



THE THIN GREEN LINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION

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OFFICERS REPORTS

President's Report

Dear Friends and Colleagues

It seems like only yesterday, but already three months have passed since the Fifth IRF World Congress, held in Scotland last June. Those who were fortunate enough to have attended will agree that the congress was a resounding success. My special thanks to Tony Wilson, Alison Wilson and the congress organising committee, and to Declan Keiley of the IRF Trust for their sustained commitment and hard work over three and a half years. The 'Purple Shirt' volunteers worked unstintingly through the congress, making sure everything ran smoothly and no delegate wanting for anything and I thank them also. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our hosts for the event – the Scottish Countryside Ranger Association (SCRA) and England's Countryside Management Association (CMA), in conjunction with the City of Stirling Council, Scottish National Heritage, Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park and others who supported the event.

The Congress concluded with a membership meeting. Officer reports were presented, as were the initial drafts of the strategic plan and financial protocols for the IRF. Amendments to the statutes and standing rules were adopted, the most important of which were the creation of a seventh region (done by separating the Australasian region into two separate regions) and the inclusion of past presidents of IRF as *ex officio* members of the executive committee. It is a great honour and a privilege to have been re-elected to serve as president of your federation for another term of office, and I look forward to a productive few years with the new and enthusiastic executive team, serving you, the ranger.

New International Executive Committee

The new international executive committee (IEC) members for the 2006-2009 term of office are:

International Officers

President	David Zeller (South Africa)
Vice-President	Deanne Adams (USA)
Secretary	Elaine Thomas (Australia)
Treasurer	Sean Prendergast (UK)

Regional Representatives

Africa	Wayne Lotter (South Africa)
Asia	Bum-Hwan Shin (Korea)
Australia/New Zealand/Oceania	Paul Lawless-Pyne (Australia)
Central America/Caribbean	Mauricio Arias Zumbado (Costa Rica)
Europe	Rigmor Solem (Norway)
North America	Meg Weesner (USA)
South America	Daniel Paz Barreto (Argentina)

Ex-Officio Members

Past President	Gordon Miller (UK)
Past President	Rick Smith (USA)

Cassie Wright and Bill Halainen thankfully continue in their appointed positions of youth representative and editor respectively. At its first meeting, the IEC appointed Declan Keiley as executive director of IRF. We welcome Declan to this important role and look forward to the future establishment of a working secretariat for the IRF.

My thanks go to those IEC members who have served the IRF so well and who have now stepped down to make way for new blood: Barbara Mertin, Chris Artiemiew, Colin Dilcock, Francisco Correia, Juan Carlos Gambarotta, Marcelo Ochoa, Ronald Mora and Tim Snow. A very big thank you to you for all your hard work, but in particular a special word of gratitude must go to Juan Carlos who served on the IEC for nine years, including two terms as vice president. His dedication and enthusiasm is always a great inspiration.

New Member Associations

During the world congress, we were pleased to welcome three new members to the Federation – ranger associations in Hungary and Korea, and the Asociación de Cabildos Tandachiridu Inganokuna of Brazil, our second indigenous community ranger association. There are now 58 members of IRF.

Youth Award

The first recipient of the joint IRF/WCPA Young Conservationist Award was announced during the congress. There were 49 nominations for the 2006 award, which was eventually reduced to seven. Choosing the winner among these seven was a very difficult task, as all nominees are doing excellent work and are worthy of recognition and reward. After much deliberation, Christian Terán was chosen as the award's first recipient. Christian works in the Gran Reserva Chachi, a community conservation area in Ecuador's Choco Forest. He received \$1,000 and an invitation to join the WCPA, as well as a sponsorship from Parks Victoria to attend the II Congreso Latinoamericano de Parques Nacionales y Otras Areas Protegidas to be held in September 2007 in Bariloche, Argentina. Congratulations to Christian, and we hope to see even more nominations in 2007. A special word of thanks also to Parks Victoria for sponsoring the award prize.

Ranger Deaths

At the congress, I reported that 57 rangers had lost their lives in the line of duty since the previous congress in 2003. In the two months that passed after the 2006 congress, we have learned of the deaths of another four rangers – two murdered in Tikal National Park in Guatemala, one killed in an ambush in Tanzania, and one killed by poachers in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In all three of these instances, other rangers and park staff were also injured/wounded. In Khao Yai National Park in Thailand, a ranger was shot in the leg when he walked into a pipe gun snare set for wild boar. Deaths and injuries to rangers are far too commonplace and the IRF will continue to work towards 'protecting the protector'.

Ranger Plaque

As happened in Australia during the 4th IRF Congress in 2003, a memorial plaque in memory of those Rangers who have fallen in the line of duty is to be erected in the natural woods surrounding the National Wallace Memorial in Stirling, Scotland. Thanks to Ann McKillop, and to the City of Stirling Council for permission to erect this memorial. The memorial plaque reads;

DEDICATION AND SACRIFICE

Protected areas are the legacy of people who have worked passionately to ensure that special places like this one are here for you to enjoy today, and your children's children tomorrow.

In June 2006, as part of the International Ranger Federation 5th World Congress held at Stirling, this quiet place was dedicated to those rangers and other professionals who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

The International Ranger Federation: *Rangers from around the world are committed to promoting the recognition of the contribution that natural and cultural resources can make to a healthy society. The Federation had its beginnings in 1991 at Loch Lomond and regularly brings rangers together in different parts of the world to enhance their professional standards, learn from each other, share knowledge and experience and to promote quality environmental and cultural resource management.*

Lebanon Conflict

The recent war in Lebanon must be condemned in the strongest possible terms. In addition to the human tragedy, which resulted out of this conflict, the natural and cultural landscapes of the region, including numerous World Heritage sites, received scant political or military consideration with regards to their intrinsic value and international importance.

