



THE THIN GREEN LINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION

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OFFICERS REPORTS

President's Report

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

It has been just over a year since I took a break from the responsibilities of president of the IRF due to communication difficulties and work commitments. Although I have kept close watch on IRF happenings over the year and have remained active in an advocacy role for rangers and the IRF, the past year has given me some much needed rest. As of September 1st, I have resumed my official responsibilities and look forward with renewed energy and enthusiasm to the coming year leading up to the Sixth International Ranger Federation World Congress, which will be held in Bolivia in November 2009.

I must thank Deanne Adams for so ably fulfilling the role of acting president in my absence and her superb handling of this challenging and demanding but rewarding office.

Currently, my paid job is as project manager of the Gola Forest program in Sierra Leone, which aims to protect the last remnant of the Upper Guinea moist tropical forest in Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is a country rich in natural resources, but which is at the bottom of the UN human development index and at the top of the world list of corrupt governance. We are faced with the full range of mining, logging, bush meat and settlement threats, fuelled by corruption, greed and bribery at all levels. A large part of my efforts here are focused on advocacy at the highest levels of government, the international donor community and big NGO's. Through this approach, and despite the fact of a known large iron ore deposit in the Gola Forest, I have been able to get a presidential decree banning any and all mining in the Gola Forest. At the same time, I have been able to train and equip our forest rangers to carry out their work safely and effectively, with prospects to carry this initiative across the border into Liberia in a donor-funded project for a trans-boundary peace park between Sierra Leone and Liberia. I mention this as a small local example of what I believe the IRF focus should be doing – that is, advocacy at the highest levels, where the decisions are made that affect the life, work and safety of rangers.

Throughout my presidency, I have maintained several issues as priorities – furthering the concept of protecting the protector, establishing the Ranger Dependant's Fund, and establishing the Friends of the IRF initiative, which will fund a secretariat and activities of the IRF, strategic planning and involving young rangers. Here are details on each...

Protecting the Protector

Ensuring that rangers are properly trained, motivated, supported and equipped to carry out their vital role in safely and effectively protecting the world's vitally important natural and cultural heritage is, I believe, central to all that the IRF stands for. We will never achieve this if we remain inwardly focused as a mutual admiration society, a back-patting old-boys club. The IRF must actively intervene in forums where decisions which affect the life and livelihoods of rangers are taken; we must tread where rangers fear to tread, we must wear the dreaded uniform of tie and jacket and enter the portals of the anathema of global, state and corporate governance and eloquently make ourselves heard.

In at least 12 different international congresses and other forums, I have been able to mainstream ranger issues, supported by ranger colleagues. Latin American and European colleagues have carried the IRF flag into the II Parks Congress in Bariloche and in the now established annual European Ranger Seminar.

The Game Rangers Association of Africa recently placed a motion before the IUCN membership at IUCN's World Conservation Congress in Barcelona to consider as a resolution that IUCN and its member states and organizations adopt standards of legislation, judicial and institutional support for the improvement of ranger safety and efficiency. This motion is already well supported by other IUCN members and should be adopted into the IUCN program of work over the next four years.

Ranger Dependant's Fund

It can safely be said that the ranger dependents fund, founded at the World Parks Congress in 2003, has been achieved in the form of the Thin Green Line Foundation. It is with great pride and immense appreciation to Sean Willmore that we can announce that the Thin Green Line Foundation (TGLF) now has a life of its own. I have been working in close liaison with Sean Willmore since the TGL was first conceptualized in 2003, both at a personal level as president of the IRF and now as a director-to-be of the TGLF. The world family of rangers owes Sean Willmore a very deep debt of gratitude. The fund has already paid out significant contributions in support of families of rangers who have died in the line of duty.

Funding and Establishing a Secretariat

The IRF cannot be a serious organization without a secretariat and without funds to travel and participate in international forums where decisions which affect rangers are taken. For this we need funding. The Friends of the IRF subscription initiative is to be our best funding mechanism and has been developed over four years of planning and broad consultation into a simple yet workable concept. Together with the TGLF, I resumed development of the Friends and had it ready for launching at WCC Barcelona.

