



THE THIN GREEN LINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION

April – June, 2008

Volume 16

Number 2

OFFICERS REPORTS

Acting President's Report

Dear IRF friends,

Please join me in welcoming a new ranger association – the Peruvian Ranger Association. Thank you to the Argentine Ranger Association (Asociación de Guardaparques Argentinos) for sponsoring their application for membership with IRF. Congratulations to President Salvador Vellido and the Peruvian Ranger Association (Asociación de Guardaparques de Perú). We look forward to their application and to welcoming them into IRF in the near future.

Ranger Dependants Fund

Jobogo Mirindi sent in another disturbing report on the death of a ranger. Buzara Habimana, a park ranger from Virunga National Park, Eastern DRC, and a 29-year-old father of three, was killed on Monday, May 26th, during a field patrol. Eighty armed militia soldiers were poaching buffalo and attacked the ranger patrol of 12. Buzara ran out of ammunition, was captured, tortured and killed. Please take a moment to remember Buzara and resolve to find ways to support his colleagues in their ever dangerous work.

Sean Willmore, Thin Green Line Foundation, was at Rwindi Headquarters and participated in the funeral ceremony with Virunga rangers and was able to express the condolences of rangers around the world on behalf of IRF. Sean met with the DRC Executive Director of ICCN (Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation) to discuss ways the TGLF and the Ranger Dependents Fund could assist rangers of the Congo.

Sixth World Ranger Congress

Since my last report, the International Executive Committee made a renewed commitment to the Bolivia Ranger Association for hosting the Sixth World Ranger Congress. Kristen Appel, from Australia, volunteered to travel to Bolivia and meet with park agency officials and ranger association leaders. She was officially representing IRF and was able to get agreements signed between IRF and the association and between the association and the park agency. The non-profit funding organisation that supports the parks is providing the Congress organiser staffing.



Santos Mamani, the president of ABOLAC, the Bolivian ranger association, and IRF representative Kristen Appel after signing the IRF/ABOLAC Congress agreement on April 20th.

At the time of this report, the association had just been notified of the IEC decision to continue with Bolivia as the site for the 2009 Congress and they have committed to having a signed contract for logistical coordination and a web site active by the end of July. You will be hearing about the web site as soon as it is available. The IEC has agreed to move the date of the Congress to November 2009. We expect registration to be open by August 2008. I give great thanks to Kristen for her time to work with the Bolivian rangers and for using her own funds for the trip. She is not only a great ambassador for IRF; she is also an amazing organiser and manager.

Regional Training

The Slovak Ranger Association just completed a successful conference this June. With the participation of nearly 70 rangers from six countries, they identified key issues for action at the upcoming European Ranger Seminar in Hungary. Congratulations to Juraj Svajda and his organising team for this success. Details of both the European Ranger Seminar in Hungary (September 14-20) and the Nordic-Baltic Seminar on Interpretation, in Denmark (October 8-10), are posted on the IRF website, training page: int-ranger.net/training

World Conservation Congress

Cassie Wright, youth development officer, will be attending the upcoming World Conservation Congress (WCC) in Barcelona in October, where she and Kristy Faccer will run a 90 minute session on young professionals. David Zeller and I are also planning to attend the WCC, at no cost to IRF.

July 31st Is World Ranger Day

I hope you each are taking advantage of the 2nd World Ranger Day to celebrate the work of rangers, to commemorate those we have lost, and to enjoy some time with colleagues. Please let us know about your World Ranger Day events.

Deanne Adams
Acting President
IRFdeanne@aol.com

Editor's Report

This is the second of four issues this year. Here are the deadlines for the remaining two issues for 2008 and for the first two for next year, please mark your calendars:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| • July – September | September 1 |
| • August – December | December 1 |
| • January – March | March 1 |
| • April – June | June 1 |

I have now been editor of this publication and its predecessors for 16 years and would like to turn over my duties to someone else no later than a few months after the Congress in Bolivia. If you or someone else you know is interested, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Bill Halainen
Editor
Bill_Halainen@nps.gov

Past President's Report

Durante la semana de 14-18 de abril, Paso Pacífico (una ONG. Soy un miembro de su mesa ejecutiva), en coordinación con el Ministerio del Ambiente and Recursos Naturales de Nicaragua (MARENA), ofreció un taller para los guardaparques del Refugio de Vida Silvestre La Flor, los guardarecursos empleados por Paso Pacífico, los voluntarios-comunitarios, y los miembros del Ejército Nicaragüense. El propósito del taller fue examinar los roles y responsabilidades de un guardaparque en el siglo XXI, especialmente en relación a la protección de las tortugas marinas que llegan a las playas circundantes para establecer sus nidos y depositar sus huevos. El taller se realizó en el pueblo de Ostional en su centro comunal. Algunos miembros de la comunidad suministraron los almuerzos y bocadillos a los participantes.

