



## **THE THIN GREEN LINE**

### **NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION**

**November, 2004**

Volume 12

Number 3

---

#### **OFFICERS REPORTS**

##### **President's Report**

The saying that "Time stands still for no one" is so very true. The year is flying past, with 2005 approaching rapidly. Another IRF financial year has come and gone. Time passes while so much more needs to be done. Are we worried? No, we are rangers and will do what needs doing.

The IRF cooperation with the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) has grown rapidly. The IRF is now recognized as a significant partner in WCPA protected area initiatives. The IRF president was invited to attend the WCPA Steering Committee meeting in Savonlinna, Finland, during June 2004. This was an intensive but stimulating and positive working meeting, wherein the IRF partnership contribution to the WCPA and PPA of the IUCN was greatly enhanced.

As a result of the above, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the IRF and WCPA first signed in September, 2000, required some revision and amendments, which have now been made. The new MoU will be signed by Achim Steiner, Director General of IUCN, and myself during the opening ceremony of the WCPA meeting at the World Conservation Congress (WCC) in Bangkok, Thailand in November. The amendments to the MoU deal largely with linkages between IRF regions and WCPA regions and places particular emphasis on joint activities in the areas of capacity building, management effectiveness, training and youth issues.

As I write this, I am on the eve of departure to the WCC in Bangkok. The WCC is a member-only congress, but I will have a small ranger team with me who will help carry the gains made during the World Parks Congress in Durban and the COP7 CBD in Kuala Lumpur into the future planning of the IUCN and member parties and NGO's. IRFC Director Sean Prendergast of the UK will be developing partnerships; Tim Snow is attending as GRAA chairman, a member of IUCN and WCPA (funded by IUCN South Africa) and will lead on "Protecting the Protector" issues; Cassie Wright of Australia, the leading IRF's youth initiative, will be reporting to the WCPA membership on the road forward regarding youth.

Towards the end of June, I had the privilege of visiting Peaks District National Park in the UK and stayed over at Losehill Hall, the birth place of the IRF – a very humbling experience. I also had the further privilege of walking the high moors of the Peak District with Gordon Miller. We then traveled up to Stirling in Scotland, where the IRF 2006 Congress will be held, and met with the local SCRA organizing committee. The beauty, splendor, history and atmosphere of the venue, and the events planned around IRF 2006, are too much to try to describe in this short news piece, but I will say this – if you miss IRF 2006 Scotland, you will really and truly miss out on what promises to be a sensational event. Start planning now!

In terms of IRF administration, the position of executive director of the IRF fell away at the end of June with Gordon's retirement. I wish to express my sincerest gratitude to Gordon and to pay tribute to him for almost 10 years of dedicated service to the IRF. Although retired, he will stay on as unpaid director until November and as the president's liaison officer on the IRFC board until the IRF 2006 World Congress. Gordon has also agreed to establish and develop a "Friends of the IRF" in 2005. This will be a key fund-raising vehicle for the IRF in the future. Gordon is making a great start to this effort by organizing a lecture tour of the UK by Jobogo Mirindi of Virungu National Park, DRC.

Every issue of *The Thin Green Line* carries messages of violence against rangers. Sadly, this is again true with this issue. Ranger Daniel Kurday was shot while attempting to arrest three armed poachers in the Araucarias Park, San Pedro, on October 16, 2004. When last we heard, he was in critical condition and was to be transferred to Buenos Aires for treatment. We wish Daniel a speedy recovery. There are also repeated messages of ongoing violence against rangers in the Galapagos.

The good news is that rangers are being taken seriously in increasing numbers of institutions and forums.

Not very long ago, Bolivian Rangers were struggling for recognition, often going without pay but still on duty. A number of senior government/political dignitaries attended their annual meeting this year – a notable development. Subsequent negotiation has led to the Bolivian Ranger Association (ABOLAC) being recognized by the National Service of Protected Areas (SERNAP) in an agreement which allows rangers to participate in the planning and decision-making processes at the institutional level. There is now also a "Park Ranger Day," which was celebrated across Bolivia on November 8th. Congratulations to Carola and the Bolivian Rangers. You are an inspiration to us all. (On a tragic note: Carola's sister was brutally murdered last week and Carola is now taking care of her orphaned eight-year-old niece. Our deepest sympathy and urgent prayers are with Carola in this trying time).

