



THE THIN GREEN LINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION

January – March 2006

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OFFICERS REPORTS

President's Report

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

This winter has been a very busy and disruptive time for me personally, having moved to Cambodia to take up a short-term position as Protected Area Management Advisor to the Ministry of the Environment. It is a challenging position but privileged in that I am working with the Rangers of Cambodia in some of the most pristine wilderness remaining in Southeast Asia.

I attended the Ramsar Convention COP9 meeting in Kampala, Uganda, from November 9 to November 15 last year. The IRF participated on many issues. It was particularly exciting to see the training programs being developed for Rangers in wetland areas, including training in conflict resolution. Hopefully we can incorporate these initiatives into the IRF capacity building drive.

After my abortive attempt in September 2005, I was eventually able to visit Garamba National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) from November 16 to November 23. The Rangers in this Park encounter armed poachers on a regular basis, yet are poorly equipped and trained to handle this serious threat. African Parks Foundation (APF) had just taken over the management of Garamba for a five-year period, and had appointed a trainer to re-train the Rangers. The IRF will continue to work with the APF, the ICCN, and IUCN to ensure that Rangers in Garamba and the DRC get the support, training and equipment that they need to carry out their duties safely. See the article in the section entitled "News About Rangers" below.

On January 3rd, I met with the Alexander Abraham Foundation and the IUCN in Gland, Switzerland, in moving forward on both the Ranger Dependents' Fund and the IRF young conservationist award. The meetings were very productive and I expect positive outcomes in the near future. I also used the opportunity to meet with the WCPA/PPA of the IUCN and discuss our partnership agreement with them. This was likewise a very constructive meeting.

Only Bolivia and Chile celebrate a National Ranger Day, but there is no reason why there cannot be an International Ranger Day. Jeff Ohlfs suggested that May 21st, the day Galen Clark, the first

"Ranger", was appointed as "Guardian" of Yosemite when it was declared a California State Park in 1864 or 1866, be used as International Ranger Day. This is the day before International Biological Diversity Day. I have taken this concept to the IUCN to gain their support. The PPA is supportive and I wait to hear from the WCPA and Protected Area Leadership Forum.

In any event, I believe the IRF must move forward, and ask all member associations to celebrate **International Ranger Day on May 21, 2006**. Please let me know what you will plan and how you will celebrate this important event. More from me later on this.

Warm Regards,

David Zeller
President, International Ranger Federation

Editor's Report

My apologies to members on the late delivery of the January – March edition of **The Thin Green Line**. Future issues will again appear on a regular, quarterly basis. I hope to have the next issue out by the end of May, in time to include any last minute information on the Congress in Scotland.

Bill Halainen, Editor

European Regional Representative Report

During the last year of 2005, I tried to organize one important meeting between European Ranger Association managers. This project was called the "First Meeting of European Rangers Association Leaders" and was programmed for November 20 – 21, at the city of Golega in Portugal. The proposed themes for discussion were the following:

- Why conserve nature?
- The role of Ranger Associations
- Partners at nature conservation.
- The creation of a European Ranger team for a rapid intervention in order to help during environmental catastrophes (oil spills at sea, river pollution, forest fires, fauna poisoning, etc.)
- To make the community aware of the importance of the Ranger's role in nature conservation.
- Creation of a working group – steering group – in order to render the Rangers formation all around Europe.

Unfortunately, only three Ranger Associations answered the call – Italy, Scotland and Portugal – so the meeting was cancelled.

I was able to realize once more the Portuguese Ranger Day, with Technical Journeys, who helped the Ranger connection. We had some invitees – two colleagues from Brasil and Uruguay. They worked at Amazonia – Siwaun is one of the representatives coming from the first Indigenous Ranger Corps and Marcelo Segalerba is one of the coordinators. The experiences that they shared with us were not only fantastic they were also quite impressive. The work they've done at Amazonian forest is absolutely fantastic. The both are a living example for all of us.

