



THE THIN GREEN LINE NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION

August, 2002

Volume 10

Number 2

OFFICERS REPORTS

President's Report

Turner Foundation Grant

Officials from the Turner Foundation (Ted Turner is the founder of the CNN news network) have notified IRF that the board of directors of the foundation has approved our organization's request for a grant. The grant is for \$30,000 (US) for this calendar year, with an additional \$30,000 (US) for the following year providing we complete three requirements. These are to 1) achieve tax exempt status in the US, 2) incorporate under the laws of the US, and 3) prepare a three-year financial plan showing how we plan to move toward financial independence. Your executive committee (IEC) and your executive director, Gordon Miller, are at work on fulfilling these requirements. We are also preparing a plan for the utilization of the grant that we should be able to send you in the next several months. This is exciting news! The Turner Foundation has an active grants program regarding environmental issues and its approval of our request is an indication of our growing maturity as an organization. Congratulations to the IEC that worked hard on preparing the grant request.

Elections

Elsewhere in the Thin Green Line you will read an announcement regarding the upcoming elections. Please send your nominations for filling these slots as quickly as possible. Remember that an organization cannot survive without strong, effective leadership. We need to nominate people to the executive council who are passionate about the IRF, care about its goals and objectives, and will work hard to move the organization forward.

The 2006 Congress

As you will read below, the IEC has received two proposals for hosting the congress following the Australia meeting. One is from the Association of National Park Rangers in the US. Their proposal states that the Congress would be held in a site near a major US national park where there would be easy access for those arriving from international destinations. The other proposal comes from the International Ranger Federation Consultancy, Inc., our commercial section. The board of the IRFC proposes to host the congress at Loch Lomond, Scotland. Both these organizations have extensive experience in hosting and organizing conferences. You will be asked to vote as an affiliated member on which of these two proposals we should accept. Please be sure to vote so that your association's voice can be heard.

Ranger Training

IRF, through its members, is playing an increasingly active role in ranger training. IRF's continental representative from Central America, Ronald Mora, joined me in presenting the first-ever ranger training course in the history of the Dominican Republic. Eighteen rangers were selected to participate in the program, which included topics such as fire control, how to patrol, and the roles and responsibilities of a ranger. IRF also participated in the opening of the current course at Argentina's famous ranger training institute. IRF's continental representative for South America, Marcelo Ochoa, is on the staff of the institute. Participating in the current course is a ranger from Bolivia and one from Paraguay. Our continental representative from Africa, Arrie Schreiber, has participated in training programs in other African nations. You will read elsewhere in the Thin Green Line what the IRFC has been doing in ranger training.

These training courses represent one of the dreams of the founding members of IRF. They felt that the IRF could emphasize the necessity for effective ranger training and could participate in this training through the efforts of individuals connected with the IRF. It is becoming a reality now.

Organizational Effectiveness

The easiest, least expensive way to communicate within IRF is to use the internet and electronic mail. We are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain a current file of association web sites and email addresses. Please, please send to Gordon Miller and to the editor of our newsletter your current web site and email addresses. We continually receive message indicating that our messages cannot be delivered because of errors in the addresses or because the recipient is unknown. Our ability to communicate with our affiliated organizations is vital to keep you up-to-date on what your organization is doing. Please help us.

Closing Thoughts

The Turner Foundation grant will help IRF become a stronger, more effective organization. We cannot, however, operate in a vacuum. We need the active participation of all affiliated organizations and all their members to be truly effective. During the last six months, it has been difficult to get responses from our affiliated members about the activities that are underway in their associations. These updates are crucial for us so that other organizations can know what their colleagues are doing in other countries. We have said that we want the IRF to build a communications network so that rangers can know about the efforts of others who are involved in the same work so that they can profit from the experiences of others. This is impossible if we are not prepared to share with the other affiliated associations. In the eight months prior to our Fourth World Congress, let's make every attempt to support the IRF in its attempts to build this communications network. We will be, after all, helping ourselves.

During the Dominican Republic training course, each ranger was asked to stand and explain why he/she decided to become a ranger. I was impressed by their responses. In addition to the normal reasons, such as "I love nature" and "I always wanted to work outdoors", there were those who said things such as "I want to save something for my children" and "I want to save part of my country." These are rangers who don't receive very good salaries or much recognition from the government or from society for what they do. Yet, they accept working under difficult conditions because they want to save something for the future.

What a great attitude! These kinds of people, like all of you, are the real heroes of conservation. We often give credit to the administrators or the policy makers. It's all of you, however, who really deserve our thanks and our support. The IRF will continue to work to see that you receive it.

Rick Smith
President, IRF

Nota Del Presidente

Donación de la Fundación Turner

Oficiales de la Fundación Turner (Ted Turner es el fundador de la cadena de noticias, CNN) han notificado a la FIG que la mesa directiva de dicha fundación ha aprobado el pedido de nuestra organización para una donación. Es de \$30,000 (US) para este año y \$30,000 para el próximo si completamos 3 requisitos. Ellas son 1.) conseguir el estatus de una organización exonerada de impuestos en los EEUU, 2.) incorporarnos en los EEUU; y 3.) preparar un plan financiero por tres años mostrando como la FIG va a acercarse a independencia económica. El Consejo Ejecutivo y nuestro Director Ejecutivo, Gordon Miller, están trabajando para llenar estos requisitos. Estamos también preparando un plan para la utilización de la donación el cual debemos poder enviarles en los próximos meses. ¡Esta es una noticia muy excitante! La Fundación tiene un programa muy activo de donaciones para asuntos del medio ambiente y la aprobación de nuestro pedido es una indicación de nuestra creciente madurez como organización. Felicitaciones al Consejo Ejecutivo por el trabajo de preparar estas peticiones.

Elecciones

En algún lado de la Fina Línea Verde, van a encontrar un anuncio sobre las elecciones que se realizarán este año. Por favor, manden sus nominaciones para las posiciones disponibles tan pronto que les sea posible. Acuérdense que una organización no puede sobrevivir sin un fuerte y efectivo liderazgo. Necesitamos gente para el Consejo Ejecutivo, gente que sea apasionada por la FIG, que siga sus metas y objetivos, y que trabaje duro para llevar adelante la organización.

El Congreso en 2006

Como verán más adelante, el Consejo Ejecutivo ha recibido dos propuestas para hospedar el congreso después al de Australia. Una es de la Asociación de Guardaparques Nacionales de los EEUU. Su propuesta indica que el sitio estaría cercano a uno de los grandes parques nacionales en donde el acceso aéreo sería fácil para delegados llegando del exterior. La otra viene de nuestra propia International Ranger Federation Consultancy, nuestra sección comercial. La mesa directiva del IRFC propone que el próximo congreso se realice en Loch Lomond, Escocia. Ambas organizaciones tienen mucha experiencia en la organización y ejecución de conferencias internacionales. Como miembros afiliados, se les pedirá que elijan cual de las propuestas debemos aceptar. Por favor, asegúrense de votar. Así la voz de cada asociación es oída.

