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cc: M'abal
Bauer, Kinshasa
Bar, DDA
Bagnet/Baltaxe
Fontaine
Hiney/de Vos
Pierret, Kinshasa
Gutwiler, Accra
Reg. (4)

COE SF General

JAN 25 1971

Dear Mr. Sales,

COE: Proposed Project for the Conservation and Management of
Albert National Park and Other National Parks

Mr. Pierret, our FA expert in Wildlife Management and National Parks, informed us in his letter of 4 December 1970 about the visit of Dr. Curry-Lindahl, Ecologist with the UNESCO Regional Office for Africa, to Congo Kinshasa during November/December 1970. Dr. Curry-Lindahl's visit was a follow-up to a previous proposal for a national parks and wildlife management project which had been submitted to the UNEP by the Government on 26.8.1970.

As a point of clarification, we should like to inform you that this proposal had been prepared not only by a UNESCO mission but that Dr. de Vos of our Forest Conservation and Wildlife Branch also assisted with the formulation of this request on the invitation of Dr. Verdueren, Director-General of the Institute of the Conservation of Nature in Congo, during his visit to the Congo in 1969.

In view of the wish of UNEP to have a request prepared for a preparatory phase of this project, we are glad to know that Dr. Curry-Lindahl discussed this matter with the Government officials concerned.

With regard to the general objectives of the proposed project, as outlined in the Hon. Loliki's undated letter of intent, we feel that they refer rather to applied parks management problems than to questions of basic research in this field. Consequently, this project falls in our opinion more within the established activities of FAD.

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Mr. P. Sales
Resident Representative of UNEP
B.P. 7343
Kinshasa
Congo (Kinshasa)

Although we support the general objectives of the project, we suggest that more emphasis should be given to an analysis of the structure of game populations, their movements and habitat conditions in Albert National Park. We agree that the tourist management of Albert National Park should be an integrated part of the total tourist development scheme for the Kivu Province.

As regards the initial phase of the project we should like to offer the following comments:

1. We have noted that the Government intends to establish a five years development plan for tourism and related matters. We feel that the proposed project could assist with technical advice in the preparation of this plan.
2. We agree that the intensity of human use of the parks should be zoned, and that a plan should be made for the siting of lodges, hotels and other facilities. However, this phase of the project should not concern itself with too many physical planning aspects for tourism, and certainly not with the problem of concessionaires which must be left strictly to the Government.
3. Training of personnel could be largely taken care of through bursaries for students to be sent to the IUNEP supported School for Training of Wildlife Specialists at Garoua, Cameroon.
4. With reference to the consultant component of the project, we suggest that the time allotted for consultants be increased to 30 man-months.

In the light of these comments, we believe that there is room for some re-formulation of the project activities. We need hardly to add that we fully support the Government's request for assistance with a project for the Conservation and Management of National Parks. Given the importance this has for the economy of Congo Kinshasa and the world-wide interest this subject evokes, we are naturally anxious that such a vital project should be formulated in the most suitable way.

With reference to the minutes of the meeting between Dr. Curry-Lindahl and officers of INCOB, we do not support Dr. Curry-Lindahl's suggestion to open only 10% of the Albert National Park to tourists. We see no justification for closing more than about half of the park to tourism, even from the standpoint of the protection of habitats and vanishing species.

We hope that our preliminary comments are contributing to a realistic assessment of the Government request.

Yours sincerely,

Louis Huguet
 Director
 Operations Service
 Forestry Department