



THE THIN GREEN LINE NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION

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OFFICERS REPORTS

President's Report

This has been an exceptionally busy quarter, with the build up to World Ranger Day and the international premier of Sean Willmore's ranger documentary, *The Thin Green Line*. Others have been extra busy with preparations for IRF interventions at the second Latin American Congress on National Parks and other Protected Areas to be held in Bariloche in September, while preparations for the IRF 2009 congress in Bolivia are progressing well. I look forward to hearing from all those involved.

World Ranger Day

World Ranger Day was celebrated around the world on July 31st. Not only was there much celebration amongst the IRF family, but World Ranger Day drew strong international support for the day. World Ranger Day was also declared to be California's State Park Ranger Day by Governor Schwarzenegger.

World Premier Of The Thin Green Line

I am already aware of many great and upbuilding stories of *The Thin Green Line* premier events held around the world, but I am sure it will be some time still until the full picture emerges and a complete report on the event can be made. One thing is absolutely clear – the event was a resounding success. Congratulations and my gratitude to Sean Willmore for his initiative and drive in making it all happen. Thanks also to all those rangers around the world who participated and helped make it such a success. I look forward to reading your stories in this edition.

My own experience had little glitter and even less gold, but oh so much heart. I held a premier event on a wet and cold evening in the district forest office in the remote eastern region of Sierra Leone, which was attended by some 45 forest guards and other protected area staff. There were no dignitaries around, as the only resident minister was out on the campaign trail with national elections just 10 days off. After an introduction, the documentary had the audience spellbound for the next hour and 22 minutes. The discussion session afterwards went on for over three hours. Most striking was the continued reference by almost all speakers to the documentary being "inspirational". One man, a senior ranger, choked up and could not express himself anymore, a feeling I think that many of you out there felt as well.

I had a very hard time holding it together through the chat session as the concepts of a “world family of rangers” who “share problems and experiences,” of rangers who can “help and benefit from each other,” of “cooperation with and participation of” local communities, and of “mutual understanding and mutual benefit” all started taking shape in the minds of the rangers. This movie has done more to motivate the rangers (forest guards) of Sierra Leone than I could have hoped to achieve in months and years of capacity building and leadership.

Ranger Deaths

In the April edition of **The Thin Green Line**, I said that “I believe that this is only the second time when I have not had to report a ranger killed or seriously injured (that we are aware of)”. Unfortunately, soon after writing that quarterly report we learned of four rangers who had been killed in an ambush by Tamil rebels in Sri Lanka’s Wilpattu National Park. Four military personnel were also killed in the ambush, which occurred this past March. Then, on May 19th, four rangers of the Kenya Wildlife Service were killed during a running gun battle with armed poachers in the Tana River District. The seven man ranger team had managed to kill four of the poachers before the rest fled. One ranger corporal was also seriously injured during this firefight. Letters of condolence have been sent to the families and colleagues of these rangers killed on duty.

These incidents once again underscore the very real need for protected area authorities to come to accept the very real danger that most rangers operate under, and to ensure that rangers are “well trained and skilled, properly and appropriately equipped, and supported, to carry out their fundamental role in the management and conservation of protected areas.” (CBD PoWPA Goal 1.4.7)

Delegation Of President’s Authority

Having experienced extreme communication breakdown and frustration for an extended period at the onset of the rain season in Sierra Leone and not knowing if and when these circumstances may improve, I officially authorised and delegated the role and function of president of the International Ranger Federation to vice president Deanne Adams until further notice. This action was effective on July 10th.

I will continue to contribute and stay involved as much as I am able, and wish Deanne much success, with your support, in this temporary role. Deanne and I have discussed all the major issues facing the IRF on a number of occasions and she is very aware of direction and focus required. I am confident that the IRF is in capable hands.

Warm Regards,

David Zeller
President
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Vice President’s Report

World Ranger Day focused our work this past quarter. Thanks to publicity around Sean Willmore’s film, this first world celebration of rangers was launched with great success in many parts of the world. The individual reports in this issue give a taste of those celebrations. IRF volunteers developed publicity material sent to all IEC members for passing on to ranger associations for their local use. The IRF web site had a page dedicated to World Ranger Day, with a link to Sean’s website. And reports of events and fundraising continue to come in. The two days of events in and around San Francisco, California, USA, showed the potential for World Ranger Day, as rangers from local, state, and national agencies came together for a day of sharing and learning, then the following day shared with the public their ranger work. The evaluations of those two days showed the high value rangers placed on being together, sharing their experiences, and taking home new resources and connections. One of the high points for all the rangers was being able to interact with visiting rangers from Costa Rica, Australia, Argentina, and Bolivia. IRF will build on these successes to involve even more rangers in other events for World Ranger Day 2008.

IRF Web Site

Volunteer webmaster David Burns (Australia) updated the IRF web site (<http://www.int-ranger.net>) this past quarter with the announcement of the European Ranger's Training Seminar in Romania and with a page on World Ranger Day.