Entrenamiento de Guardaparques

La FIG, a través de sus miembros, está cada vez más jugando un rol importante en el entrenamiento de guardaparques. Ronald Mora, nuestro representante continental de América Central, se unió a mí para presentar el primer curso de entrenamiento de guardaparques hecho en la historia de la República Dominicana. 18 guardaparques fueron seleccionados para participar en el curso que incluyó temas como el control de incendios, como patrullar y los roles y responsabilidades de un guardaparque. La FIG también participó en la apertura del presente curso de formación de guardaparques en el famoso instituto de capacitación de Argentina. El representante continental de América del Sur, Marcelo Ochoa, forma parte del personal de dicho instituto. En el presente curso, están participando un guardaparque de Bolivia y un guardaparque de Paraguay. Nuestro representante en África, Arrie Schreiber, ha participado en programas de capacitación en varios países africanos. Van a leer en una parte de este boletín que está haciendo el IRFC respecto a entrenamiento de guardaparques.

Estos cursos representan uno de los sueños de los miembros fundadores de la FIG. Ellos sintieron que la FIG podría enfatizar la necesidad de entrenamiento efectivo de guardaparques y que podría participar en esos entrenamientos a través de los esfuerzos de individuos conectados a la FIG. Todo esto se está haciendo realidad ahora.

Efectividad Organizativa

La más fácil y menos cara forma de comunicarse es internet y el correo electrónico. Pese a ello estamos teniendo creciente dificultad en mantener una correcta lista de los sitios web y de las direcciones electrónicas de nuestras asociaciones miembros. Por favor, por favor, envíenle a Gordon Miller y al director de nuestro boletín, Bill Halainen, los datos actualizados. Continuamente recibimos mensajes de los servidores de internet comunicando que no han podido enviar nuestros mensajes o que el destinatario es desconocido. Nuestra habilidad en comunicarnos con nuestras asociaciones miembros es vital para mantenernos al día en lo que estamos haciendo. Por favor ayuden.

Pensamientos de Cierre

La Donación de la Fundación Turner va a ayudar a la FIG a ser más fuerte y a tener una organización más efectiva. No podemos, pese a ello, operar en vacío. Necesitamos de la activa participación de todas las asociaciones afiliadas y de todos sus miembros para ser realmente efectivos. En los últimos seis meses ha sido muy difícil recibir respuesta de nuestras asociaciones sobre que actividades vienen desarrollando. El saber en que andan es crucial para nosotros, así otras asociaciones pueden saber que está pasando en otros países. Hemos dicho que queremos que la FIG construya una red de comunicación. Así los guardaparques pueden saber que esfuerzos están haciendo otros que trabajan en lo mismo y sacar provecho de su experiencia. Esto es imposible si no estamos preparados para comunicarnos con las otras asociaciones afiliadas. En los ocho meses anteriores a nuestro Cuarto Congreso Mundial, hagamos cada intento posible para apoyar a la FIG en formar esa red de comunicación. Después de todo nos estaremos ayudando a nosotros mismos.

Durante el curso de entrenamiento en la República Dominicana, cada guardaparque fue invitado a pararse y expresar que lo había motivado a ser guardaparque. Quedé impresionado por sus respuestas. En adición a las respuestas normales como: "amo a la naturaleza" o "me gusta trabajar al aire libre", hubo quienes dijeron cosas como "quiero salvar algo para mis hijos" o "quiero salvar parte de mi país". Estos son guardaparques que no reciben salarios muy buenos, o mucho reconocimiento del gobierno, o de la sociedad por lo que hacen. Pero pese a ello aceptan trabajar bajo condiciones difíciles, porque quieren salvar algo para el futuro. ¡Que gran actitud!

Esta clase de gente, como todos ustedes, son los héroes reales de la conservación. A veces se le da el crédito a los administradores o a quienes planean las políticas. Son todos ustedes, sin embargo, quienes realmente merecen nuestro agradecimiento y apoyo. La FIG continuará trabajando para asegurar que lo reciban.

Rick Smith
Presidente, FIG

Reporte del Vicepresidente

Nuestro Hombre En Venezuela Fue Atacado

José Melchor, el guardaparque de Venezuela a quien muchos de ustedes conocieron en el Kruger fue atacado y seriamente herido. Al poco tiempo de nuestro Congreso Mundial perdimos contacto con José, pero hace unos días Rick Smith recibió un mensaje suyo . Decía que hubo un intento de asesinarlo , pero que ya se estaba recuperando bien . Esto es todo lo que sabemos sobre él. Estamos preocupados.

Uruguay

Le mandé una carta al Presidente Batlle. Uruguay está pasando por su peor crisis económica en los últimos cien años . Mucha gente está perdiendo su trabajo. Ud. podrá decir : ¡ que momento para aconsejar al Presidente la creación de nuevas áreas protegidas ¡ y quizás tenga razón, pero al proteger paisajes, ecosistemas y todas las formas de vida, las áreas protegidas también pueden generar un nuevo (y adecuado) desarrollo a su alrededor. Eso es lo que enfatiqué. Unos diez días después recibí una corta respuesta. Batlle le envió una copia de la carta al Ministro de vivienda y medioambiente .

La ONG Vida Silvestre está organizando el 3er. Congreso Nacional de Areas Protegidas a desarrollarse en Montevideo en el mes de noviembre.

Argentina

La Asociación de Guardaparques Argentinos ha lanzado un sitio web, este es www.guardaparquesargentinos.org Esta nueva iniciativa nos habla del enorme esfuerzo que están haciendo nuestros colegas argentinos para afrontar la crisis que afecta la región. Marcelo Ochoa, nuestro representante para América del Sur, con fecha 8 de julio nos comunicó el inicio de un nuevo curso de capacitación de guardaparques en el prestigioso Instituto Chlaes Olrog, situado en un Area Protegida de nuboselva en la Provincia de Tucumán. El curso tiene un año de duración y los estudiantes son capacitados en múltiples asignaturas. Tres de los estudiantes son indígenas, de dos grupos distintos interesados en la conservación. El Instituto otorgó dos becas para países vecinos (algo que ha venido haciendo desde hace años), en este caso los beneficiarios fueron un boliviano y un paraguayo. Estas becas no cubren todos los gastos este año (ver Bolivia).

