

Physical participation in certain activities such as fishing, water skiing, boating, snorkeling, and swimming is not compatible with maintaining natural conditions and are best excluded from the park program. These activities, however, should be provided on St. Thomas Island or on some other island adjacent to St. John Island but outside of the National Park, first by commercial interests and secondly by the National Park Service if the program offered by commercial interests is unsatisfactory in presenting to the people the greatest values of recreation.

#### HISTORICAL RECORD

The Virgin Islands National Park is characterized by modified plant and animal communities. An understanding of the changes that have occurred in the past and are occurring today is desirable in appraising and interpreting the successional changes that are now leading toward a climatic climax. The following outline is an approach in gathering these historical data.

Objectives: 1. Define, establish, and maintain pre-Columbian conditions. (Early Danish culture, however, should be preserved for historical record.) All natural arrivals of plants and animals should not be interfered with. 2. Instigate interpretive program emphasizing the philosophical translation of the functions of insular areas and the laws of succession, rather than the enjoyment of the park by physical recreation.

Pre-Columbian conditions: 1. Analyze the past geological history and establish a sequence of events leading to pre-Columbian period, including structural and physiographic changes, climates, and fossil evidence. 2. Define the ecological community existing just prior to the arrival of Columbus. a. Compile information from early Danish pictures, documents, journals, Carib-Arawak legends, mythology, significance of petroglyphs and