Park ranger Germán Solveira of the Argentinean Ranger Association has translated into Spanish all the material currently on the web site. Those translations, along with the recently updated Spanish version of the code of ethics by Daniel Paz (Argentina) will be incorporated into the IRF web site.

Sixth World Ranger Congress In Bolivia

Congress organizer Ana Carola Vaca Salazar of the Bolivia Ranger Association was a featured speaker during World Ranger Day events in San Francisco. Key members of the World Ranger Congress planning committee were also at those events, which made it possible for us to meet and agree on next actions.

Here are some updates on recent activities:

- The Bolivia Ranger Association met in early July and agreed on themes for presentation to the IEC and to the IberoAmerica Congress at Bariloche, Argentina, this coming September. Discussions with IEC and at Bariloche will inform the final decisions for the themes.
- The Chilean Ranger Association has developed the web site for the Congress and is now pursuing funding for the web server. The goal is to have the site established before the Congress in Bariloche in September.
- Work has started with a contract conference organizer who will make final arrangements for a variety of lodging accommodations, for the Congress venue, and for Congress registrations. Proceedings will be in English and Spanish and on-site simultaneous translation will be available in Spanish and English.

Next steps include the following:

- A workshop during the IberoAmerica Congress in Bariloche in September will give delegates the opportunity to comment on the themes and provide input
- The web site will be established and linked to the IRF web site in September or October.
- The congress organizer will begin taking registrations from the web site this fall.

The core organizing committee is composed of rangers from five countries:

- Bolivia – Carola Salazar, Congress organizer; Javier Zeballos Ruiz, president Bolivia Ranger Association; Rolvis Perez, Congress General Coordinator (contractor to Bolivia Ranger Association); Sergio Eguino, Executive Director of FUNDESN (coordinates funding from NGOs to national park system)
- Chile – Oswaldo Barassi, Chile Ranger Association; Claudius Corval (web consultant)
- Costa Rica – Ronald Mora, Costa Rica Ranger Association; Mauricio Arias Zumbado, Central America IEC representative
- Australia – Kristen Appel (stationed in USA temporarily)
- USA – Yvette Ruan, key liaison between USA and Bolivia associations; Deanne Adams, vice president IRF and IEC representative; Rick Smith, past president, IRF

We will inform all member associations as soon as the web site is available and registration has opened. The organizing committee has done a tremendous amount of work already, with great teamwork across countries. We are looking forward to March 2009.

With warm wishes,

Deanne Adams
Vice President
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Secretary's Report

Since this is my first contribution to **The Thin Green Line**, I feel that a short introduction is in order...

I am a ranger in the state of Victoria, Australia. My career began in 1988 in the humble surrounds of a small state park nestled in the state capital's outer regions. Since then I have worked in some of Victoria's iconic national parks, including Wilson's Promontory at the southern most tip of the Australian mainland and the rugged and isolated Snowy River National Park. Currently, I am working under the watchful eye of Victoria's highest mountain in the northeastern section of the Alpine National Park.

I have been a member of my local ranger association since the start of my career. Membership has enabled me to meet with many of my colleagues and learn about aspects of rangership beyond my own duties. It has also opened my eyes to rangership around the world. Indeed, attending the IRF Third World Congress in South Africa in 2000 proved a life-changing experience, giving me the opportunity to make friends with rangers across the globe – many of whom I have been fortunate enough to visit in their 'natural habitats'.

In March 2003, the IRF Fourth World Congress came to me at Wilson's Promontory. Following my involvement in organizing this Congress, I felt I could contribute more to the IRF and became secretary in 2006.

One of the most exciting jobs of the IRF secretary is helping to maintain the links between the IRF and member associations and acting as the contact for prospective members. I am currently working with the rangers of Belize, who are looking at setting up an association and joining the IRF. I am also working with the Rangers Association of Nepal and the New Zealand Recreation Association, both of which would like to become members of the IRF. The strength of the IRF is in its numbers and it is encouraging that rangers from all parts of the world want to join us.

As IRF secretary, I also keep in touch with other members of the IRF executive, contributing to discussions on IRF policies and directions and writing-up meeting minutes. For example, I have recently been working with IRF vice president Deanne Adams on a two-year work plan for the IRF. Other secretarial duties include corresponding with members, organizing contributions to the IRF annual report, reviewing IRF documents, ensuring the growing membership list is up-to-date, and many other administrative tasks needed to keep such a large and diverse organization humming.

I feel very privileged to work for the IRF and look forward to meeting more of you during my tenure.

Elaine Thomas
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Africa Regional Representative Report

Training Agreement

The recent signing of the formal agreement between Game Rangers Association of Africa (GRAA) and the Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC) on April 27th took place as planned and reported in the previous edition of **The Thin Green Line**. The focus of this project is now on marketing the training courses, promoting good occupancy rates of the tented facility to generate revenue, upgrading the existing ablution facilities at the camp, arranging more off-site field ranger training throughout Africa wherever needed, and seeking funding for bursaries for the envisaged training both at the college and elsewhere.