Bolivia

Carola Vaca, Presidenta de nuestra asociación miembro en Bolivia, está buscando dos mil dólares para permitir completar la beca recibida por Lisandro Saucedo Mendía para estudiar en Argentina. El costo total del curso es cercano a los 12 mil dólares y para completar los 4 mil restantes , la comunidad de Lisandro , en el enorme Parque Nacional Noel Kempff Mercado (uno de los de mayor diversidad de Latinoamérica) ya juntó dos mil. Es de destacar el gran esfuerzo hecho por esta humilde comunidad para juntar dicha suma y apoyar a su guardaparque. Carola teme que si no se consiguen los restantes 2 mil dólares Lisandro tendrá que regresar a Bolivia .

¿Sabía usted que Bolivia es el país que tiene mas selva tropical por persona en el mundo?
El Parque Nacional Noel Kempff Mercado tiene aun zonas inexploradas.

Galapagos

Los guardaparques de las Islas Galápagos han estado muy ocupados. Como desde hace mucho tiempo se siguen dedicando al control de especies exóticas, pero da la impresión de que últimamente están atacando a las plantas exóticas con mayor énfasis. Hubo un derrame de petróleo que afortunadamente pudo ser detenido con prontitud y aparentemente sus efectos no tuvieron mucha importancia. Ha habido incidentes con barcos pesqueros. Las aguas que rodean estas islas son muy ricas y siempre hay quienes pretenden obtener capturas mayores a las permitidas. Un barco que había sido encontrado pescando ilegalmente y detenido, posteriormente huyo para Costa Rica, donde fue encontrado.

Violencia

Como verán en este número, estoy pidiendo datos sobre violencia perpetrada contra guardaparques. Ya he comenzado a recibir información muy valiosa , mi mayor agradecimiento para Jobogo Mirindi de la República Democrática del Congo, Bill Hallainen e Isidri Jiménez de las Isla Canarias.

Juan Carlos Gambarotta
Vicepresidente, FIG

Vice President's Report

Venezuelan Ranger Attacked

José Melchor , a ranger from Venezuela whom many of you met at Kruger, was attacked and seriously injured. Soon after our last World Congress we lost contact with him, but some days ago Rick Smith received a message from him. He said there was an attempt to kill him and that he was recovering well. This is all we know, because we have not received more messages afterwards. We are very concerned .

Uruguay

A month ago, I sent a letter to Batlle, the president of Uruguay. Our country is facing its worst economy in the last hundred years. Many people are losing their jobs, so you may say: what a time to advise the president to create more protected areas! Probably you would be right, but while protecting landscapes, ecosystems and all forms of life, protected areas can perform a different (more appropriate) form of development around them. This is what I emphasized. Some ten days later, I received a short answer. Batlle sent a copy of the letter to the Ministry of Environment and Housing .

The NGO Vida Silvestre is planning to hold its Third National Protected Areas Congress in Uruguay in Montevideo in November.

Argentina

The Association of Rangers of Argentina has launched its new web; the address is www.guardaparquesargentinos.org. Our colleagues in Argentina continue to work hard and fight the crisis there with success. Marcelo Ochoa, our South America representative, reports that a new training course for rangers has begun at the famous Instituto Chlaes Olrog. The institute is situated in a protected area of mountain cloud forest in the province of Tucuman, a very good area for this purpose. The course is one year long and students are trained in many subjects. Marcelo also said that three of the students are aboriginal from two different groups, and that two of the students are foreigners (one from Bolivia and the other from Paraguay) who received scholarships from the Institute.

Bolivia

Carola Vaca, the president of our member association in Bolivia, is seeking US \$2,000 to permit Lisandro Saucedo Mendía complete his studies at the course mentioned above in Argentina. Lisandro, a community man from the huge Noel Kempff Mercado National Park (one of the most diverse in Latin America), received a scholarship to study at the prestigious Instituto Chlaes Olrog, but it doesn't cover all the costs as food and housing. The total cost of the course is nearly \$12,000 (US). Lisandro needed to pay \$4,000 (US), but fortunately his community raised \$2,000 (US) - a very strong effort considering the economy of this people. Carola fears that Lisandro will have to go back to Bolivia, losing this opportunity, if the other \$2,000 is not found. [Did you know that Bolivia is the country that has more tropical forest per person than any other nation in the world? Noel Kempff Mercado National Park is still largely unexplored.]

Galapagos Islands

Rangers in the Galapagos Islands have been very busy. They have been fighting successfully some pest plants, something that they have been doing since a long time ago, but efforts have increased. They suffered an oil spill very recently, but the report said it was small and could be well managed. The surrounding waters of the islands are very rich in fisheries and patrols very often find people who want to take more than is allowed. There was an incident in which a fishing ship escaped and went to a port in Costa Rica.

Violence Against Rangers

As you will see elsewhere in this issue, I am asking for data about violence committed against rangers around the world. Some information has already arrived. My special thanks to Jobogo Mirindy from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bill Halainen from the U.S., and Isidro Brito from the Canary Islands.

Juan Carlos Gambarotta
Vice President, IRF

Executive Director's Report

Since the last edition of The Thin Green Line, I have continued to spend a great deal of my time on the growth of membership together with the pursuit of funding for the forthcoming Congress in Australia. A new leaflet about the IRF is in preparation and improvements have been made to the membership packet that is circulated to prospective members. Following the president's successful bid for funding from the Turner Foundation and the need to formalize our status for tax purposes in the US and UK, I have begun discussions with the UK Charities Commission to obtain the necessary status.

Membership

Here's a quick roundup of membership issues:

- Kenya - After 10 years of effort and following a meeting I had with the Director of the Kenya Wildlife Service at the Kruger Congress, we are close to seeing the formation of a Kenya Ranger Association. Arrie Shreiber (GRAA) met recently with Director Joe Kioko and the hope is that the association will be established by the end of this year.
- Italy - We welcomed the Italian Rangers Association to the Federation recently and I will be following this up by attending the association ranger festival in Rome in October.
- Finland - During a visit to Finland in May, I met with Trygve Lofroth of the Finnish Rangers Association and discussed progress in their association and the possibility of a joint meeting of the existing associations surrounding the Baltic Sea (Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland) with the purpose of expertise exchange and to encourage the growth of ranger associations in the Baltic States of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.
- Norway - I have been invited by the Norwegian Nature Agency to address a meeting of rangers from throughout Norway in Trondheim in October. This will give me the opportunity of reviewing progress in the Norwegian Rangers Association and to discuss the Baltic initiative.
- France - I met with rangers from French national parks recently to try and initiate the development of a French rangers (garde moniteur) association. I will report any progress.
- Netherlands - Some developments have taken place but progress is slow - patience is a great virtue in the development of associations, as Kenya illustrates!
- Nepal - Repeated attempts to resume contact with the Nepalese Rangers Association are proving difficult but I am persisting. Nepal shows the need for member associations to keep me informed of any changes in the name and contact details (including email changes) of the main IRF contact in the country.

