



Program V Local Community Development

Goal: to arrest or reverse the growth in pressure on the park from human populations and their activities.

The first two objectives are long-term and fundamental to successful park protection. They are orientated towards increasing livelihood opportunities in non-land-based occupations. Priority is on accurately evaluating current educational achievement, then on alleviating reasons for under achievement. Stress will be placed on liaison with existing educational authorities and institutions, and ensuring adequate financial support for schools and students through scholarships, sponsorship or other means.

The second objective is to ensure that trained youngsters have the opportunity to use their skills to obtain proper employment. Activities in the present plan are preparatory, to initiate liaison with existing agencies concerned with employment, to identify opportunities and to liaise with local employers province-wide. This objective will come into play more as the first (education) starts to bear fruit.

A third objective is to reduce pressure on the land from the present adult population. The present plan is largely concerned with assessment, of existing livelihood, opportunities and the reason for people may not take advantage of them, and with DECS, to assess existing non-formal education programs. At the same time techniques of subsistence agriculture will be improved and plantation wood production improved.

Undesirable side-effects of livelihood programs will be watched, particularly to avoid creating growth centers in or close to the park, and to prevent loss of cultural identity indigenous communities. For latter, cultural practices will be inventoried and promoted through events and activities.