Strategic Planning

At my request, Marcelo Segalera began the initial drafting of the IRF strategic plan in 2005, which was then workshopped in Scotland in 2006. Vice President Deanne Adams then agreed to lead on further developing the plan and is continuing with this task with a select team, including Marcelo, and with IRF International officers' oversight, in order to have a proposal ready for discussion and adoption at Bolivia in 2009.

Youth Affairs

Youth affairs has been going exceptionally well and have been mainstreamed in IUCN and IRF activities. The Young Conservationist Award is now up and running. The award grew out of the Fifth World Parks Congress, which was held in Durban, South Africa in 2003, where the international community agreed that there was a need to recognize the outstanding contributions of young conservationists. Since its inception in 2003, the Young Conservationist Award had undergone three years of rigorous development in terms of the objectives and criteria, most of the work being done by the IRF's Youth Development Officer, Cassie Wright. Cassie has now resigned from that position and her energy and enthusiasm will be sorely missed. My personal thanks to her is immense. The Young Conservationist Award for 2008 drew 48 nominations and a winner has been decided on by a panel of members of IUCN and IRF.

Sixth World Ranger Congress

Although this congress will be reported on more fully elsewhere in this issue of the TGL, I am pleased to announce that the Bolivia 2009 IRF Congress will be going ahead and that the organizing committee has obtained official support for the event.

I wish to quote past Vice President Juan Carlos Gambarotta (2003-2006), who in 2001 reported that “Bolivia is progressing rapidly in the formation of a ranger association and will be an example in South America because we all know that Bolivia is very poor. This shows that the most important thing is the will to organize.” The Bolivian rangers have surely shown that they have the will (guts) and the ability to organize. Please let us all give the Bolivian rangers our full support.

IUCN World Conservation Congress

The IUCN WCC is a premier international event in the conservation and protected area calendar which happens once every four years. I attended (at my own cost), supported by rangers from around the world, to ensure that the issues impacting on rangers were highlighted in all the agendas.

The IRF had a number of specific interventions and focus events to mainstream ranger issues;

- Sean Willmore gave a 10 minute condensed version of “The Thin Green Line” documentary to the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) meeting.
- The winner of the IRF/IUCN Young Conservationist Award was announced, Edwin Sabuhoro, 35, of Rwanda.
- The IRF patron, Mark Stone of Parks Victoria, was introduced to the international conservation community.
- There was a joint IRF and TGLF press conference.
- There was a signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the IRF, IUCN and TGLF to mark the official start of the ranger dependant’s fund.
- The Friends of the IRF fund raising initiative was launched.
- The GRAA motion for the international community to recognize the need to support rangers was carried forward.
- I worked to obtain IUCN membership for IRF to enable us to actively participate in IUCN member deliberations for the benefit of rangers around the world.

In the coming year, I will be concentrating on the strategic issues outlined above. Deanne Adams, as vice president, will be attending to the day-to-day management of IRF, with particular emphasis on membership and communication.

Warm Regards,

David Zeller
President
International Ranger Federation
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Vice President’s Report

Dear IRF Friends:

As you know, I have been serving as the president of IRF for the last 15 months. I appreciate the support I received from so many of you during this time. It is clear there are many rangers who are ready to work on IRF projects, once we find a good match of project needs and talent. As I return to my vice-president role I will continue to work with the International Executive Committee to engage more rangers in our IRF work.

Sixth World Ranger Congress In Bolivia

The contract with a congress organizer company has been signed and IRF has received their first report, with a detailed budget, agenda, and proposed registration rates. Congratulations to Carola and the Bolivia Ranger Association for this significant step.

The dates of the congress are November 2-7, 2009. Registration will be open after October 21, 2008, once final testing of the bilingual web site is complete. The congress will have simultaneous translation services, which adds to the overall cost but will enhance the program for all of us. The program is ambitious, with parallel working sessions each day. Registration costs will be reduced for those who register early:

- US \$800 October 2008 to January 31, 2009
- US \$900 February 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009
- US \$1000 July 1, 2009 to November 1, 2009

We will be sending out a special report on the congress before the next issue of **The Thin Green Line**.