Congress 2003

I have been negotiating with UNESCO World Heritage Centre for funds to assist rangers from World Heritage sites to attend in Australia, and there is a possibility of funding to tie in with the World Parks Congress in 2003 in Durban. I have also submitted requests for assistance to IFAW and other potential funders.

Congress 2006

The President has invited applications to host the 2006 World Congress and bids have been received from ANPR (Association of National Park Rangers) to hold the event in the U.S. and the IRF Consultancy and SCRA (Scottish Countryside Rangers Association) to hold it in Scotland. Details are included in this edition of The Thin Green Line. Member associations should vote for one of these options no later than Friday 11th October 2002. Votes should be sent to Secretary Sue Clark clarks@waitrose.com or fax 00 44 1920 823007. Please also see a separate note from Sue requesting nominations for continental representatives on the International Executive Council and for officers by the same date

Other Congresses

Sadly, the Congress on Interpretation planned for September 2002 in Denmark was cancelled by the Danish Nature Agency due to the lack of applications from practitioners from outside Europe. However, the considerable work that went into this Congress will not be wasted as we plan to include a workshop at the 2003 Congress in Victoria that will bring some of these ideas forward. I would advise anyone who had planned to go to Denmark and now plans to go to Australia to express your interest in the workshop.

IRF Consultancy

I have attended two meetings of the consultancy since the spring.

IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas

In June, I attended a meeting of the European members of the WCPA in Austria and was able to highlight the role of IRF in protected areas and to improve our networking possibilities. I also had a meeting with the head of the protected area program at IUCN, David Sheppard, regarding the role of IRF at the IUCN World Parks Congress in Durban in autumn of 2003, where we will be organizing a workshop under capacity building and will also be highlighting the need to 'protect the protectors'.

Website (www.int-ranger.net)

The website has been up and running for some months now and has been receiving a high number of visits. I am able to update details on a fairly regular basis and would plead with member associations to let me know about any changes to personnel or contact details as soon as possible - we depend almost exclusively on our current database to ensure effective networking and out of date information can mean that an association is missed out from the information loop. The forum on the website is getting limited use and I would encourage member associations to inform their members of this facility. Our website sponsors are offering a 10% discount for sales to our members using the website link. The 'What's New' section carries up date information on current issues and I would recommend regular checks by member associations.

Support for and from Member Associations

One of the benefits that can accrue from the Turner Foundation grant is more support and advice for member associations, particularly in developing countries. Meanwhile please feel to use my services as the development and improvement of our member associations ultimately leads to a stronger Federation. We are in the process of elections to the International Executive Council and officer posts and will be looking at how we can involve more activists in the future so if you have a skill that you can bring to the Federation then let us know.

Conclusion

There are many reasons for pessimism concerning the plight of the world's natural heritage and those who protect it, so it was pleasing recently to hear that the two events in Africa and South America. Those who attended the Third World Ranger Congress in Kruger will recall Minister Valli Moosa talk of the plans to integrate Kruger and parks in Mozambique into a protected area of 38,000 square miles (larger than Scotland). In March, Nelson Mandela opened a symbolic gate as the first step. Now animals are being translocated. It may be 20 years before the project is completed but a start has been made. In Brazil a recent announcement heralded the creation of the world's largest tropical national park, 3.8 million hectares (9.6 million acres) in the Tumucumaque Mountains with plans to announce a total of 200,000 square miles to be protected. These announcements are great news but as we all know they will be meaningless if enough rangers and other field staff are not employed to ensure their future integrity. As the Federation's membership and influence grows it will be essential for us to make our voice heard at the highest levels.

Gordon Miller
Executive Director, IRF

IRF Consultancy (IRFC) Report

IRFC Ltd. is now well into its second year of operation and has become an established 'player' on the international consultancy scene, with many contacts and some contracts.

The most recent of these contracts is to fulfil a survey/research program to produce a 'Concordat for Countryside Management Services in Wales', which will require an intensive study of ranger services throughout Wales including national parks, local authorities, NGO's and private businesses. The directors of IRFC will be working with six associates from our database to fulfil this contract by the end of 2002.

The contracts for ranger training in Albania, for Russian national park staff training in the United Kingdom, and for a membership recruitment drive for England's Countryside Management Association have all been completed. Success in these projects enabled IRFC to contribute to the costs of employment of Gordon Miller as executive director of IRF for six months and also established IRFC as a provider of quality results.

Future contracts are possible in several countries. Details will be reported as these are obtained. Considerable work goes into researching and developing contracts. To this end, the directors of IRFC work unpaid and claim expenses only when contracts are successfully obtained.

To assist in getting information about potential contracts, IRFC has appointed non-executive directors in some areas [John Forrest in Africa, Chris Arthur in Australasia and Thomas Hansson in Europe], but others are still needed. These are entirely voluntary posts at the present time. Other non-executive directors are still needed - see our web site at www.ranger-irfc.com for information. Any information, contacts or connections that IRF member associations or individuals can give will greatly assist IRFC in its future development and profitability [all surpluses are given to IRF to support its work for the benefit of rangers everywhere].

As of September 1, we will have a paid part-time clerical/administrative person working to assist us with the growing administrative requirements of the company.

IRFC Ltd. has put forward a bid to organize the Fifth World Congress in 2006. The venue would be either Loch Lomond, or Loch Lomond and the Cairngorms in Scotland in September 2006, where the recently designated national parks would enable us to consider designation, land reform, access and 'right to roam' legislation as well as countryside on the urban/city fringe. The proposal is supported by both England's Countryside Management Association and the Scottish Countryside Rangers Association. The organizers would be the directors of IRFC with support from the two associations, using our experience of organizing previous IRF World Congresses and other international meetings. Loch Lomond was the location of the international ranger meeting held in 1991 that laid the foundation for the creation of IRF in 1992. International access from anywhere in the world is easy and convenient via Glasgow and appropriate accommodations are available in both locations. We believe that IRF would receive a considerable return in quality of content, organizational excellence and finance by keeping the organization within its own resources.

Our work with the European TOPAS [Training of Protected Area Staff] project continues (see www.topas.mtnforum.org for detailed information), with a bid for a second phase of funding now being prepared by our lead partner in Germany.