In Argentina, the IRF has been recognized as a prominent NGO supporter in the creation of a new natural reserve, Chadilauquen, in Martini Ambassador, a province of Pampa. Congratulations to Marcelo Ochoa and his team.

Rangers in Chile are planning to host the First Iberoamerican Congress of Rangers in October, 2005. This will be another important event and milestone in the progress of rangers.

Finally, we offer a very warm welcome to our new member Ranger Associations – Guatemala and the Dominican Republic (both proposed by Uruguay). Welcome to the world family of rangers!

I wish each and every one of you, your families, loved ones, and colleagues a very blessed Christmas. May 2005 bring you bountiful peace, health and happiness.

David Zeller, President

## **Vice President's Report**

I am very glad to inform you that I was able to attend the second meeting of the Association of Rangers of Guatemala, held at the Monterrico Multiple Use Area between October 4th and 6th. The venue was the Kaimán Hotel, right on a black sand Pacific Ocean beach.

As you know, IRF and affiliated associations have always financed my prior participation in events, but this time I was able to arrange the trip by other means, so I felt at last that I could give IRF back something.

The meeting was devoted to honoring two protected area workers – Erwin Ochoa, a lawyer, and Julio Vásquez, an administrator – who were assassinated by illegal loggers in 2000.

At the beginning of the event, which was attended by 62 rangers, César Flores, president of the association, asked for a minute of silence to remember them. Right after that, I was asked to speak in the name of IRF. It was very clear the importance Guatemalan rangers give to IRF. Since the very beginning, they have showed a strong interest in becoming members of our institution.

I was very impressed when César read loudly the letter of support that IRF sent in February right after ranger Enrique Alcántara was assassinated. As you can see, Guatemala is not a easy country to be a ranger.

The three most important objectives of the meeting were:

1. Looking for ways to ensure that Guatemalan rangers are more of a factor in the management of protected areas,
2. Discussing the recently launched manual for Central American rangers, and
3. Becoming members of IRF.

And two themes were discussed in workshops:

1. How could the association be strengthened economically and
2. What are the most common threats to the ranger.

Guatemala has a special police force, the SEPRONA (Protection of Nature Service), and two men from that body were present and active, making very smart interventions.

Two other men received attention as well. They were community rangers, aboriginals from Todos Santos Cuchumatán, wearing their colorful clothes. They are protectors of the highlands, one of richest areas in biodiversity in Guatemala. They reminded me the cultural rangers of Philippines and Papúa New Guinea.

On the first night of the meeting, we went in search of nesting marine turtles, finding only one. On another afternoon, we released 39 newly born turtles to the sea.

With the aim of spreading the word on the meeting properly and face-to-face, the preparation of the event demanded visits to 25 protected areas, something which proved difficult and expensive for the organizers. To help them, rangers who attended the meeting collected money, which was reimbursed to the president. He proudly gave me the original receipt.

The opportunity was also used for training. Rangers had classes on the protected area system of Guatemala, on how to act before poisonous snakes accidents, and on civil participation in protected areas and coastal protected areas.

The event proved to be a rich opportunity for the rangers who attended, and I am very happy to tell you that the Association of Rangers of Uruguay has supported the Guatemalan Association as a new member of IRF.

Best regards!

Juan Carlos Gambarotta, Vice President

### **Editor's Report**

The deadlines for the next four issues of *The Thin Green Line* appear below. If you can plan on getting your reports to me by those dates, that will be a great help.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Submission Due Date</b>	<b>Publication Date</b>
January	Friday, December 10	Sunday, January 2
April	Friday, April 8	Sunday, April 24
July	Friday, July 1	Sunday, July 17
October	Friday, October 7	Sunday, October 30

Bill Halainen, Editor

### **NEWS FROM NATIONS AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

#### **Bolivia**

Carola Vaca Salazar has written to *The Thin Green Line* about recent developments in Bolivia (also noted above). Past IRF president Rick Smith has translated her message into English. Both versions follow:

Queridos amigos:

He estado poco mas de un mes en el campo por lo que no estube en contacto con el mundo,es por eso que les queria decir en resumen como van las cosas en Bolivia con relación a los Guardaparques.

