

JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE

Activity: International Park Affairs

Program Components	1999 Estimate	Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	2000 Budget Request	Change From 1999 (+/-)
A. Office of International Affairs	913	20	+150	1,083	+170
B. Southwest Border Program	758	8	0	766	+8
Total Requirements \$(000)	1,671	28	+150	1,849	+178

AUTHORIZATION

16 U.S.C. 1 National Park Service Organic Act
16 U.S.C. 470a-1 National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (Title IV)
42 U.S.C. 4332 National Environmental Policy Act
16 U.S.C. 1537 Endangered Species Act, as amended
North American Free Trade Agreement

OVERVIEW

The National Park Service, through the **International Park Affairs** activity, coordinates a number of mandated international assistance and support functions. These include support to Regional Offices and park units which collaborate with neighboring countries in the effort to protect and manage resources shared across international boundaries; development and support of training workshops and technical assistance projects for other nations to aid in the protection and management of their national parks and protected areas; facilitating the transfer of park and protected area management information and technology worldwide; and forming a partnership with Mexico to provide for maximum protection of significant shared natural and cultural resources on the United States/Mexico border.

APPLICABLE NATIONAL PARK MISSION GOALS

- Ia Natural and cultural resources and associated values are protected, restored and maintained in good condition and managed within their broader ecosystem and cultural context.
- Ib The National Park Service contributes to knowledge about natural and cultural resources and associated values; management decisions about resources and visitors are based on adequate scholarly and scientific information.

A. Office of International Affairs FY 1999 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments

Enacted: \$913,000

In response to directives from the Executive (United States bilateral, environment, and economic agreements) and Legislative (conventions, treaties, and acts) branches, the National Park Service works to protect and enhance the global environment through strengthening the management, operation, and preservation of outstanding natural and cultural resources and critical habitats. It provides leadership in natural and cultural heritage resource management worldwide and assists in the attainment of United States foreign policy objectives. Through international cooperation, the NPS improves its own capabilities to achieve its domestic mission and extends the benefits of natural and cultural conservation and outdoor recreation throughout the world.

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Through the Office of International Affairs, the NPS exchanges information and provides technical assistance to other nations and United States territories on park and heritage resource management issues; coordinates the placement of international volunteers-in-parks and the visitation of international park professionals and high ranking officials to national parks; assists in implementation of international obligations that arise from legislative mandates and executive initiatives.

Key Long-Term Programs

The National Park Service must focus its limited resources on key international partners to maximize benefits to be gained and assistance given. The Office of International Affairs develops and implements cooperative long-term programs for protected area conservation and resource management with key international partners. Over the course of five years (beginning in FY 1998), long-term cooperative programs with NPS counterparts in Argentina, Venezuela, China and South Africa will be developed and implemented. It is envisioned that upon conclusion of these activities, each country shall have shared significant experience and knowledge on protected area issues that their viability as role models for and partners with other nations will have increased.

International Park Affairs Workload Factors	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Estimate	FY 2000 Estimate
Response to outside stakeholder requests	100%	100%	100%
Number of new or renewed contacts	111	10	10
Number of key long-term programs implemented	3	3 of 4	4 of 4
Response to technical assistance requests	100%	100%	100%
Response to park requests	100%	100%	100%
Number of personnel and information provided to Strengthen NPS resource management	157	100	100

- In FY 1998, long-term cooperative agreements were concluded, biennial work plans developed and activities initiated with Argentina and Venezuela. In FY 1999, collaboration and cooperation in geographic information systems (GIS) and global positioning systems (GPS), interpretive facility planning and design, interpretation and environmental education programs, concessions operations, fire fighting and resource management monitoring will be initiated. Activities for FY 2000 will be jointly developed by the end of FY 1999.
- In FY 1998, the NPS entered into a long-term agreement for collaboration and cooperation with the National Park Agency of the People's Republic of China. The program of collaborative activities was tentatively postponed at their request due to the massive summer flooding in China but is expected to be underway in FY 1999.
- The NPS Director has been invited to visit South Africa in FY 1999. During this visit, the NPS will assess possibilities and areas for long-term cooperation and collaboration with the South African National Parks. A broad array of park issues is expected to be jointly discussed and future cooperative activities planned and implemented. Additionally, a pilot effort pairing two national parks confronting the issue of invasive plants is under discussion.

Short Term Technical Assistance

Every year numerous international park and conservation officials and professionals request technical assistance from the National Park Service. These requests for short-term assistance are designed to match the international partner's

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unique needs. As the National Park Service responds to these ad hoc requests when resources are available, the Office of International Affairs is unable at this time to fully identify specific activities that will be accomplished.