Europarc Federation has been working with young people in Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Poland this summer to establish 'Junior Rangers 2002', funded by the Bavarian State Ministry for Regional Development and Environmental Affairs. This is a program to involve young people in environmental projects with rangers and could become a feature of ranger programs elsewhere in Europe in future years. IRFC has been involved in an advisory capacity. 'Junior Rangers 2002' is complementary to the work of IRFC through the Jacobs model of youth/ranger mentoring established following the European Ranger Project of 1999/2000.

Further information about IRFC Ltd is on our web site (www.ranger-irfc.com) or can be obtained from Mike Marshall, who can be reached at marshall.i.r.f@btinternet.com

Mike Marshall
IRFC Ltd.

IRF NEWS AND ACTIONS

New Member Association

IRF has a new member in Italy, the Associazione Italiana Guardie dei Parchi e delle Aree Protette. The president of the association is Guido Baldi, who can be reached at guidobaldi@iol.it. Their association has 500 members.

Gordon Miller
IRF Executive Director

IRF Elections

Many of the current officers of the Federation have served for many years. They are not presenting themselves for re-election. It is very important, therefore, that we receive high quality nominations for all our offices. Nominations are required for positions on the International Executive Committee and for Continental Representatives. These positions are :

Executive

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

Continental Representatives

- North America
- South America
- Central America
- Europe
- Africa
- Australasia

All nominations need to be proposed and seconded by member associations. Please send all nominations, together with details of the proposer and seconder, by October 11, 2002 to Susan Clark, IRF Secretary, 6 Pelham Road, Braughing, Ware, Herts. SG11 2QU, UK. Telephone: +44 [0] 1920 822600; telefax: +44 [0] 1920 822735; email: clarks@waitrose.com.

Elecciones de la Federación

Muchos de los oficiales actuales de la Federación han servido por muchos años. No se están presentando de nuevo como candidatos. Es importante, entonces, que recibamos nominaciones de alta calidad. Las normas de la Federación requieren que sean nominados candidatos para las siguientes posiciones:

Ejecutivas

- Presidente
- Vicepresidente
- Tesorero
- Secretaría

Representantes Continentales

- América del Norte
- América Central
- América del Sur
- Europa
- Africa
- Australasia

Las asociaciones afiliadas necesitan hacer las nominaciones y secundarlas. Por favor, sometan las nominaciones a la Secretaría, con la información sobre la asociación haciendo la nominación y ella que la segunda, no más tarde que el 11 de octubre a Susan Clark, IRF Secretary, 6 Pelham Road, Braughing, Ware, Herts. SG11 2QU, UK. Telephone: +44 [0] 1920 822600; telefax: +44 [0] 1920 822735; email: clarks@waitrose.com.

Sue Clark
Secretary, IRF

Study on Violence Against Rangers

The International Ranger Federation is very concerned about violence against rangers, which sometimes ends in injuries or death. As noted above, we have heard of a serious attack against Venezuelan ranger José Melchor. We've also heard of the killing of a ranger in Brazil (the head of Serra dos Reis State Park), and a ranger from the U.S. National Park Service was shot and killed by a smuggler on the border with Mexico in August (the third U.S. NPS ranger shot and killed in four years).

While we know about these and other scattered cases, there may be more occurring around the world. We certainly do not have an idea about the size of this problem.

Vice President Juan Carlos Gambarotta is collecting data on violence against rangers. He is interested only in the following forms:

- Physical violence
- Vandalism to a rangers' home
- Vandalism to equipment used by rangers in performance of their duties

Please send detailed information on all such cases that have happened in the past five years. The data will be presented at the IRF World Congress in Australia next year. All the people who have sent in data will be credited unless they want to remain anonymous. Your cooperation will help us show the world the existence of this problem and help stop it.

Send reports to: Juan Carlos Gambarotta, Castillos, 27.200, Uruguay, or email him at jgambaro@adinet.com.uy.

Juan Carlos Gambarotta
Vice President, IRF

La Federacion Internacional de Guardaparques esta preocupada por los actos de violencia que con frecuencia deben afrontar los guardaparques y que suele terminar con sus vidas. Si bien creemos que esto sucede en muchas partes, necesitamos contar con datos precisos, pues ello ayudara a denunciar el problema ante el mundo.

Es por ello que les pido que me envíen todos los datos, lo mas detallados posible, de que tengan conocimiento sucedidos en los ultimos cinco anos.

Para evitar confusiones solamente se tomara en cuenta los casos de

- violencia fisica contra el guardaparque
- atentado contra su vivienda y
- vandalismo contra los elementos que usa para desarrollar su trabajo.

Debe considerarse que a veces la violencia podra haber sido hecha durante las horas de descanso del guardaparque. Los datos seran utilizados durante nuestro proximo Congreso Mundial en Australia y serviran para enviarlos al proximo Congreso Mundial de Parques Nacionales. El nombre de los colaboradores aparecera en los resultados, a menos que no fuera deseado. Muchas gracias.

Su aporte podra servir para ayudar a paliar este grave problema.

Juan Carlos Gambarotta
Vicepresidente, FIG
jgambaro@adinet.com.uy

Fourth World Congress Update

Plans continue to move forward in the organization of our next World Congress in Victoria, Australia. You should all be receiving the information you require or know where to find the information. The web site address is www.irf4thcongress.conf.au. Registration papers and brochures have been distributed widely, and your association or agency should have received this notification. More than 220 people showed interest in attending through initial registration of interest. Full registrations are trickling in. It will help us immensely if you can get your registration to us early, as this helps in planning.

A key objective of each of the Congress's has been reaching out to areas of the globe where IRF needs to develop better contacts. This time it is the Asia/Pacific area. For rangers from many nations, this will mean excitement and interest but a difficulty in meeting the financial commitment.

Sponsorship is a key to assisting these folk to get to Australia, and we are seeking as much support as possible. If you can contribute in any way, that would be great! Get in touch with Elaine Thomas (ethomas@parks.vic.gov.au) or your Congress contact and let them know of your willingness to help out.

Elaine, as president of the Victorian Rangers Association, recently attended an environmental forum in the Cook Islands and was able to spread the news amongst the South Pacific nation delegates. These are small countries, but they have some big protected area challenges.

The congress program is being fine-tuned, with some interesting sessions providing great insight into what rangers are doing around the globe. Several marine parks are just coming on line along the Victorian coast and there will be some good sessions on these. You too can participate. Organizers are thinking of having presentations from each nation attending the Congress.

Congress organizers have been able to keep the cost of attending low, approximately \$700 (US). So get your registrations in!

We are looking forward to having a rematch of the soccer game held in South Africa, this time down on the beach - no marauding rhinos to worry about. We may even teach you how to play Aussie rules football!