Esta semana estaré en la ciudad de La Paz en la oficina central del Servicio Nacional de Areas Protegidas( SERNAP) por invitación de este ente gubernamental que solicitó mi participación en el taller de evaluación del Plan Regular de Capacitación para guardaparques del SERNAP, al cual me pidieron que invite a dos guardaparques mas que perticipen junto con los técnicos responsables de capacitación y el equipo de instructores que participaron en la creación de aquellos módulos hace varios años atras. Esperamos obtener un Plan de Capacitación acorde con las necesidades esenciales de los guardaparques bolivianos.

Participaremos en esta semana también, en la elaboración de la Estrategia de Educación Ambiental del Sistema de Areas Protegidas por ultimo trabajaremos con los técnicos y jefes de la Unidad Central la preparación de los actos y festejos del dia Nacional del guardaparques que en Bolivia se celebra el dia 8 de noviembre, que se quiere hacer un acto central a nivel nacional.

Todas estas actividades en la que estaremos participando esta dentro del marco del convenio entre la Asociación Boliviana de Agentes de Conservación( ABOLAC) que aglutina a los guardaparques de Bolivia y el Servicio Nacional de Areas Protegidas( SERNAP) donde se acordó total participación de los guardaparques en todos los procesos de planificación y gestión que se den en el Sistema de AP's.

Felizmente se estan logrando poco a poco dentro de las posibilidades que los guardaparques participemos de manera activa en la planificación, seguimiento y evaluación del manejo de nuestros Parques en Bolivia, que es lo que los guardaparques bolivianos hemos ansiado por muchos años.

Les contaré en pocos dias como esta yendo nuestra semana de trabajo en esos niveles.

saludos.

Carola

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear friends:

I have spent the last month in the field and have not been in contact with anyone. I would like to bring you up to date on what's happening with Bolivian park rangers.

This week I will be in La Paz (Bolivia's capital) in the central offices of SERNAP, the National Service of Protected Areas due to an invitation from SERNAP to take part in a review of the training plan for park rangers. They have asked that I invite two other rangers to take part in this meeting that will include the training staff and the instructors who have prepared the training modules that have been used for the last 20 years. We hope that this will result in a training plan that really meets the needs of today's Bolivian rangers.

We will also participate during this same week in the preparation of an Environmental Education strategic plan for our protected areas. We will also be working with central office people to prepare for the annual "Park Ranger Day" which we will celebrate November 8 all over the country.

All these activities in which we are participating are within the scope of the agreement between the Bolivian Ranger Association (known by its Spanish initials ABOLAC) and SERNAP. This agreement allows park rangers to participate in the planning and decision-making processes at the institutional level.

Little by little we are moving toward the time when Bolivian rangers will take part in the planning and management of the national parks of Bolivia, something we have wanted for many years.

I will let you know how this week in La Paz goes when I return.

Regards,

Carola

### **Germany**

This issue's update on the German Ranger Association was sent by Heike Flemming, the association's secretary:

In April this year, the German rangers met for the tenth time to exchange experiences and learn from each other.

As always, the main theme was the development and strengthening of the job profile for the ranger profession.

The themes of these ten conferences are listed here (please check [www.bundesverband-naturwacht.de](http://www.bundesverband-naturwacht.de) for more information):

- 1995 – “Full time Nature Wardens in German Protected Areas
- 1996 – “Job Profile: Rangers in Protected Areas”
- 1997 – “Rangers in Protected Areas: A Profession with a Future”
- 1998 – “Sustainable Development: The Role of Rangers”
- 1999 – “Rangers: Coping Well?”
- 2000 – “Rangers in Germany: Between Restrictions and Animation”
- 2001 – “The Image of the Ranger in Germany”
- 2002 – “Interpretation as a Method of Communication”
- 2003 – “Conflicts: Avoid and Solve”
- 2004 – “Rangers in Protected Areas”

We feel that we are engaged in a continual process of analyzing the profession’s situation and providing information for interested colleagues and those who want to become rangers or change to the ranger profession. The fact that we’ve had over 130 participants from all over Germany at every meeting confirms that these meetings are highly useful. Rangers who come share their experiences in a positive and active environment.