Los participantes tuvieron la oportunidad de compartir con sus colegas los desafíos que se enfrentan durante su trabajo y de desarrollar nuevas destrezas en atención de visitantes y en el trabajo general de un guardaparque. También aprovecharon del trabajo en equipos para aprender a expresarse con más confianza y escuchar a otros respetuosamente. Casi todos demostraron más confianza que antes en ponerse de pie para hablar públicamente. Los facilitadores del taller lo calificaron como un éxito y los comentarios de los participantes fueron muy buenos. Al fin del taller, los guardarecursos de Paso Pacífico tuvieron la oportunidad de hacer un sobrevuelo del terreno en el cual trabajarán, cortesía de la ONG CAVU, con sede en Costa Rica. Fui uno de los facilitadores.

During the week of April 14-18, Paso Pacifico (a non-governmental organisation (NGO) whose board of directors I am a member of), in coordination with Nicaragua's Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA), held a workshop for the rangers from the La Flor Wildlife Refuge, recently hired resource guides of Paso Pacifico, and members of the Nicaraguan Army. The goal of the workshop was to examine the roles and responsibilities of a 21st century ranger, especially in relation to protecting the marine turtles which come ashore to establish their nests and deposit their eggs on nearby beaches. The workshop was held in the community of Ostional in their community centre. Local residents provided lunches and snacks for the participants.

The participants had the chance to share with their colleagues the challenges they face at work and develop new skills in visitor management and ranger work. They took advantage of the small team work to learn to better express themselves and listen respectfully to others. Almost everyone showed some improvement in being able to stand up and talk publicly. The facilitators of the workshop rated it as a success and the participants had positive things to say about it. At the end of the workshop, the Paso Pacifico employees had the opportunity to overfly the area in which they are going to work, courtesy of the NGO, CAVU, headquartered in Costa Rica. I was the lead facilitator.

Rick Smith
Past President

Africa Regional Representative Report

The following is a synopsis of some of the main developments and news snippets from Africa, since the last issue of **The Thin Green Line**.

GRAA Protected Area Management System (PAMS) And PAS Certification

The use of PAMS in the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Protection Corridor Project, which is linking the Selous Game Reserve in Tanzania with the Niassa Game Reserve in Mozambique, is commencing this month. It is hoped to grow the scope of its use in Tanzania, and elsewhere, and from thereafter demonstrate its usefulness in this fairly high profile international project. There have been further expressions of interest in PAMS, inter alia, from Cape Town Municipality (South Africa) and Debswana in Botswana, which are going to be followed up by Krissie Clark during June and July. PAMS may also form an important part of a module to be presented to students of the Southern African Wildlife College.

African Representation Issues

We still need to apply our minds more extensively with regard to how to promote the GRAA and on what support and guidance we can give to reps in outlier regions/countries outside South Africa, especially so bearing in mind that even where we have held an AGM (Botswana and Namibia) there is not a lot happening. Ideas from anyone regarding how this issue may be taken forward would be much appreciated.

A very welcome notice of intention to form a game rangers' association of Kenya was distributed by Rob Markham in March. Extracts from this notice read as follows:

“At the 3rd Congress of the IRF, held in 2000 at Kruger National Park (South Africa), a memorandum of African Continental understanding was signed by all of the African delegates present. This protocol acknowledges the Game Rangers' Association of Africa (GRAA) as the voice of the rangers of Africa, and further binds the signatories into forming national associations within their own countries, and which associations will be affiliated to the GRAA.

“Members of staff of the Malindi/Watamu Marine Parks/National Reserves have indicated their willingness and intention to form an association of game rangers of Kenya (for all game ranging staff from government, para-statal organisations and private organisations) that will be affiliated with the GRAA, which in turn, is affiliated to the IRF.

“Game rangers in their work places worldwide, protecting and conserving the indigenous natural assets, often feel that they are alone in what they face in their work. As an immediate benefit to rangers, an association of game rangers of Kenya will assist to put all of the country's game rangers in contact with each other via a newsletter that allows game rangers to share their work, knowledge, resources, ideas and stories. Such an association can also assist to further the professional standards of game rangers; by assisting to seek out appropriate training; providing a platform for advertising positions for game rangers; and putting game rangers in contact with each other; to assist with professional game ranger exchanges; and most importantly to represent game rangers' interests through close cooperation with international organisations.

“The aims of the proposed game rangers association of Kenya have obviously not yet been established, but could follow the IRF’s aims, like ‘to further the professional standards of game rangers; to share knowledge, experience and resources; to establish communication lines with game rangers locally and in other countries; to help foster professional exchanges between game rangers; to represent game ranger interests through close cooperation with other game ranger associations,’ and to assist, guide, support the game ranger in his or her work.

“The purpose of this brief document is to seek your support and ideas that can build on this proposal. As a member of an association of game rangers, this endeavour aims to create a communication platform, for all rangers in Kenya, allowing for easier and meaningful communications and contacts with rangers elsewhere in Kenya, East Africa, Africa and the rest of the world.