World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)

On October 4th, I attended a one-day WCPA meeting in Barcelona prior to the start of the IUCN World Conservation Congress. IRF had a place on the agenda with a 10 minute viewing of the film, "The Thin Green Line," with an introduction by Sean Willmore. We also had a ceremonial signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between IRF, the Thin Green Line Foundation, and WCPA. This initial MOU declared our mutual intent to develop a detailed MOU for our shared work on the IRF Ranger Dependant Fund, which will now be the Thin Green Line Foundation. IRF President David Zeller, TGLF Executive Director Sean Willmore, and IUCN WCPA Chair Nikita Lopoukhine represented their respective organizations.

I had the pleasure of meeting Edwin Sabuhoro, 35, of Rwanda, our 2008 Young Conservationist Award winner. Edwin developed incentives for local people to protect gorillas' habitat by founding the Iby'Iwacu Cultural Village, a community-based tourism initiative, in the Musanze district of Northern Rwanda. Revenue from tourism has encouraged communities to protect gorillas and develop small-scale businesses. Today, the outcomes of the project are astonishing. Local people own 100% of the project. The cultural village has increased tourism arrivals by 40% and has generated a sustainable income base for the village. Poaching of gorillas has been reduced by 60%.

Edwin was able to attend the full IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC). His participation was sponsored by Parks Victoria through their executive Mark Stone. We are very grateful for that sponsorship. The participation of Sean Willmore was also possible through the sponsorship of Mark Stone and Parks Victoria.

During the meeting I announced our VI World Ranger Congress and afterwards had several inquires about participation. It was a good start for getting IRF recognition for the rest of the week. I was not able to get sponsorship for attending the WCC, but President David Zeller and Treasurer Sean Prendergast were successful in that area and attended the full WCC. They will report on their work at WCC in the next issue of the TGL.

Training

We are a partner with Europarc Federation in a recent grant proposal they submitted for ranger training in Greece. Our memorandum of understanding with Europarc has been strengthened by the appointment of Carol Ritchie as the director of the Europarc Federation. Many of you know Carol as one of the organisers of the 2006 World Ranger Congress in Scotland. She is an active member of SCRA and a strong supporter of IRF. She and Rigmor Solem, IRF's European representative, have been discussing ways IRF and Europarc can work together more, particularly in this area of training.

Best wishes,

Deanne Adams
Vice President
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Editor's Report

You may be wondering if you missed an issue of **The Thin Green Line**, since this is the October-December edition but is only the third that's come out in 2008. You didn't. It took a good deal of time to get together material for an edition, so we've skipped one this year – moving from Number 2 (April-June) to Number 3 (October-December).

The next deadline will be the end of December. Your contributions are important. You can help in several ways:

- Updates are needed from both officers and from associations. Many associations have not been heard from in years. We need to hear from you and know what you've been doing lately.
- Please look at the "Member Directory" at the end of this newsletter. Secretary Elaine Thomas and I are both concerned that the list of contacts may not be current. The same is true of email addresses, as people sometimes change their email but forget to notify us. Any and all corrections and updates will be appreciated.
- Please also send along any events your association is planning for the "Calendar of Coming Events," also at the end of each newsletter. This is a valuable tool for keeping up with ranger events around the world.

Bill Halainen
Editor
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Secretary's Report

Here are some recent developments:

New And Pending Members

The IRF international family of rangers continues to grow. Recently, two new associations joined the federation – the Protected Area Workers Association of New South Wales (Australia) joined as a full member and the New Zealand Recreation Association has joined as an associate member. Welcome! I have also received applications for membership from Uganda and Peru.

IRF Elections

As our thoughts turn to Bolivia and the Sixth World Congress, it is time to start thinking about elections for positions on the International Executive Committee and for continental representatives. Nominations will be required for the positions listed below and it is very important for the IRF that we receive high quality nominations for all our offices. Stay tuned for further details.

International Executive Committee

President
Vice-President
Treasurer
Secretary

Continental Representatives

North America
South America
Central America
Europe
Africa
Australia
Asia

Proposals For Hosting Next Two World Congresses

We will also be calling for proposals from ranger associations to host the next two International Ranger Federation World Congresses, scheduled for 2012 and 2015.

Reports From Member Associations

And finally, reports from member associations, detailing the activities they have been involved with since the last congress in Scotland, will be required prior to the World Congress in Bolivia. I am working with the IEC on the format and will send it out in the coming months. These reports are critical way for your association to input in to the work of the IRF.

Keep an eye out in coming editions of the Thin Green Line for further details on everything discussed above.