IRF provided the incentive for us to form our national ranger association in October 1995, a few months later after the first meeting. It gave us a good sense of self-awareness and importance. Since then, IRF has been our partner and our “hot line” to the worldwide ranger scene. Gordon Miller, Mike Marshall, Andy Collins, and Ronald Mora have visited our meetings and we have sent delegates to the IRF congresses, thereby developing a warm and hearty friendship between the two organizations. We have learned from the word ranger family that the essential and driving force of an association is that it is created and run by the rangers themselves – not by officials. At our 11th meeting next April, we will celebrate the tenth anniversary of the German Ranger Association.

This is our situation now: Several German states have established new protected areas (including two new national parks, Kellerwald and Edertal – for more information, see [www.europarc-deutschland.de](http://www.europarc-deutschland.de)) and with it ranger services. There are opportunities to take part in further training to become a ranger, but afterwards people can’t find jobs. The lack of money in the national purses leads to less money for so-called non-required responsibilities. It will be hard to create new jobs in nature conservation at all over the next few years, and jobs that open up will not be filled. One positive sign is that forest workers in some states are being given the opportunity to qualify and later work in parks and not lose their jobs. A new development is that some people from other professional backgrounds qualify themselves, partly at their own expense, to change their lives and fulfill a dream and do a job which makes sense. And we have to tell them: be aware that you need staying power. Two of them even started up their own business. Let us keep an eye on them and wish them good luck. May we all have staying power!

## **Scotland**

Tony Wilson, chairman of the Scottish Countryside Ranger Association, has provided this update on his organization:

You should all be aware by now that the next IRF congress will be held from June 14 – June 21, 2006 at Stirling University here in Scotland. At the moment, we are working with the IRFC and our sister associations in England, Wales and Ireland to put together the draft program and early booking information. This will be sent out sometime soon, and a congress website will also be on-line shortly.

Along with the week-long congress, there will be opportunities for delegates to enjoy pre- and post-congress tours and work shadowing. These will be available in both Scotland and the other countries of the British Isles.

As if this is not enough work, we are also in the final stages of implementing our new access legislation. Effective early next year, everyone in Scotland will have a right of responsible access to most of the countryside. Certain areas will be excluded from these rights, but there is obviously the chance of increased conflict between landowners and walkers. Rangers have been identified as among the officials who will be responsible for mediating in such disputes. We are also working to identify core path networks all over Scotland to allow easy access for everyone to use.

SCRA is working with government agencies to help promote these changes and educate the public about their implications. We are also corresponding members of the National Access Forum, the body set up to make decisions about the new legislation.

The two new national parks in Scotland are still in the process of ironing out their final organizational structures. SCRA is currently investigating how we can help them achieve this through networking and training opportunities.

This month, SCRA celebrates its 30th anniversary, as the organization was formed on November 27, 1974. We plan to have a small birthday celebration at the end of the month and will produce an anniversary copy of our magazine, *SCRAmble*.

We aim to develop SCRA over the next few years by employing a new development officer to help raise our profile, coordinate our efforts and raise money for projects. We are currently investigating funding for this post and hope to set it up next year. This follows on from our appointment of an administrative assistant, which has been a great success and improved our efficiency enormously. Finally, our next annual conference and AGM will be held near Fort William in April 2005. If you want to come, please contact me for details at [nefrs@craigtoun.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:nefrs@craigtoun.freeseve.co.uk)

## **South Africa**

Tim Snow, IRF's Africa representative and chairman of the Game Rangers Association of Africa, has sent news on his association:

We started this year by holding our first ever Annual General Meeting at a venue outside South Africa, with a field (camping) trip to Moremi Game Reserve, based at Xakanaxa. Part of the fun was having lions, hyenas and hippos around the camp at night – and a morning wake-up call by yours truly on the bagpipes. It really was a memorable trip. We held the AGM in Maun and pleased the local people with a hot air balloon, which was sponsored by Orange telecommunications to announce the event. The most significant event at the AGM was the ceremonial handover of the GRAA flag to Botswana GRA chairman, Bathusi Lethlare. Botswana is our latest national association in Africa.