During the last few months, I also worked with the first committee for Rangers formation. Unfortunately, once more the resolutions are not to help the Portuguese Rangers, but to extinguish the Portuguese Ranger Corp. All this sad politics take us, the Portuguese Rangers, to a desolated state of mind. We feel betrayed and abandoned by our government

My role could be much more imaginative, I am convinced, and I could try to surpass the money difficulties in order to organize European level activities, but when we have to fight every day, in our own country, for our survival as a Ranger Corps, it is really difficult to have time, as well as spirit, to take a good part with efficacy and dedication the European representative place, as the place I have proudly represented over the last three years. I wish I could have taken more of a leadership role as European representative, with efficacy and with positive results, but unfortunately I couldn't. Mea culpa.

I hope that the next European representative can do all the good things I couldn't and get together all the supports I was not able to get. I hope he is successful in the position and can obtain visible results for the good of the world ranger family.

Francisco José Semedo Correia
Associação Portuguesa de Guardas e Vigilantes da Natureza

NEWS FROM IRF

Fifth World Congress

IRF's Fifth World Congress will be held in Stirling, Scotland, from June 14th to June 20th. The four main themes of this congress are:

- Access- Managing access from doorstep to wilderness
- Benefits- Sharing environmental values and perceptions
- Connections - Benefiting people and places
- Delivery - Making the connections work

The agenda for the congress can be found at <http://www.ranger-irfc.com>, but here are some of the related events.

Post and Pre Congress Tours

Details are being worked on with professional tour companies so that streamlined tours will give you the best value and the best deal. All bookings contribute to the African Ranger Fund. Current information on these tours can be found at <http://www.cndoscotland.com/scra/>

Field Trips

A selection of field trips is planned for the fourth day of the congress (Saturday). The aim of the field trips is for delegates to see a bit more of Scotland and to tie in with the themes of the congress. Here's what we have so far for the delegates:

- Field Trip 1 – Pentland Hills, John Muir's Birthplace, Pentland Hills and Regional Park, Edinburgh
- Field Trip 2 – Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park
- Field Trip 3 – Cairngorms National Park
- Field Trip 4 – Glencoe, West Highland Way and Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park
- Field Trip 5 – St. Andrews, Barry Buddon and Eden Estuary

Work Shadowing

If you are interested in staying with a ranger before or after the congress and shadowing them at work, then have a look at the opportunities posted on the web site (http://www.ranger-irfc.com/Work_Shadow) and contact Tessa Jones at tessa.jones@highland.gov.uk . Her mailing address is Highland Council Ranger, Ralia Visitor Centre, Newtonmore, Inverness-Shire PH211BD, Scotland.

Grants For Delegates

Declan Keiley has provided some information on how to obtain small grants for delegates attending the congress. Here's his note: "Attached is a link to the GEF Small Grants page. It looks to me as though NGO's in developing countries can apply for small grants to support activities. Could you circulate the link to all member associations and ask them to apply as an NGO for grant to assist delegates attending congress? I am happy to fill in the forms for the member association or given them some key pointers on the sorts of application they should make. They will need to do this ASAP, but it could see a large number of delegates from developing countries attending." The web link is below. Declan's email is: keiley@ranger-irfc.com.

<http://sgp.undp.org/index.cfm?module=ActiveWeb&page=WebPage&s=EligibilityCriteria>

Sixth World Congress

The International Ranger Federation is seeking proposals from member ranger associations to host the 2009 IRF World Congress. All proposals must be submitted to IRF Secretary Barbara Mertin (barbara.mertin@chello.at) before **May 24th**. The nominees will present approved proposals during the IRF World Congress membership meeting to be held in Stirling, Scotland, on June 21st. Selection will be made by a vote of all the IRF member associations present.

Background

IRF's statutes call for a world congress every three years (901.00). The standing rules do not address the world congress, except that the world congress membership meeting will be held in conjunction with a world congress (SR. 900-10).