Elaine Thomas
Secretary
irfsec@yahoo.com.au

Youth Development Officer Report

Kveta Cernohlavkova and Michal Skalka from the Czech Republic will be helping Cassie Wright as new youth development officers.

Kveta is a member of the pedagogy faculty at Charles University, Prague. She has long experience with managing youth camps for both the healthy and the disabled. She developed several programs for the Junior Ranger Project (JRP) and worked rigorously on it. She obtained an Alfred Toepfer travel scholarship for JRP study in Europe. The final report from this study trip has been completed and is now available via email at junior.ranger@volny.cz.

Michal Skalka has been professional ranger since 1992 in Krkonose National Park. He worked five years as an environmental educator in a special centre for environmental education and is the coordinator for JRP in Krkonose NP. He is a member of the Czech Ranger Association's board. e-mail: junior.ranger@volny.cz

A discussion about Youth Development will soon be held by Deanne Adams (IRF vice president), Cassie Wright, Michal and Kveta.

Michal Skalka
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Central America Regional Representative Report

Friends Around The World:

The following articles have been published by the national newspaper, *La Nación*, concerning national park activities happening now in Costa Rica. This is one of the most interested newspapers in the country in publishing more news regarding our national parks. I know there are more specialised magazines and news papers treating the same themes as well online, but I do not have enough time to dig deep inside the net get more news! It is a shame, is not it?

Our first article takes us to some interesting research published by the worldwide known magazine, *Nature*, where it treats the relationship between national parks and their surrounding communities. One of its principal conclusions is that these sorts of relationships are growing stronger everyday because of the uncountable benefits obtained from each others' actions on behalf of protected areas. Another conclusion is that these relationships could be a problem for protected areas if they don't strengthen because communities can become our worst enemies, as they're just yards away from our protected areas. So there is always a constant responsibility to keep our outreach programs as active as possible in order to avoid these kinds of bad times with our most valuable and strategic neighbors. Double click on the following link to read more: www.nacion.com/ln_ee/2008/julio/03/aldea1604476.html.

With the donation of a couple of fast boats, the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE), promises to improve its efforts to more effectively protect our beloved Cocos Island National Park, which has been destroyed by the activities of illegal fishermen and drug-dealing pirates who use this natural treasure to avoid the cops and get away with their activities. We all in the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC) hope to see these donated boats where they must be – in the hands our park rangers at the Cocos Island, in order to stop most of the illegal activities happening now! Double click on the following link to read more: www.nacion.com/ln_ee/2008/agosto/07/aldea1651022.html.

This link tells us about the creation of new national park in Costa Rica called “Los Quetzales.” According to the National System of Conservation Areas of Costa Rica, this is one of the most visited areas in the country by the splendid Quetzal. In the article, you will find more information on its general features, such as flora and fauna, orientation maps, contact information, and so on. Our great challenge from here on is to establish the needed quantity and quality of park rangers, to protect this important natural piece of land. Double click on the following link to read more: www.nacion.com/ln_ee/2008/julio/09/aldea1614446.html.

This is an article, published by the union workers of Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE), where they expose a series of needs in our national parks. This union’s declaration went out to the public, taking advantage of the celebration of the National Parks Day in Costa Rica on August 24th. On that special day, our national parks are awarded by every conservation movement in Costa Rica, so countrywide a lot of forums and discussions took place in order to reflect on the current situation of our protected areas and what actions can be done to improve in the years to come. Double click on the following link to read more: www.nacion.com/ln_ee/2008/agosto/22/aldea1671136.html.

As one of the most valuable results from the official celebration of our National Parks Day, two NGO’s working for the conservation efforts in Costa Rica, called Fundación Proparques y FUNDECOR, are promoting an idea in which an individual can be part of a movement called Friends of the National Parks. The government, represented by the Ministry of Environment and Energy, is allocating seed funding to contribute to the academic and technical formation of our park rangers in Costa Rica. Individuals and private companies can weekly, monthly or yearly contribute to the effort being made by the NGO’s and make possible this goal. We in the field expect to see the results of this visionary project soon, and expect that it will improve our corps of park rangers, as rangers are a really important species on their way to extinction if our governments, unions, associations and federations do not wake up soon! Double click on the following link to read more: www.nacion.com/ln_ee/2008/agosto/23/aldea1672786.html

For me this is the article to spread out online. The author is a geographer and a park ranger. He took time to reflect on the system (before known as the National Park Service) and how it has changed in the past 30 years. He mention some of the “big shots” in the history of the national parks, whose courage and vision have help the system to be what it currently is. Thanks to these people for dedicating their personal time, for sacrificing their personal and family goals, and for getting the real sense of our national parks and defending them against all kind of atrocities. I really recommend you read this article. I hope it inspires you as it did it me and my workmates here at Poas Volcano National Park. Double click on the following link to read more: www.nacion.com/ln_ee/2008/agosto/23/opinion1673351.html.