The Al Shouf Cedar Reserve in Lebanon was bombed and damaged on numerous occasions, while rockets caused extensive fires, which burned thousands of acres of Mediterranean maqui and forest in northern Israel. Oil pollution from destroyed fuel reservoirs coated the ancient site of Byblos as well as two protected breeding sites of endangered green turtle. Many animals were killed, and endemic, endangered and critically endangered species of fauna and flora were negatively affected. Cultural sites under threat included the sites of Baalbek and Tyre in Lebanon, and Megiddo, Hazor and Acre in Israel.

Rangers and officials faced very real danger, not only from the weapons of the aggressors but also in protecting their areas and fighting fires, pollution and destruction.

The IRF has long advocated that natural and cultural resources be inviolate even in times of conflict and that mechanisms must be developed for international intervention to ensure their protection. The Convention on Biological Diversity must adopt language similar to that of The Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and of Article 6.3 of the World Heritage Convention, and these conventions must be strengthened to be able to enforce these agreements.

The UN Security Council must take environmental considerations into account in its deliberations and any peacekeeping force must have independent environmental/cultural advisors and monitors. We agree with Joseph T. Edmiston that a "Convention on the Ecological Conduct of Warfare" may address both the means and the consequences of war conduct.

Sixth International Ranger Federation World Congress

After other nominations were withdrawn, Bolivia came through as the host for the next IRF World Congress. Ana Carola Vaca Salazar gave a very informative presentation on her country, her park and the facilities available for the next congress, which gave us a taste of what we can expect in Bolivia. It certainly whet my appetite and I look forward to seeing you all again in Bolivia in 2009. Thanks also to the members and individuals who have offered their support to Bolivia in organising the congress.

Congratulations

The International Ranger Federation joins the international conservation community in congratulating Ahmed Djoghlaif as the new executive secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Achim Steiner as the new executive director of UNEP, and Julia Marton-Lefèvre as the newly appointed director general of the World Conservation Union. The IRF looks forward to working closely with you all.

Warm regards,

David Zeller, President
South Africa

PS: Never give up. Rangers around the world often face almost insurmountable barriers. One of the many talents of rangers is perseverance and it is this trait, which carries us through when there is no other relief in sight. The more things change the more they stay the same. To quote Sir Winston Churchill: "If you are going through hell, keep on going".

Vice President's Report

Greetings, hola, ciao, aloha! I am honored to be elected as your vice president for the next three years and look forward to making contact with each member association over that time, at least by email. My warm thanks go to Juan Carlos Gambarotta who served as vice president under three presidents and has been the heart of IRF in many ways. His passionate voice could be heard clearly, even over email and certainly in the World Congress settings. It is an honor and a challenge to follow such a charismatic and passionate leader. I will not fill his shoes, but I hope to set a good trail alongside his pioneer trail.

I am pleased that we had 40 member associations represented at the World Congress in Scotland and wish I had been able to meet each of you then. I am happy to report that the voice problems I was having during the Congress have mostly disappeared and I'm able to talk again. It was disappointing to be at the congress and not be able to communicate verbally, but email will now be our best communication tool. But we must help each other to use that tool more effectively, more on that in the next paragraph. Thank you all for your support of the congress, and for your active participation in the discussions and in the elections at the congress. Let us not lose the energy and excitement of that gathering and continue to build this community of rangers, guardians, wardens, and park protectors of all types.

As I start these three years of work for IRF, I have three primary goals:

- 1) Strengthen the communication within your governing body, the International Executive Committee (IEC), and between the IEC and the membership;
- 2) Establish long term strategic goals and three year work plans for IRF; and
- 3) Actively support the planning and development work of the 6th World Congress in Bolivia.

Communications

These goals are shared by members of the IEC and will not be accomplished without the active participation of member associations. Perhaps the most critical need before IRF now centers on communication and is one that can be easily addressed by a small amount of work from each of you. There are two reporting obligations for each member association – an annual report and a quarterly article in **The Thin Green Line**. You may notice that in this issue of **The Thin Green Line** that there are few articles from member associations. Before the Fifth World Congress, we sent several email messages asking for annual reports from member associations. Of the more than 40 member associations, fewer than 10 sent in reports. You can change that.

Why is it important that we get your articles and reports? So we can:

- tell interested sponsors and supporters how many rangers belong to our member associations (right now only 25% of our associations have told us about their memberships);
- tell others when member associations are having meetings so a sponsoring organization has the opportunity to provide financial assistance to rangers wanting to attend conferences in their country; and

- tell them what are the most critical issues rangers face in any one country and then help interested organizations match country needs to their interests to work jointly in addressing ranger concerns

Are those reasons important enough to take time to complete an annual report for IRF? Are they important enough to send a short article on activities to **The Thin Green Line** at least once a year? The value of IRF lies with the member associations. We cannot serve the rangers of the world if we do not hear from those who are elected to those member associations.

Strategic Planning

At the Fourth World Congress in Australia, a group of delegates developed a format for a strategic plan for IRF, including a draft vision and mission statement and strategic goals. Before the start of the Fifth World Congress, Dave Zeller asked Marcelo Segalerba, a young ranger from Uruguay, working in Brazil, to take that work and begin a planning process for IRF that will lead to our first strategic plan. Marcelo has experience and training in strategic planning and is eager to develop a process for IRF. That process had its first steps at Stirling. President Zeller asked me, as the new vice president, to take the lead as the IEC representative on the work group. We asked for volunteers and seven delegates stepped up: Arne Bondo Anderson (Denmark), Emil Burdusel (Romania), Cliff Chetwin (USA), Wayne Lotter (South Africa), Elaine Thomas (Australia), John Townsend (USA), and Amy Vanderbilt (USA). Now we must develop a process that will include getting feedback from member associations, yet move us forward quickly so we can establish our strategic goals and get to work.

Sixth World Congress

As organizers begin their planning and work on the congress, the IEC must be ready to give them support, feedback, and ideas. I look forward to working with Ana Carola Vaca Salazar and the Bolivian rangers; helping to ensure the IEC fully participates in the process and the work.