History of World Congress Dates and Locations

May 1995	Zakopane, Poland
September 1997	San José, Costa Rica
September 2000	Kruger National Park, South Africa
March 2003	Wilsons Promontory National Park, Australia
June 2006	Stirling, Scotland

Location Guidance

The IRF is organized to represent each continent, with some continents combined. According to the statutes, the IEC may change the regions at any time. Including the 2006 Congress, the world congress has been in four of the six regions:

Africa	One congress
Australia/Asia	One congress
Central America	One congress
Europe	Two congresses, Poland and Scotland
North America	None
South America	None

The location of the congress provides opportunities for increasing support to IRF in many ways, including: involvement by Rangers in that region; media coverage of the congress leading to general

public interest; exposure of IRF to potential funding sponsors. Therefore, the IEC strives to rotate the world congress among all the regions.

The IEC encourages member associations from Asia, North America and South America to submit proposals.

NEWS FROM NATIONS AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Scotland Scottish Countryside Ranger Association

Much of our time is currently being spent in the run up to the fifth world congress in Stirling this June. There are still places available for any of you who want to attend; there may also be money available for anyone who is struggling to find the necessary funding. More information can be found on the congress web site at <http://www.ranger-irfc.com/scotcover/2006>.

If anyone wishes to make any donations towards the attendance of delegates who are having trouble finding funding, let me know. SCRA has a fund set up for this purpose and we would be happy to accept any donations.

The Congress will also be the tenth anniversary of SCRA's twinning agreement with the Icelandic Rangers Association. We plan to have a celebration of this sometime during the event. Over the years, we have run a series of successful exchanges and study tours, which we hope to continue in the future.

Another thing on our agenda at the moment is the creation of Scotland's third National Park. The government is currently seeking to determine where the next national park should be established. This will be a coastal and marine park, which will be the first such created anywhere in the UK. We are currently putting the views of our members into this consultation.

The new access laws created for Scotland two years ago are still in the process of being implemented. We are working with the National Access Forum to produce information on signage and advice to user groups. We are also involved in the drawing up of core path plans throughout Scotland.

Tony Wilson
President
Scottish Countryside Ranger Association

Paraguay

Ramón Villalba from IRF has sent out the following invitation to his countrymen in Paraguay:

"This email invites you all to be part of what would be a Park Ranger Association that would consist of personnel from the government or non-government agencies and organizations that administer protected areas in the country. As you know, this is the reason for which the IRF has named me as its representative in Paraguay.

"This is an invitation for you to become members of the association that will be administered by field rangers who work in the reserves and to form part of its structure. From my point of view, you are important allies of Park Rangers when we need people in central offices to support us and you ought to form part of the association as its protecting members.

"I also ask that our colleagues who administer protected areas on behalf of NGO's and with whom we have not yet had much contact to send me a list of your park rangers, park directors or people in similar positions so that we can have a meeting with them in the next couple months.

"This also includes people you know in private, indigenous, or municipal reserves such as Ypeti, Tapyta, Kai Rague, Mbatovi, Kue Tuwy, Cañada El Carmen.

"Thanks for your time."

Por el presente, quiero invitarlos a todos ustedes a hacer parte de la que sería una asociación de Guardaparques que aglutinará a personal de distintas organizaciones no gubernamentales o gubernamentales que administran reservas en el país. Como ustedes sabrán, ese es el objetivo por el cual la Federación Internacional de Guardaparques me ha confiado su representación en Paraguay.

Esta invitación es para que sean socios de citada asociación y formen parte de la estructura que trataremos en lo posible sea administrada por Guardaparques que desarrollan acciones directas a terreno. Desde mi punto de vista, ustedes representan la flor y nata de los aliados de los Guardaparques cuando necesitamos de gente que nos apoye a nivel de oficinas centrales, y deberían formar parte de la Asociación, en caracter de socios protectores.

Por otro lado, les solicito a los compañeros que estan en las ONG que administran áreas y a quienes no hayamos llegado, se sirvan brindarme los directorios de su personal de nivel Guardaparque, administrador de área o similar, a fin de contactar con dichas personas, para realizar una reunión en los proximos meses.