On the celebrations of the National Parks Day in Costa Rica, a special award called “Ojoche” is given to those individuals whose contributions have helped the system solve or at least follow up on some of the main issues regarding our national parks’ management. In fact, these people have given much of their time, cooperating with scientific research, working with local communities, engaging in law enforcement when needed, and so on. On behalf of our association, thanks a lot and keep up the good work for nature. Double click on the following link to read more: www.nacion.com/ln_ee/2008/agosto/24/aldea1674355.html.

Finally, I invite you to know more about our national parks by hitting the following links. In September, *La Nación* issued a special section dedicated to our most valuable national parks in Costa Rica. Each Monday, a specific article was published regarding some scientific issues being worked on nowadays in these protected areas, and on Tuesdays a four-page poster was printed and put up online for those interested in getting to know more about our natural patrimony.
www.nacion.com/ln_ee/2008/septiembre/01/aldea1678387.html
www.nacion.com/ln_ee/ESPECIALES/2008/septiembre/parquesnacionales/
www.nacion.com/ln_ee/2008/septiembre/08/aldea1685890.html
www.nacion.com/ln_ee/2008/septiembre/15/aldea1687088.html

Our association has been meeting bi-monthly due to problems in getting all the necessary permits to meet every month as planned at the beginning of 2008. Besides, we are trying to improve our communications taking advantage of the internet, by using private chat rooms, text messaging with our personal cell phones, and so on. At this point, this is all I have to share with you all. Have a wonderful day and keep up the good work for our beloved mother nature.

Best Regards,

Mauricio Arias Zumbado.
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Volcán Poás National Park, Costa Rica
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Africa Regional Representative Report

The following is a synopsis of some of the main developments and news snippets from Africa since the last edition 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 underway. There have been further informal endorsements of PAMS, inter alia, from Conservation International (South Africa) and a memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been signed with WWF Tanzania whereby they will promote the use of PAMS in the furtherance of best practice within nature conservation in Tanzania. The MOU also deals with cooperation in other areas, including the development and promotion of the use of best environmental practice standards for nature-based tourism operations and developments in Tanzania and the development and promotion of appropriate invasive alien species control programs for areas of conservation importance within Tanzania. PAMS is also to form an important part of a module to be presented to students of the Southern African Wildlife College, with the first of these new courses on “Ensuring Effective Management” due to be presented at the college this coming November.

African Representation Issues

Some of the Africa Committee members embarked on a conservation outreach trip. Leaving Kruger National Park in South Africa, the convoy of Toyota vehicles travelled through Mozambique, Zambia and Botswana, travelling a total of 5,482 km in 91.5 hours driving time. There is a link on the Game Rangers Association of Africa (GRAA) website www.gameranger.org to the web page www.conservationoutreach.co.za where you can read all about the trip. A useful tip is to start at the bottom and read the daily blog upwards to see the pictures and read about the adventures. The group recruited some 90 new members to the GRAA on this trip.

Wayne Lotter represented the GRAA, the International Ranger Federation and WWF Tanzania at the inaugural invasive alien species workshop of the Kenyan Wildlife Service (KWS), held in Nairobi from September 2nd to September 4th. During this visit, he briefly met the director of KWS, Mr. Julius K. Kipng'etich, who indicated a strong interest in establishing a Game Rangers Association region in Kenya and promised to continue further discussions in this regard.

GRAA Redefining Its Way Forward

The GRAA held a strategic planning workshop in Johannesburg from July 11th to July 13th. This meeting was directed by an independent facilitator who is helping the GRAA plan its way forward into the short, medium and long-term future. The proceedings from this workshop are pending, due to the fact that the GRAA chairman and various committee members were away on the Conservation Outreach trip during most of the month of August.