With good wishes,

Deanne Adams
Vice President
United States

Treasurer's Report

I am now serving as treasurer of IRF, effectively since June 21, but in truth am still in transition and working closely with Colin Dilcock, the previous holder of the position. Thankfully, Colin and I know each other well and it will be a pretty seamless process.

Given that I will be effectively holding the purse (empty or full), it might be useful to give everyone a bit of background about myself. I am currently employed by the Peak District National Park Authority, where my official role is head of access and recreation. This service includes the rangers, countryside maintenance, access and rights-of-way (an English phenomenon), area management, and major project teams (Moors for the Future). I manage 54 full-time and 250 part-time staff with an annual budget of around £3 million sterling.

I still, however, use the title of chief ranger, mostly when dealing with the press and television. The reasons for this are two fold. First, it is a very easy concept to get across. People may not know exactly what I do, but the title ranger is synonymous with the term national park. Second, it uses the term ranger at the highest level, cementing the idea of ranger as a professional, which is a concept very close to my heart.

During the mid 1990's, I worked as part of a Losehill Hall team on ranger development in Central Europe – mostly, but not exclusively, in the newly-emergent Slovakia, a place which I still hold very dear. I have also done similar, though smaller scale, work in Panama and Ecuador. Closer to home, I was involved in a number of United Kingdom initiatives aiming to raise the professional recognition of rangers, including qualifications and accreditation.

What I would most like to achieve during my period of office (apart from a clear set of books!), is to see the IRF secure the necessary funding to enable it to take its rightful place at the international conservation and protected area table. We are pushing at an open door, but we must be able to afford to go through it. There are funding streams and mechanisms out there, but we have to secure them in a professional and businesslike way.

Our experiences in Durban and elsewhere have shown that we can use these forums to get the issues that affect us and our members on the ground firmly on the agenda. Security, equipment and proper training for rangers are now a part of the terminology of what the academics call 'capacity building'. We now need to keep the pressure on to ensure that governments also recognize this when allocating resources to the protected areas of the world. By simply 'being in' at these discussions, we can ensure that those who sit in plush regional and national offices don't conveniently forget the needs, wants and aspirations of the ranger – the environmental professional on the ground.

Sean Prendergast
United Kingdom

Editor's Report

My apologies for the long delay since the last issue. It took some time to get all the reports following the world congress in Scotland. **The Thin Green Line** is now back on a quarterly schedule. Next year's editions will come out on or about January 1, 2007, April 1, 2007, July 1, 2007, and October 1, 2007.

Bill Halainen
United States

Youth Development Officer's Report

As mentioned in my **Thin Green Line** article in January 2005, I have been working as the IRF youth development officer since late 2003, following the World Parks Congress held in Durban, South Africa.

This work has included being part of an IRF delegation to the World Conservation Congress in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2004. At this congress I began working with one of the IUCN commissions, the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), to help them include more young professionals in their work. At this meeting, we agreed to:

- Continue to work on developing youth involvement in the WCPA
- Provide two scholarships per year (one English, one Spanish) for young conservationists to attend CIPAM protected area-training courses in the U.S.
- Develop an IRF/WCPA Young Conservationist Award

Along with Kristy Facer, an IUCN intern, I continued to work with the WCPA after this congress. I attended a WCPA steering committee meeting and spoke to the group about specific ways to engage young professionals. We received agreement for the WCPA to aim for a membership target of 10% young professionals (currently only 4% of members are under 35 years of age) and to set up a working group on young professional involvement. We have since developed some terms of reference for this group, have gained more members, and are now getting on with business.

Other work with the WCPA has included assisting the WCPA vice chair for Australia/New Zealand, Penny Figgis, in organizing a 'Youth Forum'. This was a one-day event held in May 2006, in Melbourne, Australia, as part of the 'Parks Forum' conference. I was one of 30 young professionals from Australia and New Zealand, including several rangers, who attended and spoke on current issues in protected area management. We then wrote a set of 'propositions', which were presented to the 'Parks Forum' conference attendees (the heads of park agencies) by a young ranger from Tasmania and myself. A network has been formed of the attendees, which may be the starting point of a 'youth' network in our region.

Another initiative developed is an exciting scholarship opportunity to encourage the development of two young conservation professionals per year in the protected areas field. The scholarships are an initiative of

IUCN/WCPA and CIPAM, the Consortium of International Protected Areas Management (see www.protectedareas.net for more information). In 2005 and 2006 two scholarships were offered, one to attend a short course on 'Management of Wildlands and Protected Areas', which is offered in Spanish, in Colorado, USA. The second scholarship was to attend the 'International Seminar on Protected Area Management', a seminar in English in the northern Rocky Mountains, Montana, USA. The scholarships included travel, accommodation and tuition fees, and will hopefully be offered again this year.

I also worked with David Zeller (IRF president), Marius Fuls (youth link for the Game Rangers Association of Africa), and some IUCN staff to develop the IRF/WCPA Young Conservationist Award. This award will be offered annually, and aims to recognize and raise awareness of the outstanding contributions made to the management of protected areas, and leadership shown, by young conservationists. It also seeks to encourage young professionals and help them develop networks by inviting winners to join WCPA. Thanks to momentum created by David Zeller, this award was offered for the first time in May, 2006, and we announced Christian Teran, a young conservationist from Ecuador as the winner at the IRF congress in Scotland. See http://www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2006/07/24_wcpa_award.htm for more information.

Another exciting event at the congress in Scotland was our young professional ranger workshop. With help from Marius Fuls, I facilitated a workshop at which 30 young (plus a couple of older) rangers got together to see how the IRF can develop opportunities for young rangers around the world. We see three main areas in which we can take action:

- looking at ways to improve career development for young rangers
- raising the profile of young rangers and involving young rangers in decision making processes
- improving opportunities for young rangers to network and connect with one another

I am very pleased to announce that over half of the rangers at workshop agreed to keep working with us to turn these ideas into reality. So you'll no doubt be hearing more from us in the future.

