



## **GUARDAPARQUE**

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**Guardaparque** is a bi-weekly publication prepared and issued by the International Ranger Federation (IRF), a federation of non-governmental and governmental ranger organisations from around the world. **Guardaparque** carries reports on emergency service and law enforcement incidents, on protection of parks and the natural and cultural resources within them, on programs to educate visitors and communities on the values of parks and protected areas, and on the people who are responsible for all these activities.

If you have a submission for **Guardaparque**, please send it to the editor, Bill Halainen, at [Bill\\_Halainen@nps.gov](mailto:Bill_Halainen@nps.gov)

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### **EMERGENCY SERVICES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT**

#### **United States – San Francisco Bay Parks Oil Tanker Accident Leads To Major Spill, Coating Park Beaches**

In early November, three National Park Service areas around San Francisco Bay were hit by one of the worst oil spills in recent U.S. history. Here's a summary of what occurred and the NPS response, which is still underway three weeks later. It's taken from the National Park Services' internal publication, *The Morning Report*:

A container ship, the *Cosco Busan*, struck a pier of the San Francisco Bay Bridge in California around 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 7th, and spilled about 58,000 gallons of fuel oil into the bay. Oil soon came ashore on beaches throughout Golden Gate National Recreation Area. To protect the health and safety of visitors and staff, the park instituted emergency closures at Fort Point, Crissy Field Beach, China Beach, Baker Beach, Rodeo Beach, Black Sand Beach and Kirby Cove Beach. Other beaches were soon closed as well, as were beaches at nearby Point Reyes National Seashore and San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park. The oil also spread to shoreline areas around the bay, forcing a major response by many agencies under a unified command.

One of the National Park Service's specially trained teams for managing complex incidents was brought in to oversee the cleanup operations in the three NPS areas. At its worst, the spill forced the closure of 19 beaches in Golden Gate, two in San Francisco Maritime, and three in Point Reyes. The oil spill altogether affected 127 miles of NPS shoreline and 230 acres of beaches. About 130 NPS employees were assigned to the cleanup at its peak.

## **United States – Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park Artefact Thieves Sentenced In Court**

This report of a major conviction for theft of artefacts also appeared in *The Morning Report*, the daily publication of the National Park Service:

A ranger was on patrol last March 11th when he saw three men metal-detecting and digging up relics on the Spotsylvania Battlefield, a battlefield from the U.S. Civil War of 1861 to 1865 (in the United States, the National Park Service protects both natural and historic areas). The three were arrested as they left the park. Over 460 holes were found and documented on and around earthworks where the men had been seen digging, making this one of the worst archaeological thefts in NPS history. All three men have now appeared in court and have either pled or been found guilty and sentenced:

- Last June, Vincent Williams, 37, pled guilty and was ordered to pay \$1,400 in restitution.
- On September 24th, Fenton Terembes, Jr., 28, was sentenced to 24 months in jail, followed by a year of supervised probation and ordered to pay \$28,600 in restitution following his guilty plea to a felony ARPA charge.
- On November 5th, Jeremy Burroughs, 30, was sentenced to 18 months in jail, followed by three years of supervised probation and also ordered to pay \$28,600 in restitution. This was Burroughs' second felony ARPA violation; his previous conviction was in 1998.

All three men had to forfeit their equipment and the seized artefacts.

## **India – Mahavir Harina Vanasthali National Park Intoxicated City Leader Fires Shots At Park Party**

Here's a report from *The Times of India* on one of those late night calls rangers (or, in this case, local police) often gets that develops into an interesting incident:

A city leader opened fire at a birthday party in the park last Friday night after an orchestra refused to perform songs as he demanded. K. Venkatesh Goud was reputedly quite intoxicated when he fired three rounds in the air. Police said that a businessman had organised his son's birthday party at the park. An orchestra, Hindustan Musical Group, was engaged to entertain the guests. Though the group was to perform until 10:30 pm, it went on until late in the night as there was a rush of visitors. The orchestra started to wind up around midnight when the city leader and about 20 of his associates showed up.

Venkatesh was "sizzled" when he arrived and insisted that the orchestra group sing his favourite songs. When the orchestra refused to oblige him, Venkatesh reportedly pulled out his .32 revolver and fired in the air, threatening the performers and demanding that they go on singing. Venkatesh also fired one more round aimlessly while dancing to the tunes of the orchestra, police said. One of the singers managed to slip out and came across police officers on the main road. But Venkatesh and his associates had fled by the time the police reached the park, leaving their vehicles behind. The police seized the vehicles and are on the lookout for the city leader.