Wayne Derek Lotter
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Australia Regional Representative

Time again for the news report and this time I am going to be on time and supply you all with the information instead of leaving it on my computer.

New South Wales (by Tegan Burton)

In recognition of World Ranger Day 2008, the Protected Area Workers Association (PAWA) held a presentation night in the Blue Mountains showcasing the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic region. The three field-based presenters provided insights into the amazing landscapes and challenging management issues of Macquarie Island, South West New Zealand and Mawsons Hut. All door entries from the night are going towards the Ranger Dependants Fund and it is hoped that this will become an annual event with a regional theme each year.

PAWA continues to be involved in "Equip the Amazon," a joint project with ACT Brazil and the Associação dos Povos Indígenas Tiriyo, Kaxuyana e Txikiyana (APITIKATXI). Various fundraising activities have been occurring, including a canoe challenge earlier in the year and a raffle drawn on World Ranger Day. These activities not only raise funds but also raise the profile of rangers and some of the challenges they face in other areas of the world. One of the inspiring outcomes is seeing the immediate contributions of equipment such as digital cameras and uniforms that have come in from both protected area workers and the general community here in NSW, to be passed on to others.

On the communications front, the PAWA website has been launched - www.pawansw.org. Along with providing a rundown on the association and its activities, it also has a great links page. If there are associations or great sites out there that have been missed, please let us know, although obviously not every great site out there can be included. We've also been making great use of the various free internet translators. They're not exactly grammatically correct but it's definitely enough to catch the intent of a message and has enabled us to make great leaps forward in communicating with our international colleagues

In June this year, a NSW taskforce was established to look at tourism and national parks in response to the state plan's requirement to increase visitation to national parks and reserves by 20% by 2016. The taskforce will examine 'opportunities for an enhanced level of sustainable tourism in NSW's parks and reserves which is also compatible with the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage values of those areas. We are all waiting, no doubt a little nervously, to see what direction is taken in the end.

At a federal level, it was pleasing to see the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts decide to prohibit the importation of the savannah cat into Australia, due to the risks posed to the Australian environment. The savannah cat is a new breed of cat, representing a hybrid of the domestic cat and the African serval, the result being a cat with is twice as large as normal domestic cats that can jump two meters into the air from standing and is intelligent, assertive and aggressive. Given the historic and on-going impacts of feral cats on Australia's wildlife, the introduction of this species as a domestic pet was a serious concern to land managers and conservationists across Australia.

Queensland (by Paul Lawless-Pyne)

As part of the celebrations of 100 years of national parks in Queensland, the Queensland Rangers Association's (QRA) 2008 conference was held in the beautiful Tamborine Mountains in the Southern Region of Queensland on April 22nd and 23rd.

The conference theme was "Recreation - Past Experiences to Future Expectations," which explored the link between past management of recreation and the current best practice techniques from around the world. A number of speakers presented some very interesting information to the group, including an account of the history of parks in Queensland which all present agreed was very enjoyable.

Rangers travelled from across the state to participate in information sharing and the general camaraderie, story-telling and the consuming of liquid refreshments which happens when rangers get together. Field trips were held to different locations, including Witches Falls National Park, which was the first national park gazetted in Queensland, though it has been claimed that Barron Falls in North Queensland was first.

The conference was also used for the historic signing of the Council of Australian Rangers Association agreement. This is the new direction of the Australian Rangers Federation. It was great to see some of our interstate colleagues attend to sign the agreement and to participate in and enjoy some Queensland hospitality. Interstate rangers travelled from New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania to be part of the historic event

One of the presentations given to the conference was by Park Forum, which is an industry association for park management agencies across Australia and New Zealand. Park Forum seeks to:

- Ensure the protection of parks, improved management of the natural environment and to increase benefits for the community through a unified parks industry
- Improve management, protection, understanding, appreciation and use of parks and the natural environment through best practice, innovation, industry standards and benchmarking
- Provide a forum for members to share information, experience and expertise
- Enhance communities understanding of the natural environment, its enjoyment and role and importance of parks

Victoria (Andrew Nixon)

Some dot points regards Victorian Ranger Association (VRA) activity over the last few months:

- VRA had their inaugural annual dinner on International Ranger Day July 31st. There was a good turnout, with reps from a variety of ranger/park services. Evening cruise on the Yarra river was a highlight.
- VRA held its annual workshop from Friday, October 10th, to Sunday, October 13th. The focus was on threatened species management in Brisbane Ranges NP.
- The VRA and IRF were profiled at the recent Parks Victoria Staff Conference and Awards Day when Sean Willmore was honoured with a special presentation for his TGL work.
- The VRA is having discussions with the Parks Forum, a representative industry body across Australia/New Zealand/Southeast Asia regarding development of an MOU and further cooperative actions.