In the meantime, if you would like to join us and get involved, let me know at cassiewright@alphalink.com.au. We'd love to hear from you!

Cassie Wright
Australia

European Regional Representative Report

There were representatives from 17 European countries at the IRF Congress in Scotland last June, and we had two very good regional meetings during the congress. As the new regional representative for Europe, it was a pleasure for me to sit together with so many colleagues from our continent and experience the common atmosphere.

We decided at our first meeting to arrange a European training seminar next year in September. At our second meeting, we started to discuss details in connection with this seminar. A planning group consisting of rangers from ten countries met together on the last afternoon and drafted a plan for the seminar. Members of the planning group are: Emilian Burdusel (Romania), Christian Mititelu Raileanu (Romania), Florian Halastuan (Romania), Michal Skalka (Czech Republic), Marjeta Albinini (Slovenia), Aarno Tervonen (Finland), Guido Baldi (Italy), Adam Januszewicz (Poland), Steve Peach (England), Tessa Jones (Scotland), Arne Bondo Andersen (Denmark) and Rigmor Solem (Norway).

The session will take place in Romania over a three-day period, some time between September 15 and September 30. The emphasis will be on practical lessons and take place in an outdoor setting, not indoors listening to talks. The session will focus on training and on IRF regional business.

Topics suggested for the training seminar include:

- Tourism, visitor pressure, and recreation
- Large carnivores – a wolves project, including interpretation
- Visitor centers (one in Romania will be finished)
- Interpretation
- Successful projects
- Communities, including conflict with regulations on private lands, and the role of the ranger

There may be funding sources specific to particular topics, so organizers will investigate topics with the objective of matching them to available funding. Other sources of funding will be examined as well:

- Funding from the European community (Romania is entering the EU)
- Commercial sponsorships, such as from travel organizations
- Funding from Global Environmental Facility (GEF)
- Funding from Fauna and Flora International (FFI)
- Funding from UNDP and UNEP, including the Carpathians (WWF is involved, also the Carpathian Convention and Alps Convention)
- Funding from IUCN

We will try to have at least two rangers from each of the 20 IRF countries in Europe, and will also invite representatives from countries that are not IRF members.

In the beginning of October, I will visit our colleagues in Romania and we will start on the detailed planning of the training seminar.

I invite you all to contact me with issues from your association that will be important to throw light on during this training seminar. You can reach me at this address:

Statens naturoppsyn Jotunheimen
N- 2975 Vang I Valdres
Norway.

Or you can email me at rigmor.solem@dirnat.no or call me at either + 47 61 36 71 71 or + 47 959 65 158

Rigmor Solem, Norway

Africa Regional Representative Report

I would like to begin by thanking my predecessor who represented Africa on the IEC, and the current chairman of the Game Rangers Association of Africa (GRAA) for his outstanding service to the IRF and in particular to game rangers across Africa. Tim Snow, we salute you and wish you a pleasant period of respite from duty on this front!

The committee of the GRAA has held one meeting and our annual Golf Day (fundraising event) at the Hans Merensky Golf Course adjoining the Kruger National Park since the congress in Scotland. Other GRAA business conducted has included a visit by a small delegation to the deputy director general of South Africa's Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Mr. Fundisile Mketeni, who holds the portfolio for biodiversity and conservation, to discuss various issues pertaining to wildlife management and the management effectiveness of South Africa's protected areas.

On August 29, Tim Snow, chairman of the Game Rangers Association of Africa, received this from colleague Keith Roberts, the anti-poaching manager for the Friedkin Conservation Fund in Tanzania:

On Friday (August 25), one of my anti poaching teams on patrol in the Moyowosi Game Reserve (far western Tanzania) was attacked. They were on patrol with a government game scout close to the Malagarasi River when their Land Cruiser was ambushed. Game scout Mtemi, field ranger Eluid Rutozi and driver-ranger Mohamed Mruma were all wounded by automatic gunfire. Fortunately, they were close to a hospital, about three hours away, where they were stabilized. Medical care was limited there, so we organized them to be evacuated

by plane to Mwanza to a larger hospital. Sadly, game scout Mtemi passed away on Sunday afternoon. A sad loss to all, and his dedication and enthusiasm will be missed.

Field ranger Rutozi was fortunate to receive flesh wounds and has been discharged from the hospital and is currently at home with his family. Driver-ranger Mruma, a long-term employee of the Friedkin Conservation Fund, however, is in a critical condition and yesterday we had to get the flying medical plane to airlift him to another, better-equipped hospital close to here and his family. He was shot twice in the stomach and twice in the upper legs. He has been stabilized but still remains critical and still requires further surgery once he has regained some strength.

A follow up operation is under way by the police, the wildlife division and ourselves. The poachers who attacked the vehicle are known elephant poachers. All the game reserves in Western Tanzania are experiencing elephant poaching. This is largely due to the fact that there is a number of refugee camps strung along the western border. They house displaced Burundians but have also become bases for criminals and poachers alike.

As I have said, elephant poaching is on the increase and far worse than is being admitted to. Hopefully, this sad incident will generate the needed support and action from the powers that be! Only the game scout was armed in the team. My rangers are not allowed to carry firearms, something we have desperately been trying to change. Maybe now we will make some headway.

I was actually with Jobogo, our colleague from the DRC when the news came through of the passing of game scout Mtemi. Having had similar experiences, he was very supportive to all concerned.

To add a more positive note, I have just returned from the Lake Nyamagoma area in western Tanzania, where we ran a large operation with our plane and we managed to arrest 39 poachers over six days. This is far fewer than in the past, so the patrols are paying off. I will keep you informed of ranger Mruma's condition.