It was subsequently learned that Venkatesh Goud, who has played villain roles in some films, is accused in a murder case. He later entered the real estate field and applied for a revolver license, which was turned down by the Vanasthalipuram police. Venkatesh Goud, however, managed to secure a license by using his clout, sources said.

## **SPECIES MANAGEMENT**

### **Southeast Asia – Parks And Protected Areas World's Smallest Bear Faces Extinction**

Marcelo Segalerba found this Associated Press article on the net last week. It focuses on the sun bear, threatened with extinction, but also provides an evaluation of other bear species around the world:

The world's smallest bear species faces extinction because of deforestation and poaching in its Southeast Asian home. The sun bear, whose habitat stretches from India to Indonesia, has been classified as vulnerable by the World Conservation Union. "We estimate that sun bears have declined by at least 30% over the past 30 years and continue to decline at this rate," said Rob Steinmetz, a bear expert with IUCN. The group estimates there are little more than 10,000 sun bears left, said Dave Garshelis, co-chair of the IUCN bear specialist group.

The bear, which weighs between 40 and 60 kg, is hunted for its bitter, green bile, which has long been used by Chinese traditional medicine practitioners to treat eye, liver and other ailments. Bear paws are also consumed as a delicacy. Another threat comes from loggers, who are destroying the sun bear's habitat, Steinmetz said. Thailand is the only country to have effectively banned logging and enforced laws against poaching, allowing the sun bear population to remain stable there, Garshelis said.

IUCN said six of the eight bear species in the world are now threatened with extinction. Other vulnerable bear species are the Asiatic black bear, the sloth bear on the Indian subcontinent, the Andean bear in South America and the polar bear. The brown bear and the American black bear are in a lesser category of threat, IUCN said.

"The American black bear is actually doing quite well," said Garshelis, adding that its population is increasing in most parts of Canada, the United States and Mexico. There are an estimated 900,000 American black bears in the three countries, more than double the number of all the other bear species combined, according to IUCN. The brown bear is well protected in North America and Europe and therefore able to expand in certain areas, he said, but in some countries of South Asia, including Pakistan, India and Nepal, there are only tiny numbers of brown bears left, he added.

The giant panda, of which fewer than 3,000 are estimated to survive, remains in the category of endangered species despite huge Chinese efforts to conserve it, Garshelis said. "It would be unwise to assume that in less than 10 years under the new habitat improvement policies in China (the) Panda population could have dramatically increased," he said. The reassessment of the sun bear's situation will be reflected in IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species, a comprehensive inventory of some 41,000 species and subspecies compiled by a network of experts around the globe.

## **PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS**

### **Canada – New National Park Canada Establishes 25-Million Acre National Park**

There were many articles out last week about Canada's announcement of the creation of a major new national park. This is one of them, taken from the U.S. *Washington Post*:

Canada's government last Wednesday set aside 101,000 sq km of wilderness, 11 times the size of Yellowstone National Park, for conservation, a move that environmentalists called one of North America's most important acts of nature preservation. The land in Canada's Northwest Territories is in three huge tracts that will be used to create a national park, a national wilderness area and a conservation area administered by native groups under treaty rights.

The areas are wild, scenic and remote. They have been eyed with increasing interest by diamond, uranium, and oil and gas developers, and the action Wednesday by Canada's Ministries of Environment and Indian Affairs will prevent mining, drilling and most logging in the areas.

Environmentalists hailed the action as adding protection to parts of the sensitive boreal forest, the broad swath of green that circles a northern tier of the globe from Canada to Siberia. The boreal forest is said to be the planet's largest land-based store of carbon, carbon that could be released by development to exacerbate global warming. It also is the summer home to millions of North America's migrating songbirds.

"We're very happy with this," said Chief Adeline Jonasson, who leads the Lutsel K'e Dene people on part of the proposed national park. "This area is the one our ancestors chose for us to live in. This will preserve it for generations to come." Native groups, environmentalists and others have been working to designate the land for years. They reached a tentative deal on the national park in 2006, but Wednesday's action formally withdraws the land from development.

People working to set aside parts of Canada's vast wilderness from the encroaching oil wells and growing diamond and uranium mining had initially considered the conservative government of Stephen Harper to be hostile. But now, "the government is actually delivering on their promises, and delivering much more quickly than we are used to," said Larry Innes, head of the Canadian Boreal Initiative, which works to preserve the forest.