“Every 3 years (next in 2009) the IRF holds a world congress, which gives all game rangers a chance to meet their counterparts from around the world, to discuss aspects of their work and experiences, build networks and allows for shadow ranging in other parts of the globe.

“We seek your support, ideas and involvement in what we believe will be for the benefit of game ranging in Kenya, and will ultimately benefit the protection and conservation of the indigenous natural resource/biodiversity of Kenya, arguably best known for its abundance and variety of wildlife resources.”

GRAA To Redefine Its Way Forward

The GRAA is holding a Strategic Planning Workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa, between July 11 and July 13. This meeting will be directed by an independent professional facilitator who will help the GRAA plan it’s way forward into the short, medium and long term future.

Wayne Derek Lotter
wlotter@gauff.com

South American Regional Representative Report

At April 14th, many Venezuelan organisations gave the widow of murdered ranger Guillermo López a sum of US\$2,600 that they had raised through a big raffle. The united effort of so many organisations was nearly as important as the money that was raised. The movie “The Thin Green Line” was shown at the event. This activity was supported by IRF’s South American representatives.

Daniel Paz Barretto
pazbarreto@ciudad.com.ar

NEWS FROM NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

England

English Ranger Association

The English Ranger Association (IRF membership pending) was started in January 2007 with a remit to support and represent the rangers, wardens and volunteers who work and volunteer in the parks, reserves and green spaces of England. We have enjoyed steady growth during our infancy and we happy to announce that we recently recruited our 200th member.

Like any new ranger association, we have found it tough going getting started and finding the time to develop all the things we feel we should be doing, but we are gradually getting there. From the outset we wanted to try and keep our association a low-cost organisation and if possible offer free membership. So far, through the generosity of the founding committee, who have given time and managed to find ‘other ways’ of achieving things, we have been able to keep costs down. Rangers are not the best paid workers in the world, so being able to offer membership for free is a real bonus.

We are now organising our first study event, which will be held in the North of England, and it is hoped that this will be the catalyst for increased membership in that area.

The association recently hosted a meeting aimed at creating a 'twinning' arrangement between Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP) in Uganda and Queen Elizabeth Country Park (QECP) in England. I work at QECP and first met Charles Etoru (QENP) during the Kruger Congress in 2000, when we found out we shared the Queen Elizabeth name. We have always kept in contact (a friend made at an IRF Congress is a friend for life). Although it is now eight years on, we have always wanted to pursue the idea of 'twinning' the two parks and we recently found ourselves in a position to push ahead with the idea.

The plan is to set up a formal system to exchange information, training ideas and best practices. The project will also try and raise funds to support the work of rangers in QENP. A core part of the project will be to try and encourage schools that border both parks to become involved in the 'twinning' process. Both parks shared the concern that we need to involve young people much more in the protection of our wildlife and habitats, so it is hoped that by creating links between schools on different continents, the true global nature and value of our wildlife can be introduced to future generations. It is also hoped that the project will be able to help provide much needed resources for the schools surrounding QENP.

The English Ranger Association is playing an important part in facilitating these discussions and supporting the fund raising efforts. It will be encouraging its members to become involved in similar 'twinning' projects and supporting ranger colleagues around the world.

We will do our best to keep IRF members informed of our progress

Steve Peach
ERA Secretary & Vice Chair
www.englishranger.co.uk

Scotland Scottish Countryside Rangers Association

Our dialogue with various government departments continues as we try to work out the implications for the change in the way Ranger Services are funded here in Scotland, as reported in the last issue. Our current focus is on the representative body for all our local government areas. We're going to try to have them set guidance to their members as to how the money should be spent and what constitutes rangers' core duties. With most employers having to set next year's budgets by this September, it will be a close call whether decisions are taken in time for that deadline.

Our exchange and study tour program with Iceland is set to continue. We are currently finalising arrangements for a study tour this August. This will be SCRA's third visit to Iceland since we signed our twinning agreement with them in 1995.

Plans are also underway for the Europarc Junior Ranger gathering in Cairngorms National Park this July. SCRA is working with the John Muir Trust, Cairngorms National Park Authority and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) to host this annual event. The aim is to bring together teenagers who work as volunteers with rangers across Europe for a week of social and practical events.

SCRA is now three months into its new development plan, partly funded by SNH. The aim is to increase awareness of rangers and their profession, develop a new national training program, and improve the implementation of rangers' objectives across the country. This is the first of a three year program building on the work carried out last year by Toni Clark, our development officer. As part of this package, we will be running our second foundation ranger training event this October. Last year's event was a great success, which we hope to continue.

There are also changes ahead for our annual conference. It will now be a joint event with the Forestry Commission, Scotland's National Parks, and the National Trust for Scotland's Ranger Service. We hope to attract record numbers of Rangers for this event, which will be held in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park this November.

