

STRI NEWSAID Loan for Canal Watershed Management Signed

On Thursday, March 30th the AID loan to Panama for the management of the canal watershed was signed. The loan gives Panama a total of \$16,800,000 over a five year period to be managed by RENARE, Panama's Department of Natural Renewable Resources. A total of 2.7 million dollars of the loan is to be used for reserves and park management.

At the signing ceremony, which was attended by Dr. Ira Rubinoff, Dr. Pedro Galindo, as a representative of Mr. Gabriel Lewis Galindo, the director of the Panama Canal Authority read the declaration by President Royo of a National Park. An excerpt of this declaration follows:

... "The natural richness concentrated in the Canal Zone includes more than 650 species of vertebrate animals, hundreds of invertebrate species and more than 1,500 different types of botanical species which have maintained its original state since the times of the Spanish Conquest, and because of its accessibility is unique in Central America and most of South America.

As set forth in the Torrijos-Carter Treaty, these areas revert to Panama on October 1, 1979, and it is the decision of the National Government to take all the necessary measures to insure the protection of the forests, the flora and fauna, by providing appropriate resources to the institutions responsible for the control, supervision and implementation of the plans and programs to be developed.

Based on the above, I am very pleased to declare the forested area included between the Summit Gardens, the town of Limon, the East bank of the Canal and the present boundary of the Canal Zone, as a National Park which will carry a name that will be decided upon after necessary consultations, and which in addition to protecting the natural environment and preserving the water supply, will serve for scientific and educational purposes and for the joy and recreation of all generations of Panamanians."

Seminar

The seminar on Tuesday, April 3rd at noon will be given by Dr. Olga F. Linares, who will speak on: "Irrigation and Authority: the Diola of the Casamance, Senegal". This seminar will be in the Ancon Conference Room.

Please check bulletin boards for other seminars that are scheduled during the course of the week.

New Lock at Galeta

There is a new combination lock on the gate at Galeta. Persons going there should call ahead of time to get the combination which will be changed from time to time.

Arrivals & Departures

We welcome to STRI:

Dr. David Challinor, Asst. Secretary for Science
Dr. Theodore Reed, Director, NZP
Dr. Kevin Sullivan, Director CBCES
Dr. Noel Hinners, Director, Air & Space Museum
Dr. Melvin Zisfein, Deputy Director, Air & Space Museum
Dr. George Field, Director, SAO
Dr. John Gregory, Deputy Director, SAO
Dr. William Klein, Director, RBL
Dr. James Mello, Asst. Director MNH
Mr. Harold Michaelson, Exec. Officer Office of the Asst. Sec. for Science
Mr. Ross Simons, Program Manager, Office of Asst. Sec. for Science

They are here for the Bureau Directors' Meeting and will be leaving on April 4th.

Also leaving April 4th:

Dr. Ira Rubinoff for San Francisco to attend the Meeting of the Charles Darwin Foundation. He will also be going to Washington on official business, and is expected back at STRI around the 21st of April.

The R.V. Benjamin will be leaving on it's first scientific expedition to Cocos Island in Costa Rica. Going from STRI will be: Dr. N. Smythe, Dr. R. Silberglied, Dr. R. Foster, Mr. Tom Borges, and the crew Jack Bryan and Lucho Cruz. They will be joined by 4 others in Costa Rica. Bon Voyage!

Arriving April 4th:

Dr. H. Hoeck, director of the Charles Darwin Research Station.

Also leaving this week: R. Richmond, T. Carlisle, R. Gordon, J. Graves, and L. Coley.

Something we all should remember:

THE SOONER YOU FALL BEHIND, THE MORE TIME YOU HAVE TO CATCH UP.

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