The National Park Service shares management responsibility for preservation and conservation of natural and cultural resources with international park authorities along the borders with Canada, Mexico, Russia and the Caribbean Basin. The NPS accomplishes these responsibilities through decentralized activities taking place directly between NPS park and regional units and their counterparts across the border.

- In FY 1998, the Director and the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks signed an agreement with Parks Canada for continued cooperation between the two governments. The Park Service directorate is expected to hold high level meetings with Parks Canada in FY 1999.
- In FY 1998, an agreement was signed between the NPS and Mexico's National Institute for Anthropology and History (INAH) for technical exchange and cooperation in cultural resource management. Collaborative efforts between the two countries will strengthen and support cultural resource preservation and management throughout each country. A Servicewide meeting to develop potential NPS scopes of work and the first bilateral meeting under the terms of the agreement will be held.
- In FY 1999, the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service will negotiate and conclude a Cooperative Conservation Agreement with the Republic of Zimbabwe's Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management. This joint effort by sister United States agencies will strengthen park and wildlife conservation management capabilities in both countries and provide for increased collaboration on foreign policy matters in these fields.
- In FY 1999, a two person team will travel to Kakadu National Park, Australia at the request of the World Heritage Committee to participate in an inspection and a hearing on mining operations and the aboriginal people's claims in this threatened World Heritage Site. A United States delegation will attend the World Heritage Committee meeting in Kyoto, Japan and an extraordinary session of the committee in France. The World Heritage regulations in the Federal Register notice will be updated and printed.
- A military *coup d'etat* in Sierra Leone in 1997 precluded the initiation of NPS efforts to assess the stability of Bunce Island; the only site where slaves were shipped directly from the African continent to the United States. The Minister of Culture and Tourism from Sierra Leone met in 1998 with NPS officials and requested its reconsideration of the project. United States Ambassador Melrose indicated that Park Service involvement in this initiative will be supported by his embassy when security and safety concerns are met. The Park Service anticipates reactivation of this effort in FY 1999.

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International Resource Management Support to Parks

The National Park Service's effectiveness and accountability to preserve natural and cultural resources, and to meet the needs of its visitors and various publics is assured and supported through internal coordination activities.

Through the Office of International Affairs, the NPS provides training, both domestically and abroad, to park and conservation professionals. Park Service employees benefit from the direct interaction with their professional colleagues. The Office of International Affairs also facilitates the exchange of information domestically by coordinating the International Volunteers-in-Park program which enables foreign park professionals and university-level students to volunteer their expertise in National Park Service areas.

- Domestically, the NPS continues to place international volunteers in United States national parks under the J-1 visa program. In FY 1998, a total of 118 volunteers assisted national park staff in a variety of work/study opportunities. This program provides major assistance to the parks at a very modest cost to the Service.
- Under the Service's sister-park program, nine national parks in four other nations (Slovak Republic, Japan, Russia, Mexico, Bahamas and Poland) have established working partnerships with the NPS. This program increases information sharing and direct professional contacts between protected areas primarily through the use of improved communication technologies. The program matches are determined by the commonality of issues confronting each protected area in lieu of strict bio-geographical pairing. This program is expected to expand in FY 1999 and FY 2000.
- Protected area and heritage resource professionals travel to the United States with advanced and specialized study objectives and request assistance in preparing programs to attain their goals. In collaboration with park units, the Office of International Affairs plans and develops specialized programs designed to meet both the objectives of the traveler and the workload demands on the Service's units and program offices. In FY 1998, thirty-nine individual and specialized visits were prepared by the Office of International Affairs.

FY 2000 Budget Request

	2000 Budget Request	Program Changes (+/-)
▪ Office of International Affairs \$(000)	1,083	+150
The FY 2000 request for the Office of International Affairs is \$1.083 million, which represents an increase of \$0.170 million over the FY 1999 enacted level. The FY 2000 proposed programmatic increase of \$0.150 million to Office of International Affairs activities includes:		
	\$(000)	
▪ International Park and Protected Area Leadership Training	150	
Total	150	
Justification for this increase is included at the end of this activity's presentation.		

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***B. Southwest Border Program
FY 1999 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments***

Enacted: \$758,000

The National Park Service (NPS) manages seven park areas along the 2,000-mile border shared between the United States and Mexico (i.e., Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Coronado National Memorial, Chamizal National Memorial, Big Bend National Park, Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River, Amistad National Recreation Area, and Palo Alto National Battlefield Site). The Service administers roughly 18 percent of the land on the United States side of the border. In 1989, formal cooperation with the Government of Mexico was established with the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the NPS Directorate and the Mexican Secretariat of Development and Ecology to protect, preserve and conserve shared natural and cultural resources in both countries. To date, both countries are collaborating with the establishment of new protected areas; initiation of borderlands natural and cultural resource protection projects; international forums/workshops for information transfer; and exchange on border management plans for the region.