Finally, I would like to thank Drennan Watson for his years of service as our president. Drennan had to step down from this post due to the limit placed on it by our constitution. He has however agreed to be our vice president and will continue to represent our association as he has in the past.

This, of course, means we have to welcome a new president. I am delighted to announce that Ruth Grant has agreed to fill the post. Ruth recently retired from SNH, where she was in charge of their ranger service program. She was instrumental in setting up the ranger profession in Scotland during the 1970s and I can think of no one better for the post.

Tony Wilson
nefrs@craigtoun.freeserve.co.uk

England/Wales Countryside Management Association

The 2008 CMA Conference will be held on October 29-30, with the title: "The Big Squeeze – The Pressure On Our Countryside And Greenspace." With the pressure on our countryside continuing to increase from all directions, how do we as countryside and greenspace rangers and managers integrate the demands to maximise the benefit of this limited resource? The venue is Lackham Countryside Centre, Lacock, Wiltshire.

Over the last few months some fundamental changes have been implemented within the CMA:

- We have revised our constitution and the CMA has been registered as a new company
- We have revised the membership categories
- We have revised the CMA's vision and aims
- We had to properly register the CMA as a company for legal liability reasons, but this has also allowed us to develop a much more efficient and relevant constitution

The new membership categories (see website www.countrysidemanagement.org.uk) provide an easier route into CMA for students and volunteers, together with a better route of progression for existing members.

Our industry is going through a period of significant and rapid change and a number of new organisations have arisen whose aims have significant overlap with those of the CMA. Our new vision and aims clarifies our niche within the sector. CMA's vision is to support the work of conservation, access and recreation professionals in the natural greenspace and countryside sector. CMA's aims are to:

- Support the development of staff, students and volunteers involved in the management, interpretation, and public enjoyment of natural greenspace and the countryside through networking, training and continuing professional development.
- Promote the value and importance of professionally managed natural greenspace and the countryside to the general public, the government and other organisations.
- Influence the organisations involved in the management of natural greenspace and countryside by providing information and authoritative comment
- Champion the staff, students and volunteers involved in the management, interpretation, and access to natural greenspace and the countryside.

In order to deliver this, we have a new regional structure which falls in line with that of Natural England and government offices. Effectively, we now have a greater number of smaller regions. This will help our members to travel to training and other networking events within their regions. It will also make it easier for us to work in partnership with Natural England and other government and non-government organisations.

Roger Cole
CMA International Coordinator
thecolefamily@btinternet.com

United States California State Park Rangers Association

During the first week in April, 250 park professionals from every level of government journeyed to beautiful South Lake Tahoe for the California Parks Conference. The conference is an annual event for the California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA) and the Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC).

The weather was gorgeous. Attendees were treated to a dinner cruise across Lake Tahoe at sunset to Emerald Bay State Park aboard the M.S. Dixie II. Mark Twain (portrayed by McAvoy Lane) made a special appearance to entertain the audience with his wit and wisdom. A full slate of sessions covered interpretation, operations, resources, and enforcement.

The keynote speaker was IRF's own Sean Willmore, who stopped by on his way to Spain to show "The Thin Green Line." Sean spoke about his experience in producing this documentary and raised some more funding for his foundation.

The closing banquet saw CSPRA award their Honorary Ranger Award to Henry F. Trione who co-founded the California State Park Foundation and helped establish Annadel State Park among other projects. PRAC awarded its Lifetime Member Award to Sean Willmore.

Next year's conference is scheduled for early March in the San Luis Obispo coast area.

Jeff Ohlfs
desert_traveler@eee.org

United States Association of National Park Rangers

ANPR Plans for Annual 'Ranger Rendezvous'

Each year, ANPR hosts an annual gathering of rangers in the United States. It is called the 'Ranger Rendezvous' in tribute to the early rendezvous' held in the old days by fur trappers in Jackson, Wyoming, and other western localities. These trapper rendezvous' were held after the busy summer trapping season was ended and before everyone headed off to their winter environs. Similarly, today's ranger rendezvous gives National Park Service employees the chance to gather after a busy season, openly discuss park and protected area issues with their peers and supervisors, and get together with old friends from across the country.

This year's rendezvous is in Santa Fe, New Mexico, from December 10-14. It will be held at the La Fonda Hotel, located on the historic plaza in Santa Fe.

We welcome any of our international ranger comrades who may be in the States to join us. We would love to see you. If you think you may be able to attend, or have questions, please send me an email at tsisto47@aol.com. You can also register through the website at www.lafondasantafe.com/e-mail-group.html. Hope to see you there.

Update on Weapons in U.S. National Parks

In the last issue of **The Thin Green Line**, I reported on efforts by the United States Congress to pass legislation allowing visitors to carry loaded and concealed weapons in national parks (for almost 100 years, the carrying of loaded weapons has been generally prohibited in parks, and remains so today). This proposed legislation, under the misleading title "To Protect Innocent Americans from Violent Crime in National Parks," did not pass.

