in Drenthe can be seen at the Flint n'hoe Museum in Borger. In this fascinating area one is able to visit hunebedden (giants’ beds) — dolmens built by the people of the Beaker culture some 5,000 years ago. Some 52 dolmens still exist in the province, many others having been destroyed by those seeking building materials.

Adjacent to the museum is the Groote Hunebed, a massive structure 22 metres/72 feet long and higher than a man. Artefacts collected from dolmens such as flint tools and amber beads — as well as the typically wide-mouthed, intricately patterned beakers which gave these people their name — have helped build a fund of knowledge about these early farmers which is well illustrated in the museum.

The peaty earth of the area has preserved the buried bodies of these prehistoric bog people, whose remains can be seen in the provincial museum in the region's capital, Assen.

Today much of Drenthe's economy relies on arable farming. Maize and potatoes were being harvested during my stay. Pumpkins were piled on tables outside farmhouses, and apples hung heavily on their trees. Throughout the area horses of many breeds are much in evidence. In Orvelte they are used to pull tourist trams and carriages, while the town of Zuidlaren hosts what is said to be western Europe's biggest horse fair every October, a colourful and lively spectacle.

Around this gently pretty region life appears to be taken unhurriedly. Village houses and shops surround tidy village greens which are shaded by mature oaks and beeches, where pigs once foraged and much local business was conducted — the focal point for much of community life.

Today tourism provides employment and income in a variety of ways, the region being a popular summer holiday venue for the Dutch. Facilities are varied, plentiful and of high quality, being priced to suit a range of pockets and requirements. But Drenthe is still committed to protecting its heritage, and several areas adjacent to the Dwingelderveld are now protected, including the recently-designated National Park Drents-Friese-Wold. Van Gogh would still, I am certain, find himself moved by Drenthe's charms.

Information courtesy of:
Secretariat Dwingelderveld National Park, PO Box 122, 9400 AC Assen.
Interpretation Officer, Staatsbosbeheer, Jan Tuttel, tel (00 31) 592 371740.
Staatsbosbeheer, Achter het Zaan 1, 7991 NG Dwingeloo.
Natuurmonumenten, Benderse 22, 7963 RA Ruinen.
Flint n'hoe Museum, National Hunebed Informatie Centrum, Borger.
Orvelte — Historisch Heden, Toeristisch-informatiepunt Orvelte, Dorpsstraat 1a, 9441 PD Orvelte.

---

NPIB@powdene.com

Canada

NEW PARK PLANNED

Plans are now well advanced for the establishment of a new national park reserve in the southern Gulf Islands in the Strait of Georgia, between Vancouver Island and the mainland of British Columbia.

The park's total area will be approximately 26 sq km/10 sq miles, scattered over 14 islands that lie within 150 km/100 miles of the urban Vancouver, Victoria and Seattle areas and a combined population of some four million people.

The establishment of the proposed national park will involve the transfer of various provincial parks, ecological reserves and Crown lands to Canada, and lands which have been purchased since 1995 under the Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy Program, which was established to protect terrestrial and marine environments on the Pacific Coast.

The Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, which will contain the highest number of designated species at risk of any park in the Parks Canada system, lies in a unique area which enjoys the only Mediterranean-type climate in the country.

Letter

In the Picture

THANKS for the NPI Bulletin, and keep up the good work.

The photo on page 23 of Issue 3 does not depict only members of the Victorian Ranger Association, as suggested in the caption. The photo actually shows delegates from the park management agencies of all Australian states and territories (except the Australian Capital Territory) as well as the federal agency, Parks Australia.

Incidentally, the island seen in the top left hand corner of the photo is Rodondo Island Nature Reserve, a part of Tasmania. The Tasmanian boundary in Bass Strait is very close to Victoria — particularly Wilson’s Promontory — and the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service manages many of the islands in Bass Strait.


New Zealand

Tourism Conference

Otago University in Dunedin will be the venue for an Ecotourism, Wilderness and Mountain Tourism Conference from August 27 to 29.

The registration brochure including the full programme, details on speakers, field trips, social activities, accommodation and costings will be distributed 12-14 weeks prior to the conference. To receive a Registration of Interest Form, contact The Conference Organiser, Department of Tourism, University of Otago, P.O. Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand; e-mail: ecotourism2002@business.otago.ac.nz
mountains

LAUNCH OF INTERNATIONAL YEAR

FOLLOWING a global launch in New York last December, the International Year of the Mountains (IYM) was officially launched in February at the Rome headquarters of the Food & Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

David Harcharik, Deputy Director-General of FAO, said that current estimates showed there were more than 800 million chronically undernourished people in the world. By paying special attention to the plight of mountain people, he predicted the numbers of hungry and undernourished citizens in the world could be reduced substantially.

