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## IUCN REVIEW

World Heritage Nomination

1. NAME: Parc National D'Joudq, Senegal
2. LOCATION: Sixty km. north-east of St. Louis in the delta of the Senegal River.
3. NOMINATED BY: The Conservator of the Park, March 1978.
4. DOCUMENTATION:
- i) Nomination form.
  - ii) Supplementary documentation IUCN
    - a) Dupuy, Larivière, Senegal, ses parcs, ses animaux, 1978.
    - b) Assessment of Environmental Effects of the Proposed Developments in the Senegal River Basin, Sec. 3-5, Env. Assess. Council Inc. 1977.
    - c) Proceedings Heiligenhafen Conference on Conservation of Wetlands, 1974.
    - d) Dupuy, Les parcs nationaux de la République du Sénégal, 1972.

## 5. BACKGROUND:

The 16,000 ha. proposal was first submitted in March 1978. A decision was deferred pending further information with regard to potential impact of the projects of "L'organisation pour la mise en Valeur du Sénégal".

In November 1978, IUCN met with the consultants carrying out the environmental impact assessment for the OMVS.

The impact of the dams is not yet known primarily because there is no information available with regard to what modifications might be made to the project to ensure essential periodic inundation of the delta area.

The Environmental Impact study suggests in:

Section (3.3.2.1.1) "...the proposed project will have the most direct impact on the river and estuary regime".

Section (3.3.2.1.1.2) "... tidal exchange rates and patterns will be markedly altered".

Section (3.3.2.1.1.7) "...flooding will be reduced as a result of the flow regulation scheme ...".

It is feasible to artificially regulate water flow to simulate natural conditions. Whether this is feasible economically or politically is not known.

Comment: The delta of the Senegal and in particular the Parc National D'Joudj are very significant waterfowl breeding areas.

Recommendation: Because of the intensive development taking place in the region it is recommended that any decision on the area be deferred indefinitely. This recommendation is in keeping with the criteria for international wetlands developed at the Heiligenhafen Conference (i.e. The area must be "free from the threat of major impact of external pollution, hydrological interferences and land use or industrial practices".



International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

April 1979

#### DJOUDJ NATIONAL BIRD SANCTUARY (Senegal)

As frigid autumn winds begin to whistle into Europe from the north, a host of migratory birds are thinking of more hospitable climates to the south and start on their long annual excursion. After braving the obstacles of southern Europe, where every bush seems to hide a hunter with a shotgun, navigating the featureless Mediterranean Sea, and transversing the arid Sahara desert, the birds arrive at their first oasis: Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary.

Located in the delta of the Senegal River, near Senegal's border with Mauritania, Djoudj covers some 16,000 hectares of river channels, backwaters, streams, ponds, and a large lake (which covers about a quarter of the sanctuary). An estimated 1,500,000 aquatic birds live in these habitats, and Djoudj offers an important breeding ground for species such as the white pelican, purple heron, African spoonbill, large egret, lesser egret, anthinga, cormorants, and many others.

In addition, the waters also hold populations of crocodile and African manatee, and the forests and grasslands hold species typical of the Sahelian zone of Africa.

But this wildlife haven is threatened from many sides. Agricultural chemicals are finding their way into the once-pristine waters of the Senegal river thus disturbing delicate links in the food chain, and a dam is being built which will disturb the annual wet-dry cycles which have brought life to Djoudj. A study sponsored by the World Heritage Committee has reported on the measures required to ameliorate the effects of the dam through an inexpensive series of dikes and sluice-gates and a carefully timed release of the life-bringing waters. It is hoped that the World Heritage status of Djoudj will help convince the government of Senegal to take the necessary measures.