The other areas of current primary focus for the GRAA remains the marketing of its' capacity to provide expert services in the field of protected area management effectiveness – primarily the promotion of the tool (known as PAMS) for achieving and maintaining effective management in protected areas. The PAMS is currently being implemented as a pilot project for the Invasive Species Program of the provincial conservation agency, Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife, in South Africa.

The development of proposed third party PAS (Protected Area Stewardship) certification of outsourced tourism and/or hunting agents against acceptable standards is also being promoted at appropriate opportunities, such as at the recent African Wildlife and Reserve Management Conference held at the Park Hyatt Hotel in Rosebank (Johannesburg) on June 21st and 22nd, where I presented a paper titled "Protected Area Stewardship: a Protected Area Management System and the role of certification". A similar paper titled "The potential role of certification in protected area management" will be presented at the South African Wildlife Management Association Conference to be held in the Ukhahlamba-Drakensberg World Heritage Site between September 18th and 21st. It will cost a fair amount of money to attend meetings in order to gain more necessary support and momentum and create the opportunities needed to make these ideas a reality until they can pay for themselves.

The GRAA also remains keen and able to assist conservation organizations with conducting objective management effectiveness evaluations of protected areas and in compiling integrated management plans for protected areas and is looking for opportunities in this regard.

World Ranger's Day

World Rangers' Day was celebrated by a gathering of some 70 friends and associates of the Game Rangers Association of Africa at Casterbridge Cinema in White River, South Africa, the evening of July 31st. The highlight of the evening was the showing of the movie *The Thin Green Line*. A total of R4200 was raised for use towards game rangers in Africa, especially those in under developed countries who have suffered in the line of duty. Apart from the money raised, the awareness raised on the demands and threats facing rangers throughout Africa and indeed the world, was well worth the effort. Another showing of *The Thin Green Line* was held at the Agulhas National Park in the Western Cape, South Africa. A further bit of money was raised and the public gained a better idea of what field rangers do and the difficulties and dangers they face on a daily basis.

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Australia/Oceania Regional Representative Report

Attending Thin Green Line Presentation

The premier of *The Thin Green Line* was an amazing and truly emotional night. To see so many people pack into the historic Astor Theatre in Melbourne Australia, for the premier of Australian ranger Sean Willmore's documentary was truly an experience impossible to describe. Sean's opening address to the audience was very touching and showed the dedication of a young man who has unselfishly made many sacrifices in order to present to the world an insight into the lives of rangers and their dedication to protecting the thin green line.

Rangers came from many states of Australia to support Sean in whatever way they could to make this special night a great success. A great introduction to the night was performed by a Scottish bagpipe player who played a number of Scottish tunes, including "Amazing Grace." Phil Wise, a ranger from Nhulunbuy in the Northern Territory, spoke briefly, then introduced two Aboriginal men who accompanied him from the Northern Territory – Witeyama Marika, who is chairman of the Dhimurru executive committee and Djawulu Mununggurr, who is a sea country ranger. Witeyama performed a traditional song from his area and accompanied his song with clap sticks, a musical instrument made from a very hard native timber of the area. I was privileged to be one of three Queenslander rangers chosen to attend on the night as a representative of the Queensland Rangers Association and also as the Australian/Oceania representative of the IRF. It was also great to catch up with rangers at the Melbourne premier who I last saw in Stirling at the IRF Congress.

A big congratulation goes to those who presented the documentary at many centers around Australia and at venues throughout the world. The fact that people gave their time to promoting this event ensures that the message presented to the public about the dedication of rangers in protecting the natural and cultural environment is seen and understood.

I believe that the nomination of July 31st as World Ranger Day is a great honor to rangers around the world and having the premier of *The Thin Green Line* happening on this same day went a long way to assist in the promotion of our special day. A big congratulation must go to Sean for the foresight and dedication in highlighting ranger issues and getting this information out to the greater public on our important day.

Australian Rangers Federation

Two option papers were released regarding the direction forward for the ARF. Comments have been requested to ensure that the new direction is agreed to by all the members. Unfortunately, no meeting has been convened to come up with an outcome, so the result is still very much undecided. Members seem to be very much involved in their own state-run organizations and are finding it difficult to commit to the ARF as well. This unfortunately is something that has to be addressed by the ARF executive and the longer it goes on the more difficult it could become to correct. I guess other ranger organisations around the world have had these issues along the way and it would be interesting to see how they have overcome them

Queensland Rangers Association

QRA held its annual conference at Paluma in Northern Queensland in April, with about 45 rangers attending from as far south as Brisbane and north to Cape York. The conference venue was an environmental education center set in the beautiful rainforest immediately adjacent to Paluma Range National Park. Highlights of the conference were a large trade display of equipment specific to fire use and suppression, a positive address to staff from the executive director of Queensland Parks and Wildlife, Brisbane, and a field trip to a neighboring property to inspect results from an intense conservation program aimed at reducing weed encroachment, including both native and exotic species, by ensuring that a regular use of fire is practiced using a mosaic burning strategy following rainfall of around 50mm.