The 26,000 sq km national park will be created on the eastern edge of Great Slave Lake, a pristine, glacier-carved body of water that is prowled by grizzlies and caribou and remains frozen eight months a year. About 400 members of the Lutsel K'e Dene people live there. Farther west, a 15,000 sq km national wildlife area will be created in a region called the Ramparts, where towering stone cliffs line the Mackenzie River and key wetlands border the Ramparts River. Buffering Great Slave Park will be a 60,000 sq km conservation area administered by the Akaitcho people. Yellowstone National Park, which includes land in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, is about 9,000 sq km.

The land designated Wednesday "isn't just Canada. This is a global resource and a worldwide treasure," said Steven Kallick, the Seattle-based manager of the International Boreal Conservation Campaign for the Pew Environment Group. "It's the largest largely intact forest left in the planet. It rivals the Amazon and Siberia in size."

### **Namibia – Bwabwata National Park Two Game Parks And Reserve Merged Into New National Park**

AllAfrica.com, a web page based in the United States, last Friday posted this story, taken from *The Namibian*, a paper published in its capital city of Windhoek:

The government has officially proclaimed the former Caprivi Game Reserve as the Bwabwata National Park, also incorporating the Mahango Game Park in the west and the existing Mamili Game Park south of Sangwali along the Linyanti River. The action was announced last week.

Environment and Tourism Minister Willem Konjore said the new park would cover 572, 000 hectares and stretch 190 kilometres from west to east with approximately 30 to 40 kilometres in width. "The three core areas Kwando, Buffalo and Mahango will be zoned for special protection and controlled tourism. The central area of the Bwabwata National Park will be zoned to provide for a multiple-use area of community-based tourism, like trophy hunting, human settlement and development," Konjore said at a press briefing.

"Cattle movement will be controlled to prevent the spread of diseases such as bovine lung sickness, anthrax and foot and mouth disease, as this is of extreme importance to Namibia's agricultural industry." Communities living in or around Bwabwata will be given conditional tourism rights in the park, such as that they can establish, either on their own or through a joint venture, tourism facilities in the park, according to Konjore. The Ministry will also invite tenders for developing a tourism lodge in the Buffalo area, a former South African army base.

The tender will be granted on the basis of the development plan and design, community involvement and environmental vision. "The Ministry will introduce the tender conditions and process to ensure visions are achieved for the purpose of the socio-economic advancement of the local communities." He said further that "extensive consultations" were held with all groups involved, including park residents and neighbours.

"In light of the improved opportunities available to communities, further consultation must now take place regarding the best approach to zone, manage and develop the park, in the national interest and for the benefit of local residents," Konjore said.

"During these consultations, all options in these areas will be explored with park residents and neighbours, as well as other line ministries and partner organisations." A park management plan would be worked out in due course. The two military bases at Divundu and near Kongola will fall in the proclaimed national park and it appears they will not be removed.

## **EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION**

### **Korea – Dadohaehaesang Marine National Park First Joint Marine Education Program Launched At Park**

Gyu Sung Lee, IRF regional representative for Asia, has sent along this report:

In the late 1990s, the first ranger-led marine education program in national parks started in Gugyedeung (meaning "Nine steps of pebble beach"), Jeongdori, in the Dadohaehaesang Marine National Park. Located in the southernmost area of South Korea, Gugyedeung contains rich natural resources for marine education: 800 meters of pebble beach, tidal ponds and intertidal area with various marine species, 2.1 hectares of evergreen forest, and spectacular scenery of islands and sea.

In 2006, the marine education program in Gugyedeung was a nature interpretation program. However, in 2007 rangers sought cooperation with other marine-related organizations to maximize the effect of marine education. In order to strengthen scientific field experience, a marine planting/seeding research centre (National Fisheries Research & Development Institute) joined the program. A folk fishing village pavilion (Wando County) participates in the program and educates park visitors on the historical and cultural aspects of the folk fishing village.

In the joint marine education program, visitors experience not only the natural beauty of Gugyedeung but the history and culture of local residents. By using resources and expertise of three organizations, this program provides various activities and experiences to visitors: making traditional dried seaweed, making agar jelly, experiencing aspects of fishermen's lives (such as pulling fishing boats), making rubbed copies of shell fish, and observing intertidal marine species in the tidal pools and marine microorganisms using optical microscopes.

The three-organization joint marine education program has become the representative education program for combining natural resources of national parks with cultural and historical resources of local areas.

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*Prepared and published by the International Ranger Federation as a service to rangers around the world. Submissions should be sent to Bill Halainen at [Bill\\_Halainen@nps.gov](mailto:Bill_Halainen@nps.gov)*

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