

# All on Board!

Developing a partnership with multiple national and international agencies



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# Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## NPS Sister Park Program

“It is widely accepted that most national parks are simply too small to fulfill their mission of preserving natural and cultural resources on their own.”

“These (sister) partnerships increase information sharing and direct park-to-park contacts to address many of the common issues mentioned above, primarily through improved telecommunications technologies”



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## NPS Sister Park Program

- To date there are ~50 sister parks in 21 countries
- Central and South America, Canada, Asia, Europe
- Highest number in Mexico (11)
- None in Africa



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## NPS Sister Park Program

“(Substantial) similarity of protected resources or ecosystems or a mutual interest in a common set of park management issues”

- UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- National Park Systems
- Government run, not through private sector



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## NPS Sister Park Program

- Invasive species management
- Poaching/hunting
- Biodiversity studies and other eco/conservation work
- Facilities development and maintenance
- Visitor services
- Educational outreach and community involvement
- Cultural resource management

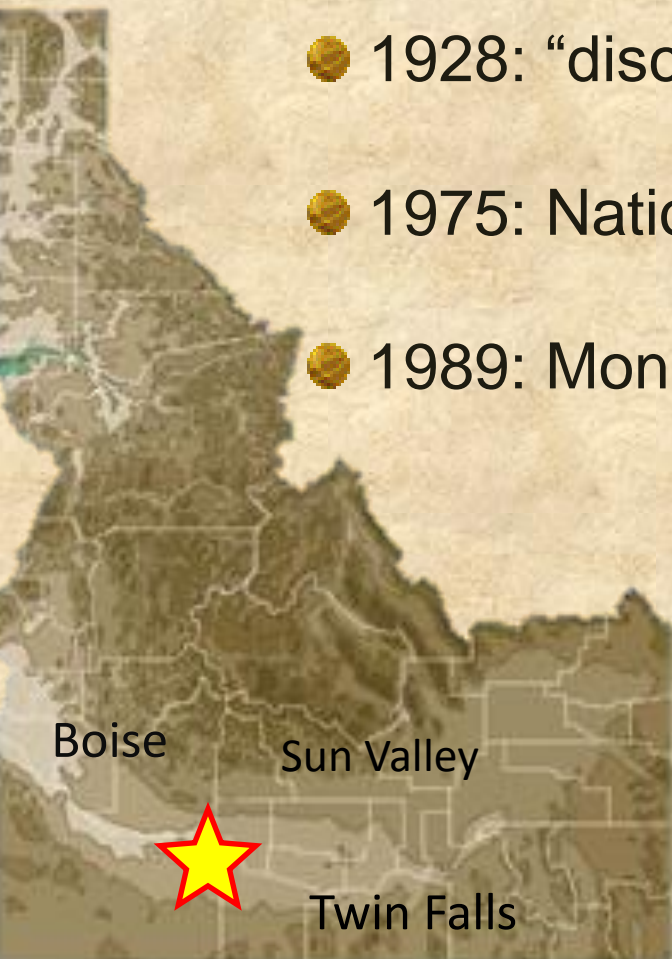


# Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument

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- 1928: “discovered” by science
- 1975: National Natural Landmark status
- 1989: Monument status
- Diverse Pliocene fossils
- Climate change



Who are we as a park and  
what do we want from this?



# Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument

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- Paleontological resource concerns
- Small park and staff
- Modern day issues: water and grazing rights, fires, invasives, birding, biodiversity, education



Who are we as a park and  
what do we want from this?



# Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument

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## Where in the world?