Conclusion

I must apologize to all the other ranger organizations in Australia and Oceania for not contacting you for newsworthy items from your area for this publication, but other work issues have put pressure on me to commit my time elsewhere. If you have the time and the inclination, after reading this, to send something through to me for the next edition, I would be very appreciative. I am looking forward to your response

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North American Regional Representative Report

World Ranger Day was a big success in North America, with 18 public viewings of *The Thin Green Line* scheduled in the US and five in Canada. The showing in Los Angeles was sponsored by rangers from the national, state and local level and raised more than US \$1,000, including the proceeds from a raffle. Hosts of public showings documented at least 740 people who viewed the video on World Ranger Day and more than US \$1,700 was raised for the Dependents' Fund.

The director of the National Park Service, Mary Bomar, sent a memorandum to all employees urging them to join in recognizing World Ranger Day. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger of the state of California proclaimed July 31st as "California State Park Ranger Day." In the halls of the US Congress, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid spoke to "honor and thank rangers on this special day and every day for the invaluable service they provide to our parks."

Rangers from the Province of Alberta in Canada and from local and county parks in California have inquired about having their associations become affiliated with the IRF.

The annual Ranger Rendezvous gathering of the Association of National Park Rangers is scheduled for October 7-10, 2007 in Park City, Utah. Registration is available at www.anpr.org.

[Meg Weesner](#)
Association of National Park Rangers

NEWS FROM NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

England

English Ranger Association

A new ranger association has been formed in the United Kingdom. Entitled the English Ranger Association (ERA), we seek to represent English rangers, increase the profile of rangers working in England, and create new networking and support opportunities for rangers. We were officially formed on January 1st. We now have over 130 members and are increasing in number every week. We will be seeking membership of IRF at the earliest opportunity and would hope to take an active part in IRF activities.

More information about ERA can be found at www.englishranger.co.uk

Steve Peach

Secretary and Vice Chairman

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United States

Association of National Park Rangers

The first World Ranger Day (WRD) met with good success in the United States. At least 15 national park areas around the country joined with the Association of National Park Rangers, the IRF and others in hosting the special day. *The Thin Green Line* documentary was premiered, and various activities were organized by park staff.

WRD received high recognition as well from agency and political leaders. The director of the National Park Service, Mary Bomar, sent a message to all NPS employees in support of WRD. In her statement, she recognized "the anniversary of the founding of The International Ranger Federation" as World Ranger Day. She further stated that:

"Our rangers are the visible public face of park management. While their duties vary from country to country, agency to agency, and even park to park, rangers are the front-line presence who protects resources and visitors. . . I am pleased to join the International Ranger Federation, the Association of National Park Rangers, and our local, state, national and international park colleagues in honoring dedicated professional rangers wherever they serve. . . Please take time on July 31 to join in recognition of the fine work accomplished daily by the men and women who serve as park rangers around the globe."

The leader of the U.S. Senate, Senator Harry Reid of Nevada, also issued the following statement of support:

"In honor of World Ranger Day I want to thank all park rangers, especially those working in Nevada at the State Parks, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and Great Basin National Park. These hardworking men and woman have a tremendous responsibility as they care for all our parks. As rangers, their duties are endless. They are educators, conservationists, and protectors among other things. We should honor and thank rangers on this special day and every day for the invaluable service they provide to our parks."

The governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger, issued a proclamation declaring 31 July as California State Park Ranger Day, saying in part:

"I encourage all Californians to join me in paying tribute to the men and women who preserve our state's natural and cultural treasures. We owe them, as well as all other employees of the Department of Parks and Recreation, a debt of gratitude for their hard work and devotion to our state."

Parks hosting events also reported public support and enjoyment. Some examples:

"I just returned from a very successful screening of the Thin Green Line at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, in Ashland, Wisconsin. I introduced the film, with a brief personal story of how much I have been inspired by rangers I've met at the two IRF congresses I've attended, and what World Ranger Day is about. The remarkable thing is that when the film ended, no one moved. After a few minutes, people burst into applause. A few said they were inspired, and many thanked us for showing it. One said she had no idea what things were really like 'out there.'" – Bob Krumenaker, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

"With an outdoor screen, eighty people picnicked on the lawn and ate popcorn while viewing the screening under a starry Southern California evening. Uniformed rangers from the Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority, California State Parks, Glendale City Parks, and the National Park Service were in the audience. MRCA ranger Jewel Johnson coordinated the event which included a raffle to raise money for the IRF dependent's fund. A ranger hat cake baked by MRCA Supervisor Ranger Fernando Gomez and a display of world ranger uniforms topped off the evening. Over \$1000 was raised for the fund." – Jeff & Deb Ohlfs, Joshua Tree National Park

"At Rocky Mountain National Park, nearly seventy people attended the showing of the film "The Thin Green Line" in honor of World Ranger Day. The event was promoted on the front page of the local Estes Park newspaper, highlighting the International Ranger Federation. Over \$200 was collected that evening and many participants took 'Friends of the IRF' brochures with them to send contributions." – Kyle Patterson