That is all I have for you this time. If you are having issues fitting it all in, you can edit it to what suits better. Take care until next time we communicate

Regards

Paul Lawless-Pyne
Australian/Oceania Rep
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NEWS FROM NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

England and Wales Countryside Management Association

Over the past year, CMA has been busy developing partnership accords with several similar professional organizations. Like the CMA, these organizations feel that there is much to be gained from coming together and it is hoped that this arrangement might be formalized at some point in the future.

The new regional structure of the CMA has been finalized, aligning our CMA regions in England with those of the government agency responsible for conserving and enhancing our natural environment, Natural England www.naturalengland.org.uk. The CMA regions continue to provide local networking and training opportunities for our members.

The CMA annual conference is due to take place on October 29th and 30th in Wiltshire. Entitled "The Big Squeeze – The Pressure On Our Countryside And Greenspace," the conference will explore the best ways for those who manage these areas to respond practically and strategically. A range of keynote speakers, workshops and field visits has been arranged.

CMA has been invited to take an active part in a "Jobs for Nature" congress in November that is being organized by the French National Parks in Lyon, France (jobsfornature.espaces-naturels.fr/drupal).

We will be contributing to a workshop entitled "Recognition of jobs and lines of work - Rangers and Ranger networks." Rigmor Solem (Norway) will also contribute to the congress on behalf of the IRF as the IRF European representative.

CMA continues to publish its full colour magazine, *Ranger*, every quarter. The summer 2008 edition was a special issue on global warming/climate change. Previous editions of *Ranger* magazine may be viewed in the publications section of the CMA website (www.countryside-management.org.uk/publins/index.php).

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Scotland

Scottish Countryside Rangers Association

A delegation of SCRA members has just returned from the latest study tour to Iceland. This was part of our long-standing twinning agreement with our colleagues over there. During the visit, we discussed ways to enhance our twinning, which included another personnel exchange in 2009, closer links between national parks, and a program of youth volunteer trips to Iceland. These will be worked up over the next year and implemented in 2009.

The latest Europarc Junior Ranger Camp was held recently at Glen Tanar in Cairngorms National Park. Junior rangers and their mentors came from all over Europe to participate in a program of outdoor activities and conservation tasks in the park. During the week, they each delivered a presentation on their own work in the protected areas of their home countries.

SCRA recently appointed a group of consultants to work up and deliver a program of ranger training and continued professional development in Scotland. This work will also include a list of core skills considered essential for work as a ranger in Scotland. These will include suggestions from rangers, their employers and government agencies and will be delivered as the basis for the employment of rangers in this country.

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Germany

German Ranger Association

The 14th nationwide ranger meeting was held in the Pfälzer Wald/Nordvogesen Biosphere Reserve from April 2nd to April 4th. A new managing committee was voted in. The chairman is Frank Grütz, coordinator of Naturwacht (nature guards) Saarland and the vice chairman is Carsten Wagner from Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft National Park. Other members of the board are Robby Meißner from Harz National Park, Hubert Stumpf from Rhön Biosphere Reserve, and Anne Spiegel from Flusslandschaft Elbe Biosphere Reserve. You can find additional information on the German Ranger Association web page: www.bundesverband-naturwacht.de.

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England

English Ranger Association

The English Ranger Association, in partnership with the Ugandan Wildlife Authority and Queen Elizabeth County Park, has established a “twinning” relationship with Queen Elizabeth National Park in England. It is a project of cultural exchange and mutual support with a primary emphasis on supporting conservation through working closely with and empowering local communities.

The idea of twinning the two Queen Elizabeth parks came about when Charles Etoru from QENP and Steve Peach from QECP met when they both attended the International Ranger Federation Congress in Kruger National Park in South Africa. Finding that they were both presenting displays about Queen Elizabeth parks, a friendship was made and the idea of twinning and mutual support was born.