A few days later, after giving me permission to print his letter, Keith's next email told of another incident:

In Ugalla Game Reserve this time. Responding to fresh poachers tracks the five man FCF team and three government game scouts decided to lay a night ambush on a well-worn poaching path. Whilst moving into position, they smelt "Nyama Chomo," the local name for 'braaing' meat ['braai' is Afrikaans for 'roasted meat']. They literally followed their noses until they saw a poacher's camp in the trees ahead. Three poachers were observed in the firelight two having weapons in hand. In the ensuing engagement, two poachers were arrested and one escaped. The poachers exhibited extreme aggression and pulled knives and stabbed the one game scout just below the ribs and lacerated the one ranger across the hand as he fought the poacher to the ground. Both the knife wielders were arrested.

A side-by-side shotgun and an automatic rifle were recovered. Considering both had rounds in the chambers, the team did remarkably well to make the arrests without any shots going off. The wounded were driven five hours to the nearest hospital in Tabora. Both are fine and in good spirits. On closer investigation at the scene of the crime, a poached elephant was located and the ivory recovered. This area has suffered heavily from elephant poaching recently and these are the first elephant poachers arrested. This has boosted moral after the incident involving one of our other teams where a game scout was killed and two rangers wounded by elephant poachers. It proves we can hit back and will also add weight to our case with the government that even though we are an NGO we need to be armed.

The following media release by Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife in South Africa describes a poaching incident in the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, which also took place during late August:

Working in close cooperation with members of the SAPS Organized Crime Unit, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW) staff in the Imfolozi section of the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park (HIP) arrested two men following the shooting of two white rhinos in the Park on 23 August 2006. The two men

were apparently linked to a bigger poaching network and due to the extreme sensitivity of the on-going SAPS investigation at the time; news of this incident could only be released to the media today. Working on information provided by the South African Police Service (SAPS), EKZNW staff monitored the two suspects who, it appears, had put false number plates on their vehicles and had recorded false ID numbers in the park entry register when they entered the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park via the Cengeni Gate on 22 August 2006.

The two men were tracked to the Hilltop Camp, where they booked accommodation and had dinner, being kept under surveillance the entire night. At about 0600 on 23 August 2006, the two men left Hilltop Camp in one vehicle and proceeded along tourist roads into the Imfolozi section. Undercover staff had been strategically placed at key points along their route to monitor their movements and this allowed EKZNW and SAPS staff to plan the final arrest operation. Due to the nature of the HIP tourist road network and the need to keep the suspects from becoming suspicious, there was a three-hour period in which their exact location was not known.

At about 1200, the suspects were seen passing through Mpila Camp in Imfolozi heading towards Hilltop and were closely monitored in case they attempted to leave the Park by the northern Memorial Gate.

As an additional precaution, arrangements were made for helicopter support to allow for additional speed and flexibility in the operation. At Hilltop Camp the suspects quickly collected their second vehicle and departed back towards Imfolozi, their movements being monitored the whole time. The helicopter was called in to transfer three SAPS members from the eastern boundary of the Park to the Cengeni Gate on the western boundary. Ground teams moved in to ensure that the suspects did not elude them and the first suspect drove to the Cengeni Gate where he was arrested. He managed to give a signal to the second suspect who was traveling behind him but with the ground support team closing in he was also quickly arrested.

The following items were seized at the scene:

- 1 Nissan 1400 bakkie
- 1 Toyota Hilux double cab
- 4 rhino horns
- 3 illegal fire arms including ammunition
- Knives and gloves used to remove horns from the poached rhino
- Various documents key to the further investigation
- Cellphones and two-way radios

From initial interviews with the suspects, it transpired that they had shot two white rhino males and quickly removed the horns during the three-hour period when their location was uncertain, and then had returned to Hilltop Camp.

The two suspects are being linked to a wider national syndicate targeting rhino in a number of other locations and one man was at that time out on bail, having been arrested for the possession of rhino horns in May 2006. This highly successful operation has been critical in reducing a massive threat to rhino conservation nationally.

As it was the first time this group had attempted to poach rhino in KZN, it is testimony to the professional planning of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife staff and the well-established security networks they have with the SAPS Organized Crime Unit that the suspects were rapidly arrested with the maximum of incriminating evidence. The investigation is continuing and further arrests are anticipated.

The above incidents represent a few examples of what many of our rangers are up against on a daily basis and for whom we as the IRF need to continually strive to provide as much support for as possible.

Wayne Lotter, South Africa

South America

- Comunicación sobre los resultados de V Congreso Mundial a las siguientes Asociaciones de la Region: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Islas Galápagos, Paraguay, Uruguay y Venezuela.
- Contactos con IUCN - Sur y Comisión Mundial de Areas Protegidas – Sudamérica
- Contacto con Organizadores del II Congreso Latinoamericano de Areas Protegidas
- Difusión del V Congreso mediante el Boletín Areas Protegidas y Guardaparques
- Contacto con personal de áreas protegidas de Perú, sobre la realización de un congreso de guardaparques e inicio de una asociación.
- Auspicio a taller de guardaparques de la provincia del Neuquén, Argentina, para discutir funciones y reglamento del cuerpo de guardaparques.

- Sent information about the results of the 5th Congress to regional members: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, The Galapagos, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela.
- The offices of IUCN South and the World Commission on Protected Areas, South America, were contacted.
- The organizers of the II Latinamerican Congresss on Protected Areas were contacted.
- Published the results of the Fifth World Congress in the *Bulletin of Protected Areas and Park Rangers*. (This bulletin comes out in Spanish about every month. It is very widely read. Daniel is the editor. It is the bulletin of the Argentine Ranger Association).
- Sent a letter of support from the IRF to a ranger meeting in the Province of Neuquen, Argentina, where they were going to discuss the mission of rangers and the rules of their corps of rangers.
- Contacted personnel of the protected areas of Perú, about a national rangers congress and the establishment of a national association in Peru.
- Sent a letter of support to a meeting the Rangers of the Neuquen Province – Argentina, to discuss the missions of rangers and the regulations of the corps.