"Glen Canyon's showing of the Thin Green Line, sponsored by the Glen Canyon Natural History Association, went very well. We had 48 people attend the screening, who all seemed to be pleased with the film. Most of our attendees were from the community of Page; only about 10 park employees attended. I thought more of our employees would attend, but I'm glad to see a good turnout from people not employed by the NPS too!" – Kevin Schneider, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

"At Saguaro, we hosted two presentations of the Thin Green Line yesterday. A total of 26 people attended. The Tucson area experienced a major monsoon storm yesterday, and I think that partially accounted for the light attendance. Still, those that attended very much enjoyed the program. Many wanted to know more about the IRF. Meg Weesner [IRF North American representative] introduced the film for both showings, and also answered questions afterwards. We handed out many of our "Friends of the IRF" brochures. We also collected about \$50 in donations for the IRF's dependents fund. Thanks for all your work in promoting the event!" – Bob Love, Saguaro National Park.

"We had 23 in attendance, which is apparently pretty good for our building. Associate Director Karen Taylor-Goodrich wasn't able to make it to introduce the film, but her Deputy, Cam Sholly was. I thought he gave a very good introduction. He spoke about his impressions about rangers overseas, and about rangers in the US. Then I said a few words and handed out the 'Friends of IRF' brochures. I mentioned that the movie lasted 80 minutes and if anyone needed to leave early to get back to work, that they should feel free to do so. I expected people to get up and leave, but everyone stayed until the end of the movie - so that was a good sign. All-in-All, a good success." – David Krewson, NPS Office of International Affairs, Washington.

"We had more than 100 visitors and off-duty staff join us for the showing of the TGL in the Lodgepole auditorium last night. The event was emceed by Russel J. Wilson, Deputy Superintendent, and attended by many members of the management team. Everybody who attended received written information about 'The Thin Green Line' project and the IRF. There were cheers for the Sequoia-Kings Canyon rangers featured, and tears for the sad moments. One frequently asked question was who is in the film who has since died? That disclaimer is at the beginning of the film, but no more mention is made. We thought that it would be good to show them and dedicate this film to them and all of the others who have died like them in the line of duty. Thanks again for making this happen." – Alexandra Picavet, Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks.

“At Golden Gate NRA, approximately 75 rangers from multiple state and federal agencies showed up for a day of seminars, panel discussions, etc. In addition, the park hosted international rangers Ronald Mora and Mauricio Aria Zumbado, from Costa Rica (Mauricio is the Central American representative for the IRF); Oswaldo Barassi, from Chile; Ana Carola Vaca, Bolivia; and Kristen Appel, Australia. (Kristin was the coordinator of the event, along with chief ranger Yvette Ruan). The evening included a meal and drinks, along with the TGL showing, which was very well received. August 1st was a public ‘ranger day’ along the San Francisco waterfront, with agencies bringing ranger “gear” for people to look at, recruiting efforts, and an IRF / ANPR table. The TGL film was screened for the public for 4 showings throughout the day, and the DVD was offered for sale by Green Planet Films . Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger also declared July 31 as ‘CA State Park Ranger Day.’” – Tony Sisto, San Francisco.

Taking advantage of World Ranger Day, and with the approval of IRF, ANPR sponsored the initial establishment of a Friends of IRF organization with the publication of a brochure inviting people to join. Membership fees will be collected in US dollars by ANPR for later forwarding to the IRF account. This initial beginning is for a North American Chapter. However, the brochure currently lists membership fees in multiple currencies. If initially successful, ranger organizations in other countries will therefore also be able to sponsor memberships in the future once implementing details are worked out with IRF. The goal is to have the ability for people to apply on-line at the IRF website, using PayPal or a similar system, which will avoid the difficulties of collecting different currencies. However, member organizations should continue to have a role in sponsoring Friends of IRF for their region, thereby providing support and recognition for both IRF and ranger organizations. If you would like a copy of the brochure (in English), let me know at tsisto47@aol.com. I can either mail you a copy, or e-mail a PDF file to you (1.2 mb in size).

Tony Sisto
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Scotland Scottish Countryside Ranger Association

As I write this, I am full of enthusiasm inspired by the first ever World Ranger Day and the showing of Sean Willmores fantastic documentary *The Thin Green Line*. Here in Scotland, we hosted two of the premiere showings, one at Glenmore Lodge in the Cairngorms National Park and the other at Hopetoun House, on the outskirts of Edinburgh. Both showings generated wonderful feedback as well as donations to the IRF Dependants Fund.

The main event at Hopetoun was attended by two Members of the Scottish Parliament as well as Lord Hopetoun, the owner of the venue and himself a ranger employer. In addition to the film, the Hopetoun Declaration was unveiled, a document of support for rangers in Scotland and throughout the world signed by most of our main political parties, apart from the Conservatives and the Scottish Nationalists. We are already planning events for next year.