Esto incluye a personal que ustedes conozcan de reservas privadas, indígenas e incluso municipales (Ypeti, Tapyta, Kai Rague, Mbatovi, Kue Tuwy, Cañada El Carmen, todos los demas).

Gracias por su tiempo.

Ramón Villalba
Representante Individual en Paraguay
Federación Internacional de Guardaparques

Uruguay Asociacion De Guardaparques del Uruguay

We are happy to report that the new government of the Province of Rocha, one of the richest in biodiversity in Uruguay, hired six rangers for the Cabo Polonio Protected Area. No ranger was appointed there before.

Cabo Polonio, a former tiny fishermen village surrounded by sand dunes up to 54 meters in height and home to thousands of sea lions and fur seals, grew as a non-regulated summer resort over the past few decades. Access is only possible by four-wheel-drive vehicles and there is no electricity.

Four of the six new appointed rangers attended the ranger-training course organized by the NGO Vida Silvestre and the Asociacion de Guardaparques del Uruguay. They have to deal with almost everything there, including stopping the construction of new houses.

At the same time, I can say that Gabriela my wife and I are having a very active summer with our Junior Ranger program, Pequeños Guardaparques. The nearly 60 kids (some invited friends) are between 10 and 14 years old and help un in all the activities we have to do in Castillos Lagoon Protected Area and during January weekends also in Cabo Polonio, telling people to maintain some distance from the sea lions.

All kids have enjoyed the activities and I can say that at least six promise to be very good professionals in protected areas or outdoor tourism managers if they choose that life in the future.

Juan Carlos Gambarotta
Vice President, IRF

United Kingdom Countryside Management Association

CMA, one of the founders of the IRF, celebrates its 40th birthday this year. Over the past 40 years, CMA has grown into the leading membership organization for individuals involved in the sustainable management of the countryside and urban green space in England and Wales. The Association was founded in 1966 as The Association of National Park and Countryside Wardens. As the management of protected areas became more widely extended, emphasis was placed on the development of ranger services. This led to a change of name in 1969, to The Association of National Park and Countryside Rangers.

In 1976, the name was changed to The Association of Countryside Rangers (ACR) in line with the wider spectrum of ranger posts. As the discipline of countryside management evolved, the roles of countryside staff in England and Wales became more diverse to encompass the management of parks, urban green space and associated project work. To fully reflect these changes, the Association changed its name in 1993 to the Countryside Management Association (CMA).

To mark this anniversary, a commemorative anniversary polo shirt (in dark blue) has been produced with the CMA embroidered logo (price £15). This can be ordered via Roger Cole, CMA Marketing Group (thecolefamily@btinternet.com).

The CMA National Council has established a fund to help two CMA members attend the World Ranger Congress in Stirling. The two members will each receive funds to cover about half of the congress registration fee. The objective is to help younger CMA members attend the congress. Applicants must be under 35 years of age and should have been a member of CMA for at least three years. CMA has also provided funds to help four East European rangers attend the congress. The four lucky delegates come from Croatia, Kyrgyzstan, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Other East European rangers who applied have been helped by additional funding provided by Scottish Natural Heritage through SCRA, the Scottish Countryside Rangers Association.

Roger Cole
CMA Marketing Group

United States Association of National Park Rangers

The Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR) has been working with the World Wildlife Federation/U.S. (WWF-US) and other conservation organizations to obtain and ship equipment to rangers in Africa and elsewhere who are badly in need of such gear. The following items were recently donated to the Ranger Relief Organization by ANPR; by professionals in federal organizations in North America, such as the US National Park Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Parks Canada; and by state and provincial organizations, such as Parks British Columbia, the Indiana Department of Conservation and Wyoming Fish and Game:

- 80 pieces of body armor
- 50 black leather duty belts with various accessory pouches
- 94 dark olive green dress pants
- 132 dark gray dress/field pants

- 117 tan long sleeve uniform shirts
- 110 tan short sleeve uniform shirts
- 10 rain pants