The United States/Mexico Affairs (MEAF) Office is an operating field unit located in Las Cruces, New Mexico on the campus of New Mexico State University (NMSU). The MEAF Office interacts with the operations and international program planning for the subcluster of parks in collaboration with international partners, park to park partners, interagency partners, and private groups to protect and manage shared natural, historic, and cultural resources along the United States/Mexico Border region. The office represents the National Park Service in negotiating and coordinating international programs with US/Mexico entities, facilitates research for protection of the biological diversity, particularly adjacent to the United States/Mexico Border, and coordinates educational programs for the management of natural, archeological, historic, and cultural resources. International affairs specialists cooperate with partners (government, universities) to generate understanding and appreciation for the shared natural and cultural heritage of the United States/Mexican Border region. The office has a cooperative agreement with NMSU under which many programs are conducted.

Programs funded in FY 1999 include park management and park planning training courses, wildlife research, environmental education, support for international forums, and assistance to American and Mexican colleagues in the development of resource management plans for parks along with the United States/Mexico border.

The NPS international affairs program utilizes a number of strategies to achieve its goals, which include:

- Continuing to provide a leadership position with the United States Department of the Interior Field Coordinating Committee to achieve a unified agency approach to binational management issues with Mexico.
- Continuing to assist with the formation of an Ecological Binational Partnership within the Sonoran Desert Region.
- Assisting New Mexico State University to form a Binational Education program in the conservation and management of natural and cultural resources, particularly in the United States/Mexico border region.
- Working closely with the Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History within the formal memorandum of understanding agreement to develop the Camino Real Historic Trail project.

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Performance Goals

Long-term Goal IIIb2	By September 30, 2002, 80% of communities served are satisfied with NPS partnership assistance in providing recreational and conservation benefits on lands and waters.
Annual Goal IIIb2	By September 30, 2000, following finalization of survey instrument and methodology in FY 1999, 77% of States, communities, and nonprofit organizations served are satisfied with NPS partnership assistance in providing recreational and conservation benefits on lands and waters.

Southwest Border Program Performance Information	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Estimate	FY 2000 Estimate
Percent of States, communities, and nonprofit organizations served are satisfied with NPS partnership assistance in providing recreational and conservation benefits on lands and waters.	Baseline established	75% or more are Satisfied	77% Performance Satisfaction by Constituencies

In FY 2000, the Southwest Border program will continue to support and strengthen the United States/Mexico "Sisters Projects" program between the United States border parks and Mexico protected areas in the Big Bend region and the Northwest Sonoran Desert.

JUSTIFICATION OF FY 2000 BUDGET REQUEST FOR INTERNATIONAL PARK AFFAIRS

	2000 Budget Request	Program Changes (+/-)
International Park Affairs \$(000)	1,849	+150

The FY 2000 request for International Park Affairs is \$1.849 million, which represents an increase of \$0.178 million above the FY 1999 enacted level. The programmatic increase of \$150,000 for the International Park Affairs activity is justified by the proposed change that follow:

- **International Park and Protected Area Leadership Training (+\$150,000):** The NPS is proposing an increase of \$150,000 in FY 2000 for international protected area leadership training. The Service will develop and implement a park and protected areas millennium leadership symposium in collaboration with its international colleagues to address current and emerging issues and challenges in natural resource and protected areas management. Its purpose is to strengthen natural resource leadership and management globally. Both international and domestic protected areas managers and staff will participate in this training initiative. Potential topics include, but are not limited to: restoring balance to important ecosystems, maintaining the natural and cultural diversity of protected resources, and/or information sharing and standard setting for biodiversity and geographic information.

This program is designed to forge and strengthen partnerships and alliances across and outside traditional boundaries and identify critical scientific, natural resource, and management issues for the next millennium. It also seeks to assist the Service in meeting NPS Mission Goal 1a: Natural and cultural resources and associated values are protected, restored, and maintained in good condition and managed within their broader ecosystem context.

Resources, financial and personnel, will be leveraged with other agencies, private sector, and non-governmental organizations to ensure long-term sustainability of this initiative. The Service's Office of International Affairs and Albright Training Center will partner to host this natural resource management training activity to improve protected area management leadership skills and techniques.