Andrew Nixon
Fourth World Congress Organizer

Fifth World Congress Proposals

As noted in President Smith's report, IRF has received proposals from the U.S. Association of National Park Rangers and from the IRF Consultancy for possible sites for the Fifth World Congress in 2006. Those proposals, as submitted, follow:

Association of National Park Rangers

Executive Committee
International Ranger Federation
C/O Rick Smith, President
2 Roadrunner Trail
Placitas, New Mexico 87043

Dear Executive Committee:

Please accept this proposal to host the 5th World Congress of the International Ranger Federation on behalf of the U.S. Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR). We feel we are particularly well suited to host the Congress for the following reasons.

- As a charter member, ANPR has a long history of support for the IRF.
- Having the 5th World Congress in the United States is consistent with IRF intent to move the Congress from continent to continent in hopes of giving as many rangers as possible the opportunity to participate.
- ANPR has extensive experience planning conferences, having recently concluded the 25th annual Ranger Rendezvous. In addition, ANPR members played a significant role in launching the Zakopane Congress and served as the planning committee for the Congress in Costa Rica with the assistance of the Costa Rican Ranger Association. The California State Park Ranger Association (CSPRA) has expressed interest in working with ANPR on the organization of the Congress.

- ANPR will ensure that the site selected for the Congress will be near a National Park so that park field trips can be included in the program and participants will have an opportunity to experience our national parks. We will also select a site that is in reasonable distance from an airport and reasonably priced.
- ANPR will be available at the Australian Congress to make a presentation to all attendees if selected as the site of the fifth congress in 2006.

We look forward to the opportunity to host a conference here in the United States. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ken Mabery
President
Association of National Park Rangers
United States of America

IRF Consultancy

To: Rick Smith
From: Mike Marshall

The Board Meeting of International Ranger Federation Consultancy Ltd on 30th April agreed to put forward the following proposal in respect of the IRF World Congress in 2006. Initial discussions with SCRA and CMA have indicated support for the proposal.

5TH WORLD CONGRESS 2006 - A PROPOSAL to the Executive Council of IRF

PROPOSAL	International Ranger Federation Consultancy Ltd should organise the 5th IRF World Congress in 2006.
VENUE	Loch Lomond, Scotland, or Loch Lomond and the Cairngorms, Scotland.
WHEN	September 2006 [although May / June 2006] could also be considered.
TOPICS	New national parks, land reform, access and 'right to roam', urban/city fringe countryside.
ORGANISERS	IRFC Ltd with support from SCRA and CMA Declan Keiley and Mike Marshall for IRFC Ltd with support from Sue Clark, Colin Dilcock, Gordon Miller, Dave Perkins, Bob Reid, Tony Wilson and the IRFC expertise database.
EXPERIENCE	Two World Congresses, many national and international conferences/training courses/events over past 30 years.
FINANCE	IRFC will put an outline financial proposal to IRF IEC, but the key point is that using IRFC keeps all 'profits' within IRF.

Notes

- Loch Lomond was the venue in 1991 for the international meeting from which IRF was developed - 2006 is 15 years on from that event.
- Loch Lomond is internationally famous and is about to be designated Scotland's first National Park.
- The Cairngorms are possibly the last true mountain wilderness in UK and will also be designated as National Park.
- International access from anywhere in the world is easy and convenient via Glasgow.
- Appropriate accommodation is available in both possible venues.

Proceedings from Third World Congress

The Proceedings of the International Ranger Federation's Third World Congress, held in Kruger National Park, South Africa in September 2000, are now available as a pdf file on the IRF web site at www.int-ranger.org and at www.int-ranger.net.

Mike Marshall
IRFC, Ltd.

NEWS ABOUT IRF ASSOCIATIONS

Bundesverband Naturwacht e. V. (Germany)

IRF is ten years old this summer. That is great!

Thinking back to ten years ago in Germany: Only a very few people were working as rangers, for instance in the Nationalpark Bayerischer Wald, which is the oldest park in Germany.

At that time, political change in Germany brought a lot of new things. In Brandenburg, where I live, we got some protected areas, and some people said: We have to form a group of people to take care of these areas. I found a job in this new-born profession as a ranger. Of course, we did not call ourselves rangers then - we used the German word "naturwacht."

We learned a lot. People laughed at us when we worked on bikes. Our weapons was the word, and we developed and learned. Then we had a great experience - we got to know the world ranger family through IRF.

In 1995, at our first national ranger conference, we heard about the International Ranger Federation, and learned that we had to form a national association in order to become a member. So we did. Now we have 550 rangers working in protected areas in Germany. Of these, 133 are members of our association.

When talking about ranger training, vocational training possibilities, money and other problems and professional issues, we found ourselves always talking about the image of our profession. So we did two things: We put the words "German Ranger Association" on our letter head to demonstrate our connection to the world's ranger family, and we began using the word "ranger" officially for our profession.

In the name of our members, our rangers in Germany, a thank you to all those who got IRF started and to all those active members working to joint interest, give each other support and share experiences.

I hope we meet in Australia!

Heike Flemming, Secretary, German Ranger Association

Romanian Ranger Association (Romania)

The Romanian Ranger Association (RRA) has been involved in a number of activities.

We have participated in the development of the Law of Protected Areas of Romania, which includes the duties of rangers, and have militated for the recognition of the ranger profession and its inclusion in an official catalog of jobs in Romania.

This year, RRA will be building on these successes and the new opportunities presented by a project concerning the management of the three main Romanian national parks (Retzat NP, Piatra Craiului NP and Vanatori Neamt NP) by undertaking the following actions:

- Reorganize to become more efficient and active as an organization (there will be an RRA general assembly in Miercurea Ciuc this September).
- Develop courses for rangers, beginning in the three main parks noted above, where foresters and performing ranger duties and lack real ranger skills training.
- Work on projects that will extend effective management to other national and natural parks in Romania.

George Romanca, RRA Project Coordinator

Scottish Countryside Ranger Association (Scotland)

At our last annual general meeting (AGM), Bob Reid, our long-standing chairperson, reached the end of his term of office. Although still a council member, Bob is now focussing his efforts on our training program. Many of you know Bob from his work for the IRF, particularly in the early days when he was IRF secretary. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of our association to thank Bob for all his hard work on our behalf, and hope he now has some time to get on with his own life.

Scotland now has its first national park. As of the July 26th, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park is officially open. It covers 600 square miles of countryside North of Glasgow. The Cairngorms, which includes some of Scotland's most spectacular mountain scenery and extensive skiing areas, is next in line for designation. We have many members in both of these areas and are working to ensure they have a say in how the parks are set up and run. The latest proposals for the boundary of the Cairngorms National Park has recently been published; we are in the process of commenting on them.