He added that current data indicated that the number of undernourished in the world was falling at a rate of only six million per year — well below the 22 million annual target set at the 1996 World Food Summit.

A chain of events and launches has been held in different countries to mark the start of IYM, which has the aim of ensuring the well-being of mountain and lowland communities by promoting the conservation and sustainable development of mountain regions.

In NEPAL, television and radio programmes publicised tree-planting ceremonies and the establishment of exhibition venues in government forestry offices in 74 districts.

In the United Republic of TANZANIA, the country's Mountain Conservation Society organised and financed the first IYM stakeholders' meeting which led to the setting up of a new task force.

Key awareness-raising initiatives this year in POLAND will include a conference at the Polish Academy of Sciences on the Sustainable Development of the Carpathian Mountains, and an international conference for mountain NGOs on the Educational Values of Mountain Protected Areas.

In GERMANY Federal Minister, Renate Künast, announced a series of events and nationwide activities that would stress the relationship between lowlands and mountains, raise awareness about the sustainable development of mountain regions, and provide information on mountain ecosystems.

At the official inauguration of IYM in FRANCE, speakers including the Minister of the Environment, Yves Cochet, stressed the need to improve the legal and institutional framework for mountain development and conservation, also the impact of pollution and the importance of building solidarity among communities.

And in the PHILIPPINES, where mountain areas which are home to eight million people are under increasing environmental pressure, a National Mountains Clean-Up Campaign was introduced at an official IYM launch ceremony attended by more than 500 participants.

Dr Edwino Fernando, director of the Makiling Centre for Mountain Ecosystems, said: “IYM provides us all with an opportunity to initiate processes that will ultimately lead to the formulation of a set of national guidelines and appropriate policies, and the implementation of effective new programmes for sustainable mountain development and conservation in the Philippines.”

south africa

RETURN OF A SUPER-PREDATOR

The African wild dog: relocation will hopefully prove a successful conservation measure.

A PLANNED release of a mixed group of the endangered African wild dog (painted wolf), Lycaon Pictus, will mark the first relocation of wild dogs to a South African national park.

Marakele National Park in the Waterberg Mountains, western Limpopo Province, was identified by the Wild Dog Action Group as an important area for the conservation of this endangered species.

Fived males originally caught wild elsewhere in the Limpopo Province and three females donated by the North West Parks and Tourism Board and the De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Centre were moved to a newly built predator boma at Marakele last month to form a new pack which will be released later this year.

A SANParks spokesman said: “The return of this former super-predator to the ecosystem represents an important step in the conservation of the country’s natural heritage.”
National Park International Bulletin

Linking protected areas throughout the world

The National Park International Bulletin is published bi-monthly. Issue No. 5 will be sent to subscribers by air mail in early June. Annual subscription rates (for 6 issues) include postage and packing.

SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

I wish to subscribe to NPIB starting with issue 5

UK – £21.50
Europe – £24.00
Rest of world – £26.50

We can offer generous discounts for multiple subscriptions at one address.

I enclose a cheque / international money order in £ sterling for £ ________________________________
made payable to publisher-Powdene Publicity.

Please debit Visa [ ] Mastercard [ ] JCB [ ] Switch [ ]
Card no. ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________
Start date ___________ Expire date ___________
Name ___________________________________________
Address _________________________________________
E-mail address __________________________________

PLEASE SEND AN INVOICE TO

Name ___________________________________________
Park or organisation ______________________________
Address _________________________________________
Post/zip code ____________________________
Country ______________________________________

EASY ORDERING – just e-mail NPIB@powdene.com with your name, address and
credit card details or a request for an invoice.

Please return to NPIB, Unit 17, St Peter's Wharf, Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 1TZ, United Kingdom.
Telephone (00 44) 191 265 0040 or fax (00 44) 191 275 2609

MECHANICAL DETAILS
(in mm, depth first)
Full page bleed 303 x 216
Full page trim 297 x 210
Full page type area 265 x 180
Half page 130 x 180
Quarter page 130 x 85

Printed litho. Screen for mono and colour lines 60 lines per cm.

WEB — For information about NPIB and forthcoming issues, consult our website: www.nationalparkinternationalbulletin.com

ADVERTISE WITH NPIB

ADVERTISING RATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page Type</th>
<th>Rate (£)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full page colour</td>
<td>£300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full page mono</td>
<td>£250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half page colour</td>
<td>£165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half page mono</td>
<td>£135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter page colour</td>
<td>£95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter page mono</td>
<td>£75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PLEASE supply advertisement material on compact disk, floppy disk (3.25 inch) or Zip 100. Material on disk to be compatible with Quark XPress 3.32.

ISBN No. 0-9520226-5-6