Daniel Paz, Argentina

OUTGOING OFFICER REPORTS

Past Vice President

It is interesting to see sometimes how different things are from what we thought they would be. When I first became aware of the IRF prior to our first congress in 1995, I felt the federation could become a very important part of my life. And it really became so – first as the individual representative in Uruguay, obligated me to do things to create our national association when there were fewer rangers in the country than fingers on a hand, then as South American representative, and then as vice president for two terms. The IRF filled my life.

Thanks to the efforts of many rangers in all corners of the world, I was able to attend all congresses, and so I was able to sense the main issues for rangers in different continents.

We always say that we do the same job, but being able to visit so many protected areas during and after each congress, I could see that while the overall idea is always the protection of landscapes, and all their natural and related cultural resources, there are some differences – interesting and understandable differences.

In Costa Rica, one of the main issues was to stop illegal entry into protected areas. In South Africa, the word ‘poaching’ came up very frequently, which I did not hear coming from the lips of any Scot while at the congress in Scotland. In Australia, a big issue was co-management with aboriginals.

Many times I complained about the few discussions occurring about the major issues that we all should be discussing, and I often complained about the lack of participation of rangers. Well, you will not read any more complains of mine. Yes, after nine years of service to the IRF, I decided to leave office and open the door to leadership to new people.

I am very happy for that. At the beginning of this note, I said that things sometimes go different than planned, because for many years I thought I always would be keeping a position in the IRF. But, now that I have left, I see that it would not be a good thing. The health of a organization depends on the change of its managers, and it would be very boring to have the same people all the time.

For many years, the government agenda in Uruguay did not include protected areas, and I believe I was very lucky to spend those years thinking and working in the IRF. But now, things begin to change, the government is more interested in conservation, and now I have more time to devote to my park.

While it would be very difficult for me to specify what I achieved during all my time in the federation, believe me that it took time, a lot of time. For many years, I thought about one or other issue of the IRF while paddling, while walking, while riding my horse, etc.

But I will always love the federation and would like to continue supporting the Dependent's Fund. I am trying a different form of support now. At Stirling, I gave two oil paintings to Declan Keiley for him try to sell them in his art gallery in England. I told him that I would donate 60% of the sale price to the fund. Let's see if someone is interested in them.

We are in the process of enlarging my park three-fold, including some ranches. Ranchers have to agree to continue to do cattle ranching in the same manner that they have done in the past, which enabled the natural habitat to be protected fairly well. So my park will change category from wildlife sanctuary to protected landscape.

By the way, it was very important for me to see how protected landscapes work in Scotland (regional parks and national parks in the case of that country).

Fifteen days after Stirling, I went with my family to visit two parks in the State of Mato Grosso, Brazil. We saw hundreds of caimans, anaconda, marsh deer, macaws, monkeys...and a jaguar. The interesting thing is that most parks in Brazil lack rangers. They have biologists and peons, but while I write this note the IBAMA, the Brazilian agency for the environment, is discussing the need to create the ranger career. Brazil is a country the size of USA without Alaska, and they have several parks of more than two million hectares. How many rangers will Brazil have one day?

Marcelo Segalerba generously invited me to assist him and other trainers in the first training course for rangers in the State of Amapa in the Amazon Basin in Brazil. I loved the idea of returning to Amapá, whose tall forests I walked in when I was 20 years old. I love the great Amazon forest, and it is an honour for me to be able to help train rangers to protect the Queen of the Forests of the World.

Well, as Bill Halainen said, this is the proper place to say goodbye. So, goodbye to all of you!

Juan Carlos Gambarotta
Guardaparque
Laguna de Castillos
Uruguay

Past Secretary

It is never too late to take an opportunity – although I am leaving the board, this is my first time writing for **The Thin Green Line**. So what do I have to say?

As the past IRF secretary (2003-2006), I would like to express my very special thank you to those who have supported and voted for me, and in particular to Deanne Adams and Elaine Thomas, whose valuable help was most appreciated. Thank you, my friends!

Secondly, I would like to share a few thoughts with all of you: Everybody has her/his own story about how she/he came into contact with the IRF. We know well why and how the IRF has touched us. Looking back to my own story, which began in 1999, brings back lots of good memories, together with some thoughtful moments. I got to know many ranger colleagues from around the world, some of whom are now my very best friends and real soul mates. I learned that a ranger's work can be very dangerous, especially when dealing

with poachers, brush fires and search and rescue. Until IRF, I was not aware of these many risks, since the park where I am working does not have such issues. I didn't know that so many ranger colleagues died or were killed in the line of duty. Their stories need to be told, so that their braveness, enthusiasm and dedication will never be forgotten!

Without any exaggeration, I would even say that the IRF has changed my little ranger's world here in Austria. Today I understand the role and mission of rangers better than in the past. I was able to volunteer in fantastic national parks, which was made possible by friends like Deanne Adams and Fiona Smith (and many more ranger friends whose names could fill a long list), to whom I owe my deepest gratitude. They helped me in my personal endeavour to gain interesting insights by studying international ranger services. I am very glad to be in regular contact with my ranger friends around the globe and can no longer imagine travelling and spending my holidays without visiting them in their parks.

So what I am trying to express is quite simple: Take one minute for yourself to think about your own story and how the IRF has touched you. After you have done that, think honestly about how often you have shared your good experiences with others (rangers, colleagues, visitors, friends, opinion leaders ...) in your home country or elsewhere. Follow your own mission, while also having the vision from our worldwide IRF family in your mind. Be an active member! Do not ask what the IRF can do for you, but what you can do for the IRF. Be careful, though – you could easily become addicted to the IRF! Trust me, I am a ranger...