The latest stage of the Land Reform and Access to the Countryside Bill saw SCRA proposing amendments to the text to take into account the diversity of work that rangers carry out in this country. As it was worded, the bill could have led to a redeployment of ranger staff, with access work as our main aim. We hope to make sure that the bill does not adversely affect our other work in conservation and education. We still have serious concerns about this legislation, not least the proposal to change how we are funded.

Tony Wilson, Chairperson, SCRA

Countryside Management Association (England)

After talking to many of our colleagues at the Third IRF Congress at Kruger National Park, South Africa, it became very clear that many of them are in dire need of some additional basic equipment to assist them in their work.

While many ranger services around the world receive valuable grant aid from national and international bodies both for research, mainstream and project work, this aid understandably falls short of providing funds for everything they require.

The conditions of work and/or the daily situations faced by many of our ranger friends abroad has led some of us to decide that we will try and help, even if it appears a small contribution towards their overall needs. Our aim is simple - to direct basic equipment to the point where it is required most.

After only initial promotion of the project, there have already been donations of second hand uniforms from five ranger services; there have also been offers of some new uniform, binoculars and a complete radio system. As time progresses, we will build on this encouraging response, hopefully spurred on by the first successful delivery of equipment later this year to Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

A memorable 'gentleman's handshake' at Kruger National Park, signaled the start of this project. One of the rangers who had been working for many years to protect mountain gorillas listed the items that would enable him and his patrol team to achieve more and to increase their safety in the field. Additional sets of uniform would help them continue to be recognized in the field, where so many have lost their lives since 1995; more computers would enable monitoring work to be recorded efficiently; a radio system would greatly improve their safety.

The agreement is to raise the funds to buy or request donations for the following:

- 50 complete new uniforms
- at least three computers, plus printers and related gear
- cameras
- camcorders
- radios

Contact has been made with the coordination unit for UNESCO/UNF Programme for World Heritage Sites in DRC to ensure that issues such as uniform badges and availability of equipment spares are sorted out in advance.

The intention is to fly this equipment out to the Congo towards the end of November, although funds are still being raised and equipment sought. Hopefully, this will be the first of many successful projects of 'Rangers in Need' and we can report back in the next IRF Newsletter! If you feel you could help in any way at all in this first venture, we would be very pleased to hear from you. You can contact me at mc1@rowans74.freemove.co.uk.

Linda Nunn, CMA, England

Game Rangers Association of Africa (South Africa)

Due to recent restructuring processes in South Africa, the GRAA is going through a difficult period in its history. Many of the central committee members have been either retrenched or redeployed from their previous organizations, thus making it difficult to spend time on GRAA matters as all available time is spent on own survival.

However, not all is doom and gloom, as most of these people are still in the conservation field. Their expertise is now available to the whole of Africa and not limited to South Africa anymore. Some of these people are already making their mark in countries such as Angola, Mozambique, CAR, DRY, etc.

Arrie Schreiber visited Kenya in invitation by IUCN to attend the African Protected Areas Initiative - APAI Stakeholder Planning Workshop. This workshop was the first major Pan-African forum to bring together some protected area and other conservation experts from around Africa with their international partners to develop a concrete program for supporting the management of Africa's biodiversity.

All the set objectives of the workshop were met namely:

1. Bring together and facilitate dialogue among key individuals from different countries and institutions in Africa to exchange views and learn about programs, challenges, and constraints faced by protected areas throughout Africa, different approaches, and practices in protected areas management, and allow comparison of experiences and results;
2. Identify strategies and priority actions to meet long-term conservation and management needs for Africa's biodiversity and develop a plan of action;
3. Explore how best to strengthen the existing network of protected areas and enhance their contribution to biodiversity conservation and human needs;
4. Develop consensus on a common vision for protected areas in Africa and mobilize international and regional support for APA through a clear fundraising and sustainable funding strategy;
5. Strengthen the process of regional cooperation as a vital tool for sharing experience and lessons and in developing processes for collaboration in conservation and management of protected areas;
6. Develop mechanisms and institutional arrangements for the coordination and implementation of APAI, which would facilitate regular exchanges and lead to a more unified and integrated approach to the management of APAI.

The APAI will resort under the African Union and the NEPAD initiative. We hope to still hear a lot about this in future.

At the same time (hosted by Daniel Onsembe), the director for Kenya Wildlife Services was visited and several wardens attended two information sessions regarding the formation of their own association. Much interest was shown, but it will be a slow process due to the current political processes taking place in the country. The director indicated, however, that the formation of the Kenya Wardens Association might be a reality before the end of this year.

Arrie Schreiber, GRAA

P.S.: GRAA has a new web page: www.gameranger.org.

Czech Ranger Association (Czech Republic)

The annual general assembly of CRA was held in National Park Ceske Svycarsko, Northern Bohemia, on April 25th and 26th. This meeting was very important due to regular election of board. Twenty participants voted seven members to the CRA board. The results of this election do not change the present board much – chairman, Petr Grendziok (Beskydy PLA); vice-chairman, Ing. Karel Kovarik (Sumava NP); fundraising guarantee, Ing. Jaromir Gebas (Krkonoše NP); international contact guarantee and treasurer, Ing. Michal Skalka (Krkonoše NP); press contact person, Michal Ulrych (Jeseniky PLA); Oldrich Pazout and Jaromir Forst without appointments.

The financial report for 2001 year was agreed upon, along with an action plan for this year:

- CRA board will prepare language courses for their members in autumn 2002 and will partly sponsor them.
- CRA board will ask the Czech Environment Ministry for a financial contribution for activities. This help was promised by a high officer of this ministry.
- CRA board will publish a leaflet about the nature guard, which is already prepared now. Cost will be paid by the Czech Environment Ministry.
- CRA board will try to gain money for participation of one to two delegates to the Australian IRF congress. Michal Ulrych and Petr Grenziok were suggested as delegates for it.
- CRA board will comment on the ministry document "The Instruction for Guard and Information Service".
- CRA board will comment on the new law about nature guards. Acceptance of these documents was promised by JU Dr. Stanek.
- CRA board will prepare an excursion for CRA members to Poland, Austria or Germany protected areas. The focus will be on ranger services.
- Michal Ulrych is responsible for publishing the CRA newsletter "Reporter." This paper is sent to all CRA members, all Czech protected area authorities, the Czech Environment Ministry and also to Slovak colleagues.
- A library of literature about protected areas (brochures, leaflets, maps, books, etc.) will be established at the Krkonose Environmental Education Centre Rychorska chalet (under Krkonose NP Authority). This library will serve CRA members and clients. We welcome contribution from your parks, landscape areas etc.! Send them to: Michal Skalka, KSEV Rychorska bouda, Sprava KRNAP, 542 26 Horni Marsov, Czech Republic.
- CRA board will develop a CRA homepage at the net address www.krnep.cz
- CRA endorsed Europarc Federation's Junior Ranger Project throughout Jaromir Gebas (as Krkonose NP senior ranger) and Michal Skalka (as master of the KEEC Rychorska chalet and junior ranger expert).