We started the *Nkululeko* project this year to train field rangers. The project is managed by past chairman, Arrie Schreiber, and is funded by the Liberty Foundation in the Netherlands. During 2004, we trained 104 field rangers on four courses of one month each, but in future this will be limited to 20 field rangers over five courses. We have acquired tents, beds and a variety of camping and catering equipment, with the intention to build a tented training facility, but we haven't yet achieved this. Our base for this year was a holiday estate near Phalaborwa, adjacent to the Kruger National Park in the Limpopo province. We had hoped that this would become a permanent base for the GRAA but regrettably this is not going to happen. We are presently negotiating for another venue and we remain positive. Our ideal is to have a fixed base for the camp for the five year project duration.

That may sound as if we have been rather quiet. On the contrary, our committee is very active.

We remain concerned about our colleagues in the parts of Africa where there is conflict. The last message from Jouchim Kouame, chair of the Cote de'Ivoire Rangers Association's, advised that he was being transferred to their military headquarters. Our thoughts are with members there. Another conflict zone is around Virunga National Park. Jobogo Mirindi continues at his post, but I have sadly to report deaths and injuries of colleagues there. It is neither an easy nor a safe place to work, and I wish our friends there *Bon chance!* In South Africa, a wilderness trails ranger, Fortune Mkhize, was trampled by an elephant at Mfolozi Game Reserve as he made a brave attempt to get the tourists in his care to safety. He did not even have time to raise his rifle.

As I write this I am preparing to travel to the IUCN Congress at Bangkok, Thailand, where I will once again lobby with the decision makers for greater protection of rangers in the field. Every ranger who dies is one too many, and I intend to pursue the issue of "Protecting the Protectors" until I have no voice and no strength left in my body. I will not stop speaking until our voice is heard! International Ranger Federation President David Zeller will be there, as will Sean Prendergast (UK) and Cassie Wright (Australia). If the WPC 2003 in Durban is anything to judge by, I hope we will again have fellow rangers aligning themselves with us from all over the world.

The ex-Minister for Environmental Affairs and Tourism from South Africa, Mr. M. Valli Moosa, stands as IUCN presidential nominee. He has pledged support for rangers in the field, and for greater recognition. If he is elected, I hope he remains true to his word.

## **United States**

Tony Sisto, coordinator of international affairs for the Association of National Park Rangers, sends this update on his organization:

This year, ANPR made available to each US park site complementary copies of a special edition of *The Thin Green Line* that was published for IRF to use at the IUCN World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa, last September. This issue – published with the support of IRF, ANPR, and others – documents the variety of ranger jobs in countries throughout the world, the range of challenges facing the stewards of those protected areas, and the work of IRF.

ANPR was pleased to be part of the IRF delegation to this fifth World Park Congress, joining IRF representatives from 40 countries in the two-week session. ANPR also sent each US park site a complimentary copy of the *National Park and Protected Areas International Bulletin*, edited and published quarterly by Stewart Bonney from England.

ANPR thanks Stewart for his work as editor and publisher of the special Africa edition of *The Thin Green Line*, and for providing copies of the *Bulletin* for distribution. More information about the *Bulletin* can be found at <http://www.nationalparkinternationalbulletin.com/>.

## **NEWS ABOUT RANGERS**

### **Ranger Relief Program**

Einar Olsen from the Association of National Park Rangers in the U.S. has prepared this update on the ranger relief program:

Following the IRF Congress in 2000 in Kruger National Park, South Africa, a number of congress attendees from the U.S. Association of National Park Rangers, the International Fund for Animal Welfare and Game Warden TV and International Game Warden magazine discussed the concept of shipping surplus uniforms and equipment to rangers/wardens in countries in need. The result was the Ranger Relief project, a loose knit effort of ANPR members, North American game wardens/officers and agents (North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association, Federal Wildlife Officers Association), and Clare Libbing and Laura Spradley with GameWarden TV. The effort was promoted in the game warden magazine and at wildlife officer conferences.

Ranger Relief continues to operate in a loose knit fashion and "comes to life" when there is a request for equipment or uniforms from ranger/warden organizations or cooperating non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Clare Libbing is serving as coordinator. The NGOs often play the critical role of arranging shipping and customs support for the materials to be sent overseas. Some equipment is stored in Indiana, USA, but for the most part only a "virtual inventory" is kept. Materials are only gathered when there is a request due to the costs of storage. For the most part, only clothing and bullet proof vests are available at this time. However, some items may be located on a demand basis.