Einar Olsen, who has coordinated much of this effort for ANPR, has sent along the following note: “WWF-US is a well organized and funded NGO that is interested in ranger relief projects. In addition to the DRC project, we hope to be shipping to Gabon in the near future also. We will be sending uniforms and light equipment only, no body armor needed. If WWF continues to work with us, we can expect more donors to come forward to offer uniforms and equipment. WWF will want to focus attention on the Congo Basin, where they are heavily involved in developing on the ground management capacity in the protected areas. The DRC project is the fourth for Ranger Relief. Previous projects have benefited rangers in Ivory Coast, Cambodia, and Thailand. Previous partners have included the International Fund for Animal Welfare and Wildaid.”



Democratic Republic of the Congo of Rangers in advanced training wearing uniforms donated by Ranger Relief. Photo by Rob Poppe, Senior Instructor, ICCN Ranger Training Programme, DRC.

Portugal

Associação Portuguesa de Guardas e Vigilantes da Natureza

The Associação Portuguesa de Guardas e Vigilantes da Natureza held its 14th national encounter in February. The theme was “Thirty Years Serving Nature Conservation.” Conclusions were as follows. Please note that not all terms and concepts translated well into English, though the general focus and thrust of the conclusions is evident:

Nature conservation, biodiversity and landscape implicate a number of measures and specific intervention actions toward the direct management of species, habitats and ecosystems, looking to

the maintenance or recuperation of a suitable conservation status, with a fundamental support from vigilance and fiscalization.

In order to guarantee and safeguard natural values, it is necessary to have a Vigilantes da Natureza (Rangers) Corps with reinforced and recognized qualifications.

In the sphere of action of the preservation, protection and nature conservation principles, plans of vigilance and fiscalization must be applied which must report the spatial, temporal and material sphere, the programs and manners adopted, and the coordination mode.

More and more, the nature conservation problem is a global problem, so the Vigilantes da Natureza must be a unique corps, strong in actions and wise in the interventions supported by a strong juridical cabinet and provided with good manners.

Protection and nature conservation have a essential importance for the country. The progressive impoverishment of the natural resources and the biodiversity leads inevitably to a diminution of the Portuguese life level, but this tendency is not necessarily irreversible if the government takes total conscience and recognize the necessity of the preservation and improved the existents resources on the vigilance and fiscalization, namely to reinforce and provide sufficient membership of the Vigilantes da Natureza Corps.

With the announcement of the decree-law number 470/99, 6 November, some important steps were made, in the sense to maintain the existence of a carrier which could contribute for the defence of our natural and ambient heritage, missing approval of the uniform regulations and professional formation.

Work conditions have diminished due to lack of equipment, organization and coordination, reinforced in a large part by the poor strategic vision as well as bad management coming from different AP directors and CCDD managers.

With more Rangers, dignified work conditions and effective coordination of human resources, the Vigilantes da Natureza must keep all the environment surveying and control functions as well as nature conservation responsibilities.

It is imperative to present the Vigilantes da Natureza (Ranger) Corps from the CCDDs and from the ICN with all needed human and financial resources.

The uniform regulations are delayed. The same happens with the identification card, formation curriculum vitae, actualization and revalorization of the risk subsidy and the salary plane.

The Vigilante da Natureza, on the institutional and organisational aspects, the progressive replace for another inspection forces more repressive and less affecting, in addiction with the absence of the public reconnaissance, takes to the abandon of their functional contents, the abandon, oblivion and the proposed diminution of their efficacy

Continuing to ignore the Vigilantes da Natureza and forgetting the resolution of their existing serious problems of means and equipment, which obstruct the regular performance of their functions, is to take a step back step in nature conservation politics.

The Vigilantes da Natureza (Rangers) have a fundamental role on the human natural heritage, so the reinforcement of their qualifications and work conditions must be a state priority in order to guarantee a best future of the nature conservation for the next generations.