Five Scottish rangers are booked to go to the IRF’s first European Seminar in Romania this September. Hopefully this will be the first of many such events.

The ranger review is still being discussed by Scottish Natural Heritage; this will lay down the framework for how that government agency funds rangers in the future. SCRA has a place at the discussion table and hopefully we can influence the outcome in the way we want.

SCRA’s first ever foundation ranger training course is set to run in October this year at the Kindrogan Centre in Perthshire. This will hopefully become the basis of a package of measures to provide training and support for Scottish rangers. In addition, we hope to provide more advanced training in the future as well as a system of continued professional development for Scotland’s rangers.

The course is based on the successful Losehill Hall model, with changes to suit Scottish needs. Thanks to SNH for their support in developing this course.

Tony Wilson
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NOTES FROM RANGERS

Message From Brazil

Marcelo Segalerba has sent along a report about what's going on in Brazil. It appears below in both English and Spanish (courtesy of past president Rick Smith):

Hello everyone! Here's some news:

1. The indigenous rangers of Waiana-Apalai, want to create an association of indigenous rangers. They have had their first meeting, where they signed a document creating the association. They are now waiting for it to be made legal.
2. The indigenous rangers of Suriname protect their lands, which are being recognized by the government after a long struggle. Their jurisdiction is also being recognized and they will have police powers inside their lands. They are establishing ranger stations, cleaning up their neighborhoods, teaching their people, and beginning to develop training programs for indigenous rangers.
3. Indigenous coordinators of protection activities are developing maps that show protection capabilities. I am helping with the technical part.
4. Next year, rangers from Australia and the indigenous rangers of Tumucumaque will have a joint training session.
5. In the month of August in Amapa, we will hold the second training course for state rangers and in October, the third course for indigenous rangers. As always, we will work in cooperation with local entities.
6. The ranger association of Amapa is very active. They meet in the headquarters of our NGO. They are going to organize the first meeting of state rangers of Amapa in September. They are also participating in national events related to protected areas and are considering organizing the first national meeting of Brazilian rangers in 2008.
7. Officials of the Public Ministry of Amapa, together with some parliamentarians, wish to encourage the recognition of the ranger profession at the state level.
8. People from the Cape Orange National Park want to develop a ranger training course for Oiapoque. This is planned for 2008 with some of the funds guaranteed.
9. The state park rangers from Amapa will participate in the second cross frontier meeting for the protection of natural area in the Tumucumaque Region. They also wish to participate in a training course with rangers in Argentina.
10. Indigenous park rangers are preparing themselves for the second mega patrol expedition in the indigenous lands of Tumucumaque in July.
11. Indigenous rangers of the Arapasso de Amazonas ethnic group are developing activities of control and vigilance in their lands, programs of environmental education and community training programs.
12. Montacas de Tumucumaque National Park have begun to contract the rangers who finished our course in June, 2006.
13. The indigenous rangers of Tumucumaque are getting ready to approve a code of ethics for indigenous park rangers during their next meeting. I assure you that the code is very creative and interesting.
14. Daniel Paz, the South American representative, has asked that the IRF take an active role in these initiatives. We are doing that.

Extras:

- Matagrosso state has recognized its park rangers in a state decree.
- The internet communications system among Brazilian rangers that was initiated in 2004 is up and running and very active.
- They are contracting 16 rangers for the protected areas of South Rio Grande.

Greetings from here.
Marcelo Segalerba

Hola gente! Voy con algunas noticias:

1. Guardaparques Indígenas Waiana-Apalai, quieren crear una asociación de GPS Indígenas con actuación directa en campo, ya desarrollaron su primera reunión, con la firma de un acta. Ahora quieren legalizarla.
2. Guardaparques Indígenas de Suriname, protegerán sus tierras, las que están siendo reconocidas por el gobierno, después de una larga lucha. Pero también serán reconocidas sus capacidades como Gp Indígenas y tendrán actuación como policías en sus tierras. Además, están haciendo puestos de vigilancia, limpiando de pilas las aldeas, sensibilizando las comunidades, y en vísperas de desarrollar algunos cursos de entrenamiento de Gp Indígena.
3. Coordinadores Indígenas de Vigilancia del Proyecto desarrollaron un Mapa de Capacidades, yo los ayudé con la parte técnica.
4. El próximo año sucederá el encuentro entre las delegaciones de Gp de Australia y los Gp Indígenas de Tumucumaque, en el marco de la cooperación.
5. En el mes de Agosto tendremos en Amapá el 2 do Curso de Guardaparques Estaduales y en el mes de octubre el 3er. de Guardaparques Indígenas. Como siempre con la cooperación y el trabajo conjunto de las entidades locales.
6. La Asociación de GP de Amapá esta funcionando, muy activa, se reúne en las instalaciones de ACT, y va a desarrollar el PRIMER Encuentro Estadual de GP de AMAPA, para el mes de Setiembre. Estará participando además en eventos nacionales de Áreas Protegidas. Y pretende desarrollar el 1er. Encuentro Nacional de Guardaparques Brasileños en el 2008.
7. Gente del Ministerio Público de Amapá., junto a parlamentarios quieren impulsar el reconocimiento de la figura del Guardaparque a nivel estadual.
8. Gente de IBAMA de Oiapoque (Parque Nacional Cabo Orange) quieren desarrollar un curso de Guardaparques para Oiapoque. Existe una previsión para el 2008, con algunos fondos garantidos.
9. Guardaparques Estaduales de Amapá, participaran del 2do Encuentro Transfronterizo de Protección de Áreas Naturales (Región Tumucumaque). Existe voluntad también de participar en el Curso de formación en Argentina.
10. Gps Indígenas se preparan para la Segunda mega-expedición de vigilancia por las tierras Indígenas de TUMUCUMAQUE en el mes de Julio.
11. Guardaparque Indígena etnia Arapasso de Amazonas, desarrolla actividades de control y vigilancia en sus tierras, sensibilización ambiental y organización de eventos de capacitación.
12. El Parque Nacional Montañas de Tumucumaque, se encuentra seleccionando y contratando Guardaparques egresados del 1er, Curso de GP que dimos con Juca en el 2006.
13. Los Gp Indígenas de Tumucumaque estan por aprobar en su próxima asamblea en campo, el Código de Ética del Gp Indígena de TUMUCUMAQUE. Les adelanto que esta muy creativo e interesante.
14. La IRF (Representación Sudamericana) a solicitud de Daniel Paz en el 2006, esta siendo representada en la región, colaborando activamente y direccionando todas estas iniciativas.