Unfortunately, advocates for the carrying of firearms in parks approached the Bush administration about revising National Park Service regulations to accomplish the same goal as the failed legislation. This regulation has now been officially proposed, asking for comments through June 30, 2008. After

reviewing the comments, the regulation can become permanent if the administration chooses to do so. ANPR has officially opposed this proposed rulemaking, which you can read about at www.anpr.org/guns_in_parks.html. I will update you on the outcome in the next issue this newsletter.

Travel well.

Tony Sisto
Tsisto47@aol.com

NEWS FROM RANGERS

On-Line Ranger Discussion Group

Marcelo Segalerba has written to ask that members be informed about a new ranger "help and discussion forum" that's been operating since October, 2005. The forum address is: <http://groups.google.com/group/GUARDAPARQUES>

Marcelo says that there are now more than 110 members, that they've begun more than 460 discussions, and that 19 documents posted to the forum. The size increases every day.

The site promotes communication among park rangers worldwide. It is inter-cultural (indigenous park rangers are present), international (several countries are present), inter-institutional (many protected areas and institutions are represented), interdisciplinary (members have different specialisations), and intergenerational (several generations of rangers are represented).

The forum is being utilised by IRF's South America representatives, IRF's Amazon initiative (serving the South America representatives), Portugal's Park Ranger Association, Perú's Park Ranger Association, Areas Protegidas y Guardaparques (Bulletin), Asociación de Guardaparques Argentinos, Asociación de Guardaparques de Uruguay, ACT Brasil, Asociación de Guardaparques do Amapá, GFSF (Guardafauna sin fronteras), "Amigo Guarda" Perú bulletin, and many others institutions and representatives.

It is managed by several members of different associations and countries, including Francisco Correa (Portugal), Tegan Burton (Australia), Antonio Tovar (Perú), Daniel Paz (Argentina), Rick Smith (USA), Juan Carlos Gambarotta (Uruguay), and Marcelo himself (Brazil-Uruguay).

Canadians Deliver Uniforms To Romanians

Einar Olsen, a ranger in the United States' National Park Service, has sent the following report:

In late March, another successful Ranger Relief project was completed. This time it was surplus Canadian park warden uniforms that were delivered to their colleagues in Romania. The shipment included 877 winter uniform items (722 kilograms). This was the first project involving mostly winter uniforms and the first going to a country in the European Union.

This was the most complicated such project to date and involved persons in Canada, U.S., Romania, Australia, Norway, and Austria. Shipping to Romania, now in the EU, was more complicated than expected. Apparently, the Romanian customs officers are taking their new EU responsibilities very seriously and wanted to know why the clothes and shipping pallets were not disinfected. They threatened to burn the shipment unless we could produce a disinfectant certificate and other "official" forms. The Canadian shipping company knew nothing of such requirements.

That is when ranger creativity came into play. Rumour has it that Art Laurenson, Canadian coordinator for the shipment, produced a bunch of "official" looking forms with fancy stamps and WWF bought and applied a container of disinfectant and that did the trick. Another lesson learned here; do not include in a uniform shipment a bag of ranger patches with a note to the customs officers to help themselves. It will not sway them.

Many people were involved in this difficult project. Providing great assistance to Art Laurenson in Parks Canada were Alan Latourelle, CEO; Stephen Woodley, chief scientist; Bill Hunt, Banff NP operations manager; Ian Syme, Banff NP chief park warden; Hilary Husar, court clerk; and wardens and dispatchers in Banff NP and throughout Canada, who made the donations. Ocean-Air Freight handled the shipping.

On the receiving end, credit goes to Florentine Gheorghiu and Erika Stanciu with WWF Romania; Michael Baltzer with WWF-Danube and the Carpathian Programme Office in Vienna; and Canadian embassy officials in Romania. Rigmor Solem, head of both the Norwegian Rangers Association and IRF Europe, identified the need for the winter uniforms in Romania. Einar Olsen, U.S. Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR) Ranger Relief Coordinator instigated, advised, provided therapy, and prayed that the shipment would not be burned by Romanian customs.

Ranger Relief was founded and coordinated by U.S ranger Einar Olsen (ANPR for the benefit of IRF members) and TV producer Claire Libbing (formerly with Game Warden TV). To date, six projects have delivered, transmitting about US\$120,000 worth of surplus uniforms and equipment to rangers in Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe. Partners in this effort have included WWF, International Fund for Animal Welfare, and WildAid.

Most recently, the Canadians delivered surplus summer uniforms to Kenya (see below). The Canadian uniforms became available after they made a change to new uniforms.

More Uniforms Sent Overseas – This Time To Kenya

Art Laurenson, a park warden in Canada's oldest national park, Banff, nestled amongst the Rocky Mountains in the province of Alberta, has sent along a report of another successful uniform shipment. Art has been a warden in Banff since 1993 and has also worked in Jasper, Pacific Rim and Gwaii Haanas National Parks:

In the summer of 2006, all Parks Canada staff were issued new uniforms. I knew the IRF would be interested since we had sent duty belts and outdoor equipment in the past. I organised a national initiative to collect park warden clothing, body armour, and duty belts.