Our latest IRF congress renewed many of these good feelings and thoughtful moments and I know there are many more still to come. Stirling was a success story whose origin was back in 1992, when a few rangers gave birth to the idea of IRF. In acknowledgement of their foresight and wisdom by creating our worldwide network I would like to say a big and hearty "thank you" to our well known founders, Gordon Miller, Bill Halainen and Bob Reid, who were all at the famous meeting at Loch Lomond – not to forget Rick Gale, who supported the idea from the states. They deserve our deepest gratitude and respect, since the IRF might not exist today without them or at least wouldn't be the same! We, the younger ones, can learn a lot from them as our mentors if we just listen. Especially on behalf of the younger generation of the IRF, I want them to know my/our appreciation, and that we hold in high esteem what they have done for all of us. Thank YOU for creating OUR IRF!

Finally I want to wish all members of the IEC, and in particular Elaine Thomas, who is following me up as the new secretary, good luck, success and the very best – not only in the interest of the future of the IRF, but also for each of them personally since I know well how difficult it can be to combine work, volunteer service, and your private life all at once.

I hope to see you in Bolivia in 2009! Until then, let's keep changing the world into a better one! All the best to you and take care!

Barbara Merten
Austria

NEWS FROM IRF

IRF Letter Following Tragic Helicopter Crash In Nepal

On Saturday, September 23, a helicopter carrying many members of the international conservation community – representatives from the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), the World Wildlife Federation, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and others – crashed in the mountains of Nepal while returning from a trip to a newly-dedicated conservation site at Ghunsa in eastern Nepal. All 24 people on board, including the helicopter's crew, died in the accident.

Four days later, vice president Deanne Adams sent the following letter to IUCN and WWF on behalf of president Dave Zeller, who was on travel:

The members of the International Ranger Federation – rangers from scores of nations from around the world – join you, your colleagues at IUCN, and, indeed, everyone in the world conservation community in mourning the tragic deaths of so many fine people in the crash of the helicopter in Nepal. The work that WCPA, the World Wildlife Federation and kindred

organizations do on behalf of the world's dwindling wild lands and wildlife has been and continues to be absolutely indispensable.

As rangers, we are altogether too familiar with death in the line of duty. As you know, protected area defenders are all too often the targets of those who would exploit and destroy our common natural heritage. Those who died in the accident were engaged in another form of defense – the creation of a new conservation area and the protection of the wildlife therein. They were as much on the front line as rangers, a reality that amplifies our sorrow at their loss.

Although the number of protected areas around the world continues to grow, the reality is that they still constitute only a little more than a tenth of the planet's surface and that the pressures on them grow daily. The work you and your partners do on the behalf of all the world's citizens grows more vital every day. Please know that we are squarely behind your efforts and applaud the hard and steadfast work of the people of IUCN. Let us transform the sorrow we feel into an even firmer dedication to achieve our common goals.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Czech Republic Czech Ranger Association

The Czech Ranger Association (CRA) has finished filling two service agreements with the Ministry of Environment. The first contract, called "First Aid For Rangers," was held during the general assembly in April for 60 members of CRA. The second was the publishing of 60,000 leaflets entitled "Who Is A Ranger?" which was sent to every PLA and NP in Czech and to regional offices. Both contracts raised money for the CRA budget.

CRA members worked on two projects in Jeseníky PLA and Poodří PLA (Moravia) – nature trails and a revitalisation project. These activities also focused on raising money.

The CRA board is working on a handbook for rangers and considering whether cooperation with the European section of IRF can increase the possibility of it being used by rangers from other countries.

Michal Skalka

Scotland Scottish Countryside Ranger Association

We are still in the process of recovering from hosting the Fifth World Congress here in Scotland. The event seemed to be a huge success, with nearly three hundred delegates from over forty countries attending. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those involved in the organizing of this event – it wouldn't have happened without them. In particular, thanks go to the volunteers who wore the purple shirts for the week of the congress and made it happen every day.

A particular thanks to the core group of organizers, especially the group's secretary, Alison Wilson, who had to put up with all our delays, mistakes and annoying foibles.

Now that it's almost over, I can sit back and look at how much effort it was and how much that effort was worth it to host such a prestigious event. I'm proud of everyone involved, from day one five years ago, to the present day. I missed most of the presentations myself, I was too busy in the office/behind the help desk/driving/having high blood pressure, but the feedback has been good and everyone seemed to enjoy it and, most importantly, learn from it. It was one of the most challenging things I've ever been involved in and one of the most rewarding. I look forward to the next congress in Bolivia and hope we can help in any way towards its success.

Meanwhile other things have been happening in Scotland. Scottish Natural Heritage, the government's environmental agency, has been putting forward plans for the first coastal and marine national park. So far

several sites have been placed on the short list, mostly on the west coast of Scotland. Decisions on the final choice should be out soon. This will hopefully be a source of new ranger jobs and SCRA will of course be lobbying hard to put our views into the decision makers.

Our biggest news at the moment is the long awaited appointment of a development officer for SCRA. Toni Clark has been given the contract to look at how to improve the delivery and professionalism of our association and ensure that our outputs meet the expectations of our members. It's a big job but one which needs to be done if we are to move forward as an association.

Tony Wilson
President
Scottish Countryside Ranger Association
<http://www.scotranger.freeserve.co.uk/>

NEWS ABOUT RANGERS

Park Ranger Training In Brazil

Marcelo Segalerba, who is working with indigenous rangers in Brazil, sent the following report. Marcelo is a tireless supporter of IRF and is making a huge contribution in the Amazon region of Brazil. The text, which has been slightly revised, appears below the following photo of the meeting:



Pictures from the training class in Brazil.

In the photo at upper right, Marcelo Segalerba is on the left (smiling) and outgoing IRF vice president Juan Carlos Gambarotta is in the blue shirt to his right. A student stands between them. Both Marcelo and Juan Carlos teach these classes in Portuguese, which they speak fluently though it is not their native language.

I am sending a letter to the IRF, thanking for the cooperation and cooperative work in the park ranger-training event, held in Amapá-Brazil last month.