Extras:

- Matogrosso do Sul reconoció a los Guardaparques vía decreto estadual
- La red de Guardaparques Brasileños que comenzamos vía internet en el 2004 se encuentra viva y operante.
- Están contratando 16 Guardaparques para las AP de Rio Grande del Sur

Bien, todo hasta aquí,,saludos.

Marcelo Segalerba

Letter From The Solomon Islands

Jeanine D'Antonio, former Canadian representative to IRF, has taken a position in the Solomon Islands with her husband, Mike, and has sent in a report on life as a ranger on Tetepare Island in the South Pacific:

Most rangers that I know wear shoes when they patrol the backcountry or pick up a chainsaw to clear out some deadfall. Most rangers that I know use a myriad of compasses, maps and GPS units to navigate through unfamiliar territory. Most rangers that I know do up their shirts....

But not the rangers that we are working with these days. Their toes are splayed and grip the muddy trail, their shirt tails flap and they never become "temporarily disoriented." I follow slowly, picking my way through the quagmire, the treads of my boots gummed up like platform shoes with clay. These are the rangers of Tetepare Island and there's no one that I'd be happier to follow in the bush of the Solomon Islands.

My husband and I are funded by CUSO, a Canadian volunteer sending organization. Our family has taken up residence for the next two years on the largest uninhabited island in the South Pacific. Tetepare Island, at 120 square kilometers, is a pristine jungly place with aquamarine lagoons and fringing reefs, where populations of dugong, leatherback turtles and estuarine crocodiles reside. The only structures on the island, our leaf house, a field station and eco-lodge are located on the western tip in an abandoned coconut plantation. They are the only signs of human activity for the last 150 years.

No one is sure what happened 150 years ago to the villagers of Tetepare. Malevolent spirits are blamed for letting disease and headhunting devastate the local populous. A handful of survivors made it off the island and their genealogy has been traced back eight or nine generations. Under customary land tenure that follows matrilineal lines these descendants have come together to form the Tetepare Descendants' Association(TDA). With over 2,000 financial members, it is the largest land holding group in the Solomon Islands.

TDA is a community conservation group, working to protect the resources of Tetepare and their traditional way of life. TDA has already established a Marine Protected Area, permanently closed to harvest and is working towards legislation that would protect the entire island. Our jobs are to help TDA develop a system of resource management which combines the structure and experience of western style organizations that is adapted to the unique qualities of Solomon Island resources and culture. We are challenged and often frustrated by this task. But it only takes one trip into the bush with a local guide telling us the names of birds we can only hear and the many uses of plants we can't distinguish from one another for us to realize how worth it the frustration is. We have a lot to learn about how we look at the natural world and it would be hard to find a better set of teachers.

The Tetepare rangers are a hardy and dedicated lot. They have easily made the transition from logging and plantation work to conservation now that TDA has provided that opportunity. They happily work week long shifts that take them away from family and their coconut groves to protect the resources and way of life they love and hope for their children. They all come from traditional villages on the neighboring island of Rendova, where they survive by subsistence farming with only a hint of a cash economy starting. Though they have little formal education, they speak proudly and well about their jobs and conservation. They have risen to the tasks of mist netting and banding birds, catching and tagging sea turtles and becoming research assistants to visiting bat, butterfly and freshwater biologists.