Visitor services staff heard about my project and collected their old issue as well. Staff from across Canada sent dozens of boxes and soon there were stacks in the Banff stores warehouse. I did a lot of sorting, sizing and folding with help from other Banff wardens. Nightshift dispatchers removed shoulder flashes and identifiers during quiet times. Soon I had thousands of shirts, pants, jackets and accessories.

I contacted the IRF and received several requests for uniform from DPR Congo, Cameroon, Mongolia, South America and the Solomon Islands. Coincident with that process, Canada's then Environment Minister Rona Ambrose and a delegation went to Kenya. Accompanying her was Parks Canada's John Waithaka, a conservation biologist with Ecological Integrity Branch in Ottawa.

As a result of the visit and John's efforts to help his fellow countrymen, a formal MOU between Parks Canada and the Kenyan Wildlife Service was arranged and it was agreed the warden uniforms should go to Kenya in support of that agreement. Parks Canada, specifically Stephen Woodley, ecosystem scientist, EIB in Ottawa, covered the shipping costs. I made distribution arrangements through the IRF and with the WWF for the remaining items.

On August 27, 2007, we loaded some 6000 items (3075 kg/6763 lbs) of uniform into a container bound for the Kenya Wildlife Service. A further 1000 items (414 kg/910 lbs) that did not match in colour or style to that sent to Kenya was packed on a separately wrapped pallet and picked up by the World Wildlife Fund when the container arrived in Kenya. The WWF will use it for ranger relief in neighbouring countries.

I also sent a pallet of adult and children's clothing, shoes and toys for distribution to rangers' families. Thanks go to Victory Thrift Store In Canmore and the Rundle United Church in Banff for this addition.

In September, a delegation arrived from Kenya to examine Parks Canada's systems and parks. Fortunately, Banff National Park was one of their stops, so I had the pleasure of meeting them and talking to resource mobilisation manager Edwin Wanyonyi. He is the person I had been emailing regarding the logistics of this project and who would receive and distribute the uniforms. It was great to chat in person and many thanks to Edwin for his support and effort at the Kenyan end.



Director of the Kenyan Wildlife Service Julius Kipngetich receiving donated surplus uniforms from Parks Canada. The Canadian representative at the hand-over ceremony was the High Commissioner Ross Hynes. The ceremony took place on May 14th.

If you would to contact Edwin or would like more info on the Kenyan Wildlife Service, please email ewanyonyi@kws.org or go to www.kws.org. If you would like to contact me or would like more info on Parks Canada, please email Art.Laurenson@pc.gc.ca or go to www.pc.gc.ca. You can view Canada's Park Warden newsletter at www.parkwardens.ca. Thanks to all wardens and staff who contributed to this effort!

Workshop From Bariloche Congress

Last year, Daniel Paz Barretto and Marcelo Ochoa gave a presentation on the role of the ranger in the effective management of protected areas at the II Latin American Protected Areas Congress (II Congreso Latinoamericano de Parques Nacionales). A summary was been made available in Spanish, which has also been translated into English by Rick Smith. It appears below...

Taller: Rol de los guardaparques en la gestión efectiva de las áreas protegidas

Coordinador: Daniel Paz Barreto

Descripción temática: Este taller tuvo como objetivo ampliar la discusión sobre el rol de los guardaparques y su impacto en el logro de los objetivos de conservación de las áreas protegidas. Las estrategias de protección de las áreas protegidas juegan un papel preponderante en la efectividad de las áreas protegidas y su implementación está a cargo de los guardaparques.

Conclusiones:

1. Ratificar que la vigencia del rol del guardaparques en el terreno aumenta:

- La efectividad de manejo de las áreas protegidas.
 - Hace factible aplicar las estrategias de manejo, por lo que se requiere que esa acción sea adaptada a la complejidad actual de la gestión de las AP.
 - Genera lazos y espacios para la participación comunitaria, para la educación, el extensionismo, etc.
2. Es quien ejecuta el manejo en las áreas protegidas.

Recomendaciones:

- Identificar indicadores objetivos para evaluar la efectividad de manejo vinculada con la presencia del guardaparque en el terreno.
- Creación y fortalecimiento de cuerpos de guardaparques en todos los países donde no existan; mantener y consolidar aquellos ya creados.
- Elaborar existan planes de manejo para todas las áreas protegidas que permitan realizar planes operativos.
- Que las tareas que desarrollan los guardaparques consideren los nuevos paradigmas en el manejo de las AP.

Directrices de acción:

- Incorporar los nuevos paradigmas de manejo de las AP en la formación y capacitación de los guardaparques de acuerdo con el rol que cumplen.
- Elaborar una estrategia de capacitación que incluya la consolidación y creación de centros de capacitación en la región.
- Crear y fortalecer los cuerpos de guardaparques de los países de América Latina y el Caribe, asegurando la conservación, la integración y el bienestar de los pueblos.
- Realizar un relevamiento de los guardaparques y su situación en América Latina y el Caribe.