Others notes from this meeting:

- Colleagues from the Slovak Ranger Association participated in the meeting and informed CRA about SRA activities.
- CRA has criticized equipment available to rangers and informed the ministry about ranger situation in Czech and has obtained a solution of a bad situation already from this year.
- CRA enrolled three new rangers and has 40 members,
- CRA published a leaflet entitled "Who Is a Ranger?" There were 35,000 pieces printed, with reimbursement provided by the Czech Ministry for Environment. Leaflets have been distributed by Czech rangers in field.

The CRA general assembly was part of a meeting of Czech rangers. The special guest was JU Dr. Stanek from the Czech Environment Ministry. The meeting was attended by 35 rangers from nine Czech protected areas.

Michal Skalka, Czech Ranger Association

Association of National Park Rangers (United States)

This has been a busy quarter members of ANPR's international affairs committee:

- ANPR President Ken Mabery sent a letter to IRF President Rick Smith offering to host the Fifth World Congress in the United States. One tentative site is the YMCA camp facility outside of Rocky Mountain National Park. Thanks to Barbara Goodman and Barry Sullivan for working on this proposal.

- Einar Olsen, working with IRF and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), recently succeeded in shipping nearly a ton of donated ranger uniforms and equipment, valued at \$53,000 (US), to the Ivory Coast. He is now working on a request from the Game Rangers Association of Africa for uniform assistance on behalf of rangers in Namibia. The achievement of this partnership is an important step for ANPR in our work with international rangers, thanks to the efforts of Einar. IFAW has indicated that they wish to continue Ranger Relief and is now working with IRF to identify the next projects for which excess uniforms and equipment could be used. In other efforts, the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association and the Federal Wildlife Officers Associations collected hundreds of uniforms and a good deal of equipment at their conference and received multi-year commitments from the W.L. Gore and Callabassas companies to make donations of imperfect clothing and equipment. ANPR members and others are encouraged to identify projects and recipients for Ranger Relief and contact Einar Olsen by email at einar_olsen@nps.gov. ANPR has received donations and commitments from Western National Parks Association (formerly Southwest Parks and Monuments Association), and Eastern National in support of Latin American ranger associations capacity building. These generous donations, combined with ANPR member donations and other donors being sought, will help selected rangers from Latin America attend the Fourth World Congress in Australia. Thanks to respective executive directors Tim Priehs and Chesley Moroz, and their boards, for this valued support.

Tony Sisto, Chair, ANPR International Committee

LETTERS AND EMAIL

Letters and email sent to the International Ranger Federation...

25th July, 2002

Mr. Gordon Miller,
Executive Director (IRF),
Fold Head Cottage,
Grinds Brook Booth,
Edale,
Hope Valley, Derbyshire,
S33 7ZD
England

Dear Mr. Miller,

FORMATION OF WARDENS ASSOCIATION

I am glad to have received your letter Ref:IRF/A/0102 dated 2nd May, 2002. I received the letter on 8th July, 2002. I am well and I hope you are also in good health and enjoying life. Our Meeting at Kruger was timely and I was excited to learn that there exists such conservation forums as International Ranger Federation and Game Rangers Association of Africa (GRAA).

After our discussion on the need to form a Kenya Rangers Association, I took up the matter with Kenya Wildlife Management where it was important to sell the concept and if accepted chart the way forward. This took considerable time, for the idea to have any meaning.

However, I am now glad to inform you that an Interim Committee with office bearers has been formed to steer the formation of Wardens Association to its conclusion. A draft constitution, which also took considerable time to develop since it had to undergo through legal scrutiny is now also in place.

Changes in the current KWS Management has contributed to more delays in concluding this matter due to the fact that before registration, KWS Board of Trustees must study the document before approval for registration.

I am now pursuing this issue and present the document to the Board for approval and it is my expectation that Wardens Association in Kenya will be in place before the end of this year.

Kind regards.

Yours Sincerely,

J. M. KIOKO, EBS
DIRECTOR

UPCOMING IRF AND MEMBER EVENTS AND TRAINING

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| September 5 - 7, 2002 | "Policies, Places and People- Countryside Change for All," Countryside Management Association National Study Conference and Annual General Meeting, Moulton College of Agriculture, Northampton, U.K. Conference attendees will discuss and examine the current state of the countryside and urban green space in England and Wales, and look closely at how countryside and urban green space managers are adapting to change and meeting the needs and demands of those who work in, visit and use these open spaces. For more information, send an email to CMA Administration at cma@writtle.ac.uk . |
| September 9 - 10, 2002 | "Fire Management Planning," SCRA Training Course, Strathclyde Country Park, Motherwell, Scotland. |
| September 16, 2002 | "An Introduction To Freshwater Plants," SCRA Training Course, Camperdown Country Park, Dundee and Trottick Ponds LNR, Scotland. |
| September 17 - 18, 2002 | "River Search and Rescue," SCRA Training Course, Strathclyde Country Park, Motherwell, Scotland. |
| October 24, 2002 | "Geology and Interpretation," SCRA Training Course, Grampian, Scotland. |
| October 17 - 20, 2002 | Third Italian Festival of Park Rangers, Parco Naturale Regionale dell' Appie Antica, Rome. If you are interested in attending, contact Guido Baldi, President, AIGAP, via email at guidobaldi@iol.it or phone at 0039.3292606687. |

- November 7 - 9, 2002 "Lack Of Finances = Inactivity: Myth or Truth?", Third National Congress, Association of Argentinian Rangers, San Martin de los Andes, Neuquen. For more information: necha@smandes.com.ar or dpaz@bariloche.com.ar .
- "Desfinanciamiento = Inactividad: Mito O Verdad?", 3er. Congreso Nacional, La Asociacion de Guardaparques Argentinos, san Martin de los Andes, Neuquen. Por mas informacion: necha@smandes.com.ar or dpaz@bariloche.com.ar .
- November 13, 2002 "Developing Business Partnerships," SCRA Training Course, The Stable Court Yard, Pollock Country Park, Glasgow, Scotland.
- March 21 - 28, 2003 IRF Fourth World Congress, Wilson's Promontory National Park, Victoria, Australia. Hosted by the Victorian Rangers Association. For more information, go to the Congress web site at <http://www.asnevents.net.au/rangers/>
- September 8 - 18, 2003 World Parks Congress, Durban, South Africa. For details, go to the Congress web site at <http://wcpa.iucn.org/wpc/wpc.html>

--- ### ---