I especially want to thank Juan Carlos Gambarotta for his comprehension of the vital role of the IRF and training activities in this region since the beginning, as well as for his dedication, volunteer work and love for the profession, demonstrated to the students. I'd also like to offer special recognition to:

- Rick Smith for his permanent cooperation, for his activities, ideas, initiatives, etc. He's always ready to give us guidance, advice and recommendations. Great job!
- Daniel Paz, who offered help, followed the activities, and is working to develop a net of "schools" of park ranger training in South America.
- To David Zeller, president of IRF, who helped and supported the idea since August 2005 (the first indigenous park ranger training course), without bureaucracy, with an understanding attitude, and always conscious of the relevance of this training for conservation and for the IRF family.
- Finally, to all the park rangers around the world who share the same Inner feelings, who listened enthusiastically to the news generated, and who gave moral support and offered help.

The results:

- Twenty-nine park rangers trained
- The first park ranger training for Amapá State and the Northern Region of the Brazilian Amazon Basin.
- A new park ranger association developed – the Amapa Park Ranger Association (Associação de Guardaparques do Amapá).
- A potential park ranger association entering the IRF (they want to join!)
- The first state park ranger association created in Brazil.
- Some of the trained rangers will be contracted by IBAMA for the protection of Tumucumaque Mountains National Park (largest rainy tropical forest park on earth)
- Indigenous park rangers explained the protection work done on indigenous Lands in order to link the protection activities in the region (intercultural dialogue and actions about protection).
- Discussion group founded comprised of instructors and trained rangers, found at <http://groups.google.com.br/group/GPAP>
- The first time the IRF has developed an activity in Brazil and the Amazon Region.
- An intercultural, international, inter-institutional and multidisciplinary partnership created for the success of the training course, including the following 13 institutions:
 1. Ministerio Publico do AMAPA
 2. Ministerio de Meio Ambiente - IBAMA- Diretoria do Amapá “ Nucleo de Unidades de Conservación. IBAMA/NUC/AP
 3. Ministerio de Educacion - Universidade Federal do Amapá (UNIFAP)
 4. Faculdade SEAMA do AMAPA
 5. Secretaria de Meio Ambiente do Estado de Amapá (SEMA)
 6. Policia Militar do Amapá -Batalhon Ambiental
 7. Corpo de Bombeiros do Amapá (BM)
 8. Reserva Privada do Patrimonio Natural (RPPN REVECOM)
 9. Instituto Estadual de Pesquisas do Amapá (IEPA)
 10. Asociación dos Povos Indigenas Tiriyo, Kaxuyana e Txikiyana (APITIKATXI)
 11. Asociación dos Povos Indigenas do Tumucumaque (APITU)
 12. Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura e Pesca (MGAP-Uruguay)
 13. Federacion Internacional de Guardaparques (FIG)

Report On First Iberoamerican Park Ranger Congress

Past president Rick Smith has sent along this report on the First Iberoamerican Park Ranger Congress, which was held in Santiago, Chile, last year. It appears in the newsletter for the World Commission on Protected Areas (issue number 96). The English version is followed by a Spanish translation:

Brazilian Indigenous Park Rangers Recognized For The First Time By IRF

The first Iberoamerican Park Ranger Congress held in Santiago, Chile 26-30 2005 concluded with the inclusion of the first indigenous association in the International Ranger Federation (IRF). Setting a historic precedent, the Association of the Indigenous Peoples Tiriyo, Kaxuyana and Txikivana (APITIKATXI) of Brazil became the first indigenous member of the IRF.

"It was a congress of various 'first times'," said Marcelo Segalerba, Nature Coordinator in the Brazilian Amazon Conservation Team, ACT Brazil. "It was the first time that a Brazilian indigenous person was present at an international meeting of park rangers. APITIKATXI was the first indigenous association to be recognized by the IRF as representing indigenous park rangers," he added.

The goal of the First Iberoamerican Congress of Park Rangers was to look at common strategies and policies to improve the management of Latin American PAs. The Congress additionally sought to exchange perspectives and experiences between the rangers of these PAs. The IRF furthered its commitment to indigenous communities in the final statement of the Congress, entitled the Declaration of Santiago, Chile. In it, the rangers recognized the importance to PA management of traditional practices and of indigenous park rangers' knowledge.

Los Guardaparques Indígenas Reconocidos por Primera Vez Por La FIG

Se concluyó el Primer Congreso Iberoamericano de Guardaparques, realizado en Santiago de Chile, setiembre 26-30 2005, con la inclusión de la primera asociación indígena de guardaparques a la Federación Internacional de Guardaparques (FIG). En un precedente histórico, la asociación de los pueblos indígenas Tiriyo, Kaxuyana y Txikivana (APITIKATXI) de Brasil fue aceptada como el primer miembro indígena de la FIG.

"Fue un congreso de 'varios primeros'", dijo Marcelo Segalerba, Coordinador de la Naturaleza en el Equipo Brasileiro de Conservación Amazónica. "Fue la primera vez que una persona indígena brasilera estuvo presente en una reunión internacional de guardaparques. APITIKATXI fue la primera asociación indígena reconocida por la FIG como representante de los guardaparques indígenas," añadió Segalerba.

La meta del Primer Congreso Iberoamericano de Guardaparques fue la de examinar las estrategias y políticas comunes para mejorar el manejo de las áreas protegidas de América Latina. El Congreso adicionalmente proporcionó un foro para el intercambio de experiencias y perspectivas entre los delegados de los países representados. La FIG fortaleció su compromiso a la comunidades indígenas en la declaración final del Congreso con el título La Declaración de Santiago, Chile. En la declaración, los delegados reconocieron la importancia de los conocimientos y prácticas tradicionales de los guardaparques indígenas.

CALENDAR

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

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>.

MEMBER DIRECTORY

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

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*	IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas	**	The World Conservation Union
#	Fauna and Flora International	##	Int. Center for Protected Landscapes
+	Royal Society for the Preservation of Birds	++	Great Apes Survival Project (UNEP)