Workshop: The role of the ranger in the effective management of protected areas.

Coordinator: Daniel Paz Baretto

Description: This workshop had as its objective the amplification of the discussion regarding the role of the ranger and their impact on the accomplishment of the conservation objectives of protected areas. Protection strategies play a major role in management effectiveness and rangers are the ones who implement these strategies.

Conclusions:

1. Ratify that good ranger work increases:
 - the effectiveness of protected area management.
 - the practical application of management strategies taking into account the complexity of conditions in the areas.
 - community participation through environmental education and extension work.
2. It is the ranger who executes protected area management at the field level.

Recommendations:

- Identify objective indicators of success to evaluate the effectiveness of management when rangers are present.
- Create and strengthen ranger corps in counties where such corps do not exist. Consolidate and maintain those corps already in existence.
- Develop management plans in all areas that will allow operational planning.
- Rangers should consider new protected area paradigms when doing work planning.

Actions:

- Incorporate the new protected area management paradigms in ranger training and development.
- Develop a training strategy that includes the development of regional training centres.
- Create and strengthen ranger corps in Latin America and the Caribbean, assuring the conservation and the integration and well being of society.
- Study the status of rangers and their work in Latin America and the Caribbean.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

2008

- 11 – 13 July GRAA Strategic Planning Workshop, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 31 July World Ranger Day.
- 14 – 20 September 2008 European Ranger Seminar, Kiskunság National Park, Hungary. Details int-ranger.net/training.
- 8 – 10 October Nordic-Baltic Nature Interpretation Seminar, Sealand, Denmark.
- 29 – 30 October "The Big Squeeze – The Pressure On Our Countryside And Greenspace," CMA Conference, Countryside Management Association, Lackham Countryside Centre, Lacock, Wiltshire.
- 10 – 15 December 31st Annual Ranger Rendezvous, U.S. Association of National Park Rangers, La Fonda Hotel, Santa Fe, New Mexico. anpr.org/anprrr

2009

- 31 July World Ranger Day.
- November [VI Congreso Mundial de Guardaparques 2009](#)
(6th IRF World Ranger Congress), Santa Cruz, Bolivia

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.

Officers

President	David Zeller	South Africa	irfpresident@soft.co.za
Vice President	Deanne Adams	United States	IRFdeanne@aol.com
Secretary	Elaine Thomas	Australia	irfsec@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Sean Prendergast	England	sean.prendergast@peakdistrict.gov.uk
IEC Group Mail	---	---	IRFiec@googlegroups.com

Past Officers

Past President	Gordon Miller	England	irfhq@hotmail.com
Past President	Rick Smith	United States	rsmith0921@earthlink.net
Past Vice President	Juan Carlos Gambarotta	Uruguay	jgambaro@gmail.com

Staff

Executive Director	Declan Keiley	England	Declan.keiley@btinternet.com
Editor	Bill Halainen	United States	Bill_Halainen@nps.gov
Website	David Burns	Australia	babaji@aanet.com.au
Youth Development	Cassie Wright	Australia	cassiewright@alphalink.com.au

Regional Representatives

Africa	Wayne Lotter	Tanzania	wlotter@gauff.com
Europe	Rigmor Solen	Norway	rigmor.solem@dirnat.no
North America	Meg Weesner	United States	meg_weesner@nps.gov
Central America	Mauricio Arias Zumbado	Costa Rica	mauricioazrcr@yahoo.com
South America	Daniel Paz Barreto	Argentina	pazbarreto@ciudad.com.ar
Australia	Paul Lawless-Pyne	Australia	paul.lawlesspyne@epa.qld.gov.au
Asia	Lee Gyu-Sung	Korea	fmn2000@hanmail.net

National Representatives

Africa	Roland Goetz	Angola	--
	Ompatile Galaletsang	Botswana	krst@botsnet.bw
	Jobogo Mirindi	DRC (Congo)	jmirindi@yahoo.com
	Joachim Kouame	Ivory Coast	ahounze@yahoo.fr
	Gervaz Thamala	Malawi	g_thamala@yahoo.com
	Tim Snow	South Africa	snowman@ewt.org.za
Asia	Ghad Mugiri	Uganda	--
	Shri Dhakani Dhar Boro	India	--
	Bhnushankar H. Dave	India	bhdave4@yahoo.com
Central America/ Caribbean	Dinesh Dubey	India	--
	Ronald Mora	Costa Rica	ronald.mora@sinac.go.cr
	Tito Flores	Guatemala	titinoflores2000@yahoo.com
	Roy Ho Tsoi	Suriname	rhotsoi@sr.net
Europe	Barbara Mertin	Austria	barbara.mertin@chello.at
	Michal Skalka	Czech Republic	skalka.michal@seznam.cz