Francisco José Semedo Correia

NEWS ABOUT RANGERS AND PROTECTED AREAS

Democratic Republic of Congo Passing Out Parade for Rangers

On Sunday, March 19th, 45 rangers stood tall and proud at their passing out ceremony on the new training centre parade ground at Ishango, Virunga National Park, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Rangers from the five stations around the park had received communications, security, self-defense and weapons training, together with many other skills required for their difficult and often dangerous work protecting this world heritage site in danger.

After many months of tough and challenging training, these rangers received much-deserved congratulations and admiration from a variety of invited guests on behalf of the 479 rangers who had completed the course. I was honored to be invited to Ishango, having visited many of the Rangers back in July 2004 as part of a small delegation from the IRF. At that time, these extremely dedicated and committed rangers were nonetheless appearing in need of self-confidence, practical support and a boost to their morale. Watching their faces at Ishango, they certainly now had all of that – and more besides.

The Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) had enabled this training program to take place through encouraging the cooperation of many partners within DRC and via funding from themselves and from different international sources. Support for the program had to be gained at the political level, from military leaders and from MONUC, the United Nations forces in DRC.

Among those attending the ceremony were the assistant provincial governor of North Kivu, the military chief in the province; the technical director of ICCN, the Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature; and representatives from other organizations, including FZS. Many speeches were given praising the grit, determination and perseverance of the rangers in completing the training and congratulating them on their tremendous success.

Robert Muir from FZS, together with partners and the skilled instructors, had shown great determination in implementing this program, but the true stars of the day were the rangers themselves. They showed off their skills during a mock capture of poachers, marched in unison around the parade ground, and stepped forward one by one to receive certificates and medals for their achievements.

I was honored to present a short, congratulatory speech on behalf of David Zeller, president of IRF, together with another for the UK government and a UK charity called 'Gearing Up 4 Gorillas.' The applause from the rangers showed their appreciation of the support they had received from the 'world family of rangers.' I hope to have a display at the World Congress in Stirling depicting this significant event.

Although the event on March 19th was billed as a 'closing ceremony,' this is indeed now just the beginning. The tremendous success of this initial program has gained the admiration and ongoing support from all those who were present at the ceremony, paving the way for Ishango to now welcome many more rangers from all around DRC who will go on to benefit from this wide-ranging training.

A resounding 'well done' to everyone involved!

Linda Nunn
United Kingdom

IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas Global Analysis of Protected Area Management

The interest in management effectiveness of protected areas has been increasing worldwide. The IUCN WCPA now has a framework for assessment and a wide range of assessment tools have been developed and applied around the world. Many protected area agencies or NGOs have also carried out detailed assessments of individual protected areas and organizations; the Ramsar Convention and the World Heritage Convention, for example, assess the state of their sites on a more-or-less regular basis.

This momentum in interest in management effectiveness evaluations gained a major boost in February 2004 when the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) agreed to encourage all parties to carry out such assessments. Goal 4.2 is “to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of protected areas management” and Decision 4.2.2 of the work program on protected areas reads: “Implement management effectiveness evaluations of at least 30 percent of each party's protected areas by 2010 and of national protected area systems and, as appropriate, ecological networks.” However, no global analysis has ever been conducted. Therefore this project aims to fill this gap and also fulfill other specified activities as outlined in the CBD work program.

In a joint effort to contribute to this situation, the IUCN WCPA in partnership with the University of Queensland, WWF International and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), has started working on a project to produce a global review of management effectiveness evaluations of protected areas.

The project would have five main objectives:

1. Collection and collation of available information from assessment systems, individual park assessments and other evaluations of management effectiveness that have been undertaken in protected areas. The basis for the project will be the assembly of as comprehensive collections of assessment studies as possible. In some cases this will be achieved by obtaining physical or electronic copies of individual assessments and in others by negotiating access to datasets of studies that summarize studies across a number of reserves (i.e. the RAPPAM studies or the World Bank/WWF Tracking Tool studies). Assembling this dataset will draw, as much as possible, on both individual contacts of study members and the networks of the various partner organizations, particularly WCPA. Information from the collected methodologies will be assembled into a database that captures both the attributes of the system used for evaluation (i.e. assessment methodologies, types of stakeholders involved, nature of data and indicators used in the assessment, geographic, institutional and temporal scale etc) as well as the results of the assessment. Issues of confidentiality and access to original or site level data will have to be negotiated with individual parties. It is expected that all data would be available for analysis and reporting at a national and regional level. Site level reporting is not intended to be a focus of this project, although it could form the basis for site level reporting from a global database where the contributors of the data are agreeable.
2. Analysis of datasets to gain an understanding of most appropriate methodologies for different situations and protected area systems. This review of methodologies will analyze assessment methodologies that have been applied in different parts of the world, considering evaluation objectives, context and circumstances of the evaluation, levels of resources required and products and uses of evaluation information in order to develop guidance for managers and others on appropriate methodologies for particular uses and circumstances. This part of the study will also draw on guidance arising from related studies currently being undertaken around the world (e.g. PhD thesis work by Dahl-Tacconi, Worboys and Paleczny).
3. Analysis to gain as wide a picture as possible of status of parks, key threats, factors influencing effectiveness of management and necessary changes to management strategies and approaches. This is a key objective and major component of the study. The compiled evaluations would be analyzed at global, regional (and possibly national) level to build up an understanding of conservation and management status of parks, key threats and management issues. Ancillary information on park attributes (size, IUCN category, date of establishment, surrounding land

use, etc) will be gathered from the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), local WCPA members and other sources and this will be included in the analysis in order to investigate possible factors influencing management effectiveness using both multivariate and pattern analysis methods.

4. Analysis of most useful and commonly used indicators for assessing management effectiveness of protected areas (i.e. what indicators are most reliable predictors of overall effectiveness). This work will build on the progress made by TNC, WWF and other partners in the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network Protected Areas Thematic Network on a common reporting data set for management effectiveness information.
5. Development of a system for integration of management effectiveness information into the World Database on Protected Areas. Based on the outcomes of work in relation to objectives 2 and 4, a proposal will be developed on methods for incorporating information on management effectiveness in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). This work will be conducted in consultation with UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre and other WDPA consortium members. Data on management effectiveness could be either as an integral component of the main database or as an associated dataset linked to the WDPA.

The majority of the work will be conducted from a base at the University of Queensland, using the WCPA and other networks to identify and collect studies from management agencies, park managers, NGOs and others who have been involved in monitoring and assessment activities.

How can rangers and the International Ranger Federation (IRF) and Game Rangers Association of Africa (GRAA) general membership contribute to this project?

IRF and GRAA general membership can contribute to the project by communicating with us and letting us know about management effectiveness assessments that have been conducted or are occurring in your different countries. Additionally, we will welcome copies of management effectiveness manuals, electronic spreadsheets, or any other format of material used in your countries to conduct management effectiveness assessments. Finally, we will need to obtain sets of data obtained from real management effectiveness assessments of protected areas and protected area systems in your countries.

Please direct your contributions to the following email or physical addresses:

Dr Marc Hockings, Vice-Chair (Management Effectiveness Theme) IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, Senior Lecturer, School of Natural & Rural Systems Management, The University of Queensland, Gatton, Queensland 4343 AUSTRALIA. Phone: +61 (0)7 54601140; Fax: +61 (0)7 54601324; Mobile : 0422 842 714 ; Email: m.hockings@mailbox.uq.edu.au

Dr Jose Courrau, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, School of Natural and Rural Systems Management, The University of Queensland, Gatton, Queensland 4343 AUSTRALIA. Email: j.courrau@uq.edu.au; Phone: +61 7 5460 1608; Fax: +61 7 5460 1324.

CALENDAR

Upcoming events being sponsored or attended by IRF and IRF member associations:

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|---------------------------------|---|
| June 14 – June 21, 2006 | Fifth International Ranger Federation World Congress, Stirling, Scotland. |
| November 11 – November 14, 2006 | Ranger Rendezvous XXIX, The Association of National Park Rangers, Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, United States of America. For more information, go to http://www.anpr.org/coeurdalene-rr.htm . |