Summary of several key efforts to date:

Nation:	Cote d'Ivoire (Ministre del"Environment et du Cadre de Vie, Department of Nature Conservation)
Local Contact:	Joachim Kouassi Kouame, Ivorian Park Rangers Association; Helen Chin, International Fund for Animal Welfare
Donor:	U.S. Association of National Park Rangers, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). IFAW also handled shipping and customs.
Donations:	Clothing and equipment totalling 793 kg and value of USD\$53,000.
Nation:	Thailand (Khao Yai NP rangers)
Local Contact:	Jacob Winiecki, Wildaid
Donor:	Federal Wildlife Officers Association, Wildaid Inc. (also handled shipping and customs with a third party shipping company providing deep discounts)
Donations:	33 boxes of boots and rain gear
Nation:	Cambodia (Botum Sakor NP)
Local Contact:	Jacob Winiecki, Wildaid
Donor:	North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association, US Association of National Park Rangers, Wildaid (shipping/customs)
Donations:	12 boxes of clothing and equipment approximately 375 kg.

Park ranger associations seeking uniform and equipment assistance from Ranger Relief should contact Einar Olsen, ANPR, at [einar\\_olsen@nps.gov](mailto:einar_olsen@nps.gov).

### **Galapagos Park Rangers End Strike**

Augusto Atturo from Italy's Associazione Ligure Agenti di Vigilanza Ambientale has sent us this news article:

Galapagos park rangers this week ended a strike that had blocked tourist sites in the exotic islands for more than two weeks after the Ecuadorean government accepted their demands for a change in park leadership.

"The strike is over," protest leader Xavier Castro told Reuters.

Some 300 rangers went on strike on Sept. 10 to demand that President Lucio Gutierrez backtrack on his decision to remove Galapagos Park Director Edwin Naula and replace him with biologist Fausto Cepeda in a move they called political.

Cepeda called for expanding tourism in the islands and had worked with fishermen unions that have clashed with conservationists over how to manage the archipelago that inspired British naturalist Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection.

Demonstrators said Gutierrez was using the park director's seat to appeal to political independents in Congress to shore up his own political party, which has just five of the legislature's 100 seats.

Castro said that Environment Minister Fabian Valdivieso had temporarily replaced Cepeda with a Galapagos park technician, Victor Carrion, and would select a new director after consulting with conservation organizations. A source from the Environment Ministry confirmed the change.

Rangers had shut down key tourist sites like tortoise breeding centers and clashed with authorities at park headquarters over Cepeda's appointment.

Ecuador is facing growing pressure from international conservation organizations to step up controls in the world-famous islands 625 miles west of the mainland that are home to sea lions and exotic birds.

### **Youth Ranger Program in the Peak District National Park**

Sally Kempson from Peak District NP has written this about the park's youth ranger program, forwarded by Roger Cole:

Children from eleven participating schools within the Peak District National Park (known as 'Peak 11') have been given the opportunity to learn more about the role and work of park rangers. Called "The Youth Ranger Program", the project aims to enthuse and inspire young people from the age of 13-15 yrs about the protected area in which they live. This is done by the children being given practical educational based skills in conservation and natural heritage and by working closely with the park rangers..

The children attend a week-long residential course and also weekly day-release from their schools. They are given the opportunity to obtain skills such as navigation and route planning, interpretation of the landscape together with practical conservation and traditional woodland skills. Ecological surveying, survival skills and tourism as well as management of the protected area are also included.

Skills that the children learn will be accredited to their education through Open College Network and the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

It is envisaged that children will act as mentors to the new recruitment of additional youth rangers and will be advocates for the National Park within their schools and local community. It is hoped that links will be made through a youth rangers forum and website.

In 2004 the Peak District National Park was awarded £25,000 (approx. US \$40,000) for this Youth Ranger project by the UK National Heritage Lottery Fund. This program in the UK follows-on from a EUROPARC Junior Ranger initiative in a number of European countries in 2002/03 with IRF as an active co-operating partner.

Similar projects have also been started elsewhere in the UK in 2004 in the North York Moors National Park and the Broads Authority. It is hoped these pilot programs will lead to further such initiatives in the UK, helping the younger generation to develop a greater understanding in the management of our protected areas and the work of Park Rangers.