	Arne Bondo-Andersen	Denmark	arne1864@lic-mail.dk
	Colin Dilcock	England-Wales	c.dilcock@northyorkmoors-npa.gov.uk
	Trygve Lofroth	Finland	trygve.lofroth@metso.fi
	Beate Blahy	Germany	RobbyMeissner@t-online.de
	Imre Szarvas	Hungary	szaimka@axelero.hu
	Thorunn Sigihorsdottir	Iceland	thorunns@simnet.is
	Brendan O'Shea	Ireland	--
	Augusto Atturo	Italy	ecopol@fastwebnet.it
	Guido Baldi	Italy	guidobaldi@iol.it
	Orla Maguire	Northern Ireland	--
	Carl Norberg	Norway	carl.norberg@statskog.no
	Adam Januszewicz	Poland	ptsop@ptsop.org.pl
	Francisco Jose Semedo Correia	Portugal	franciscosemedo@hotmail.com
	Mihai Gligan	Romania	--
	Yuri Gorshkov	Russia	vkz@mail.ru
	Tony Wilson	Scotland	nefrs@craigtoun.freereserve.co.uk
	Francisco Tejedor	Spain	--
	Thomas Hansson	Sweden	--
North America	John McKenzie	Canada	john.mckenzie@pc.gc.ca
	Lee Werst	United States +	lswerst@aol.com
	Angy Nowicki	United States ++	Gail@cspra.com
Oceania	Michael Joyce	Australia *	michael.joyce@epa.qld.gov.au
	Fiona Smith	Australia **	fcsmith@parks.vic.gov.au
	Frank Mills	Australia	--
	Steve Dutton	Australia #	manepura@westnet.com.au
	Chris Arthur	Australia ##	Chris.Arthur@parks.tas.gov.au
South America	Salvador Vellido	Argentina	svellido@apn.gov.ar
	Ana Carola Vaca Salazar	Bolivia	carolavaca@hotmail.com
	Juventino Kaxuyana	Brazil	joaodiakui@hotmail.com
	Angel Lazo Alvarez	Chile	alazo@conaf.cl
	Oscar Cortez	Ecuador-Galapagos	ocortez@spng.org.ec
	Enrique Bragayrac	Paraguay	bragayrac@mmail.com.py
	Juan Carlos Gambarotta	Uruguay	jgambaro@adinet.com.uy

Footnotes

+	National	*	Queensland	#	Western Australia
++	California	**	Victoria	##	Tasmania

ADDITIONAL CONTACT DIRECTORY

Additional Park Contacts

Africa	Bathusi Letlhare Robert Muir Arrie Schreiber	Botswana Congo South Africa	bml.darudec@dynabyte.bw robertmuir@fzs.org ArrieS@sanparks.org
Asia	Zhao Jianrong	China	Zhaojr@mail.cin.gov.cn
Central America	Miguel Angel Vasquez Victor Carrión	Guatemala Ecuador - Galapagos	selvamayapeten@yahoo.es vcarrion@spng.org.ec
Europe	Ceri Daugherty Lynn Crowe Rob Ackrel Roger Cole Meryl Carr Heike Fleming Calin Georgescu Bob Reid Vlado Vancura	England England England England England Germany Romania Scotland Slovak Republic	Ceri.Daugherty@de.mod.uk L.crowe@shu.ac.uk rob@ackrel.fsnet.co.uk rangerroger@hotmail.co.uk meryl.carr@highland.gov.uk heike.flemming@lua.brandenburg.de calin.georgescu@sdpn.ro reidro@northlan.gov.uk vvancura@panparks.org
Oceania	Andy Nixon Kristen Appel	Victoria ---	anixon@parks.vic.gov.au kristenappel@octa4.net.au
South America	Marcelo Segalerba Marcelo del Campo Ramiro Pereira	Brazil Uruguay Uruguay	msega@adinet.com.uy custodios@adinet.com.uy rpereira@internet.com.uy

International Parks Community

IUCN WCPA *	Nik Lopoukhine	Canada	nik.lopoukhine@pc.gc.ca
IUCN HQ **	--	--	pmr@hq.iucn.org
World Heritage	Natarajan Ishwaran Guy Debonnet Rob Milne (retired)	Sri Lanka -- United States	n.ishwaran@unesco.org g.debonnet@unesco.org rcmheritage3@yahoo.com
Europarc	---	Europe	office@europarc.org
Turner Foundation	Mike Finley	United States	mikef@turnerfoundation.org
Jacobs Foundation	---	England	jf@jacobsfoundation.org
FFI #	Paul Hotham	England	paul.hotham@fauna-flora.org
ICPL ##	Liz Hughes	Wales	icpl@protected-landscapes.org
RSPB +	Steve Rowland	England	steve.rowland@tesco.net
GRASP ++	---	Kenya	grasp@unep.org

Footnotes

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