Tetepare Island is used by descendants as the area's supermarket and hardware store. The marine resources are plentiful with fish and invertebrates for food and shells and lobster to sell. On land, hunting parties find wild pig and coconut crab. The forest has always provided building materials from canoe trees and house poles to leaves and vines for making and securing wall and roof panels. Harvesting is closely monitored and the number comparisons provide a compelling argument for the conservation of these resources. Public contact is a big job when you are related to almost everyone that you meet in the field.

Every month on the new moon, TDA rangers sample the islands' population of coconut crabs, the world's largest terrestrial invertebrate. This data is gathered in order to compare the population levels of this highly sought after food source inside and outside the Marine Protected Area. Then for four months, between November and February, they camp out on the island's black sand beaches to monitor and protect the yearly nesting of the endangered leatherback turtles.

Besides the obvious differences alluded to earlier, there are striking similarities between TDA and other ranger organizations in North America. The US Forest Service has a similar mandate of multiple use. Parks Canada has seasonal closures on marine and freshwater catches and allows subsistence hunting by native groups in some parks. Everywhere, research and monitoring programs are the standard to evaluate our management effectiveness and population changes over time. Amongst all our fellow rangers, wardens and managers there's a commitment to the land, water and its resources that is mirrored in the rangers of Tetepare Island. Just imagine what they could do if they only had the proper footwear.

If you would like to find out more about Tetepare Island and conservation in the Pacific, please check out their website at www.tetepare.org. Mike and Jeanine D'Antonio are currently serving two year contract as CUSO cooperants and have worked in protected areas throughout Canada, the US and Africa. They now make their home with their three year old son, Camas, on Tetepare Island in the South Pacific.

World Ranger Day In New Zealand

The following note comes from Rodney Chambers, a ranger in New Zealand, and concerns the World Ranger Day events held in Christchurch:

For the first time ever, park rangers all over the world joined together to celebrate their profession with a special day: World Ranger Day, 31 July.

The International Ranger Federation defines a ranger as "the person involved in the practical protection and preservation of all aspects of wild areas, historical and cultural sites. Rangers provide recreational opportunities and interpretation of sites while providing links between local communities, protected areas and area administration."

In Christchurch, 21 rangers from the Department of Conservation (3), Environment Canterbury (4), Christchurch City Council (10), Fish and Game (3) and Riccarton Bush (1) met together at Victoria Park on the Porthills to join in the international celebrations of the debut 2007 World Ranger Day.

These staff from the various organizations represented often work cooperatively on interagency projects such as rural fires, Canada goose control or endangered species programs, so the event was a great opportunity for the local ranger community to get together to find out a bit more about each others roles and organizations. However, to simply have time to socialize with others who share a passion for the environment was greatly appreciated. The highlight of the evening was the premier viewing of a documentary, *The Thin Green Line*, about the interesting, challenging and sometimes hazardous work lives of passionate park rangers from around the world.

Many thanks to all those who supported and promoted this event. The evening, which included the viewing of the video and light refreshments, was made possible by the generous support of the CCC City Environment Group and Fruited Supplies, PGG Wrightsons. The New Zealand Recreation Association www.nzrecreation.org.nz is seeking to be the international affiliate to the International Ranger Federation for all NZ rangers interested in a national organization.

Rodney Chambers
Coastal Parks Area Head Ranger
rodney.chambers@ccc.govt.nz

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

2007

- September 9 – September 12 Parks, Peace and Partnerships Conference, Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta, Canada. This special international conference has been convened to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Waterton/Glacier International Peace Park, the first in the world. Complete details on the conference can be found at: peaceparks2007.org
- September 17 – September 21 First European Rangers' Training Seminar, Retezat National Park, Hunedoara, Romania. The goals of the seminar are:
- To share experiences and to learn from each other
 - To inspire and gather motivation for the protection of nature
 - To offer the opportunity to experience the natural and cultural heritage of Romania.
- For more information, go to int-ranger.net/resources/erts.pdf
- September 30 – October 6 “Conservation, Integration and Livelihoods for Latin American People,” Second Latin American Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas, Bariloche, Argentina. The objective of the Congress is to assess, estimate and plan the contribution from protected areas in the region to biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, and the promotion of sustainable development, poverty alleviation strategies and regional integration of countries in Latin America. All details of the Congress, including the instructions for participation, can be found at congresolatinoparques2007.org, at sur.iucn.org or through the Congress program coordinator, Victor Hugo Inchausty congreso.parques@sur.iucn.org.
- October 6 – October 10 30th Anniversary Ranger Rendezvous, U.S. Association of National Park Rangers, Yarrow Resort and Conference Center, Park City, Utah, United States. For further information, go to anpr.org/anprrr.htm

2008

- July 31 World Ranger Day.

MEMBER DIRECTORY

The following is for quick reference only and does not include the names of individual ranger associations. Where more than one name is listed for a given nation, it is because there's more than one ranger association in that country. For a complete list, please contact Elaine Thomas, IRF secretary, at the address below. If you find any error, please contact Bill_Halainen@nps.gov.

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#	Fauna and Flora International	##	Int. Center for Protected Landscapes
+	Royal Society for the Preservation of Birds	++	Great Apes Survival Project (UNEP)