Sibilo National Park  
Northern Kenya, East Africa







# Sibilo National Park

- Remote, rarely visited and rather inaccessible
- Shares border with several politically unstable countries



Lake Turkana: worlds largest alkaline lake





# Sibilo National Park

## Why Sibilo National Park?

- 1973 park established to protect fossil and cultural resources
- Large park but small staff
- Most fossils and focus on 4 to 1.8 Ma
- Diverse terrestrial fossil and hominin evolution
- Extensive deposits (temporal and spatial) means good for looking at community change in response to climate



# Sibilo National Park

## Why Sibilo National Park?

- Similar arid shrub brush environment (fires, water and grazing rights)
- Important migratory bird area (Lake Turkana)
- Hidden gem!
- My own experience and contacts in East Africa



# Sibilo National Park

## Broader context (Idaho and NPS-wide)

- Illegal fossil collecting and recreational land degradation
- Poaching of modern animals and plants
- Human-animal conflict
- Wildfires
- Invasive species

KENYA  
WILDLIFE  
SERVICE



# Sibilo National Park

## Broader context (Idaho and NPS-wide)

- Public awareness and education
- Trail maintenance
- Visitor and staff safety
- Facilities maintenance

Step 1: Decide on a suitable park

Step 2: Notify NPS International to contact KWS on parks behalf



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# Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument

National Park Service  
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KENYA  
WILDLIFE  
SERVICE



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Know the resource and who is in charge of it!

- Different countries different rules!
- How do we know who needs to be on board?
- Collection, curation and housing of the fossils=NMK
- The Koobi Fora Field School
  - Are we stepping on toes?





# Everyone is on board (sort of)...so now what?

Writing an international agreement-keep it simple!

- Equal representation of parks
- Cultural differences
- Don't make promises you cannot keep
- Mutual cooperation and shared interests
- Joys of working with multiple governments  
(and their lawyers)

# Smithsonian Folk Life Festival



Smithsonian  
2014

FOLKLIFE  
FESTIVAL

Timelines-they can be lengthened or shortened

**ACK!**

# Smithsonian Folk Life Festival



Smithsonian  
2014

FOLKLIFE  
FESTIVAL

Are we ready? Are they?  
Do we miss this opportunity or do we make that leap?



Smithsonian  
**FOLKLIFE  
FESTIVAL**



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**KENYA  
WILDLIFE  
SERVICE**

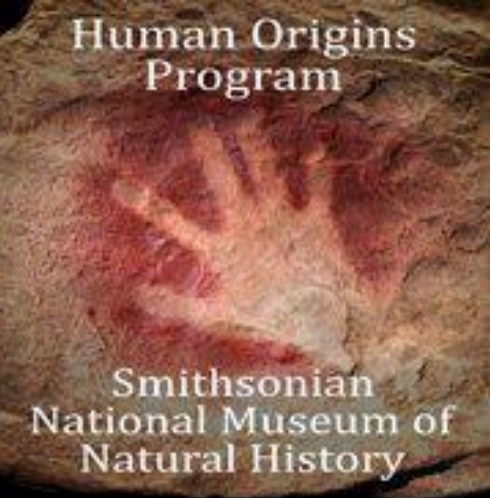



**NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF KENYA**  
WHERE HERITAGE LIVES ON



KOObI FORA FIELD SCHOOL  
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY NATIONAL MUSEUM OF KENYA

**Human Origins  
Program**



Smithsonian  
National Museum of  
Natural History



**SISTER PARKS**



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Sharing Lessons Learned from the National Parks Idea

**The Nature  
Conservancy** 

Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

# Post-signing panic!



- Too much on our plate?
- First project idea?
- Are they happy with the signing?
- How do we even fund all this?

Local Zoo Sun Valley Community

Private Donors

NGOs working in East Africa

Rotary Club

Hagerman Public School

Grants Smithsonian Human Origins Program

Idaho Fish and Game

Local University

Friends of Hagerman

George Washington University (field school)





# Take Home Messages

- Do you know which partners are needed/required
- Know your partner (culture, politics, religion) respect and understand that they may do things differently than you are accustomed to.
- Know ALL your partners



# Take Home Messages

- Don't make promises you cannot keep and don't try to do too much
- An international agreement makes you an ambassador of both your organization and your country
- Don't drop the ball! The signing is the first of many important steps
- Enjoy the experience