The key objectives of the project are:

- To support and promote the conservation work of both QE parks.
- To set up a system to help provide resources in support of the QENP rangers and their community conservation objectives.
- To support the conservation of QENP by helping to fund sustainable community-based projects, such as women’s crafts groups and small holding/sustainable food production projects.
- To support the educational provision for children living in and around both QE parks.
- To encourage schools local to both QE parks to become involved in cultural and educational exchanges.
- To encourage links between the local communities of both QE parks.
- To set up an information and staff exchange system to promote the continued professional development
- of staff and volunteers from both parks.

For more information, go to the following web site: queenelizabethparks.org/default.aspx

Steve Peach
ERA Secretary & Vice Chair
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United States

Association of National Park Rangers

On October 4th, the WCPA held a meeting of commission members prior to the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona. ANPR was represented at this meeting by this author as a member of the commission. Also in attendance were IRF President David Zeller, IRF Vice President Deanne Adams, and Sean Willmore, producer of the ranger documentary “The Thin Green Line” and director of the Thin Green Line Foundation.

Reports of regional activity by the 15 regional vice-chairs of the commission were given in summary form, and future strategic direction was discussed through group break-out sessions and in a final plenary session. Of particular interest to IRF was a special 10-minute screening of “The Thin Green Line” documentary, which was shown by Sean Willmore to enthusiastic support from the attending members. Afterwards, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Thin Green line Foundation, IRF, and WCPA (see the president’s and vice president’s reports in this issue).

The next day, President Zeller, Vice President Adams and Treasurer Sean Pendergast met to discuss the Bolivian Congress, Friends of IRF, and other IRF business. I attended as the representative from ANPR, a member of IRF. There should be further summaries of these meetings in the next issue of TGL.

The annual meeting of US national park rangers is being held this year in Santa Fe, New Mexico, from December 10 – 14. It looks to be a very successful meeting, with registrations coming in fast. As discussed in earlier TGLs, ANPR welcomes any of our international ranger colleagues to join us at this meeting. Gordon

Miller, past IRF president and executive director, will be attending. 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 at www.anpr.org, and click on 'Ranger Rendezvous'. Hope to see you there.

Travel well.

Tony Sisto
ANPR International Affairs
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NEWS FROM RANGERS

Brazil Ranger Training Course Held

The Amazon Conservation Team (ACT) in Brazil, in conjunction with the Association of Park Rangers of Amapa, held the Fourth Course of Park Ranger Training in Macapa, Brazil, from September 14th to October 3rd. The 24 participants from the northern states of Brazil were joined by two rangers from Portugal, one from Spain, and two observers from the Protected Area Workers Association of New South Wales, Australia. The intensive 20-day program included a full spectrum of essential theory, including botany, ecology, biodiversity conservation, wildlife management, cultural heritage, interpersonal skills and community involvement. This was complemented by an equally diverse range of field skills, from GPS use and mapping, remote survival, night patrols and fauna and flora surveys to firefighting and first aid. The successful participants are now well versed in both the theoretical and practical needs of a park ranger and are well-prepared to work effectively in the protection and management of our invaluable protected area system. In addition, the involvement of rangers from areas outside Brazil helped broaden perspectives on both sides and develop opportunities for mentoring and ongoing capacity building.

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Cameroon Ranger Relief: Body Armour Shipped To Rangers In Cameroon

Another Ranger Relief project has been recently completed. Charlie Jacobi, a natural resource specialist in Acadia National Park in the U.S., gathered 34 previously used bulletproof vests to send to rangers in Africa. Einar Olsen, Ranger Relief coordinator for the U.S. Association of National Park Rangers, worked with WWF-U.S. to identify needs. The vests were sent to the southeast region of Cameroon, where they will be used by forest rangers associated with the WWF Jengi project. WWF handled shipping and customs formalities.

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

2008

- October 29 – October 30 "The Big Squeeze – The Pressure On Our Countryside And Greenspace," CMA Conference, Countryside Management Association, Lackham Countryside Centre, Lacock, Wiltshire.
- November 10 – November 12 First Scottish Ranger Rendezvous, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Parks. For more information, got to www.scra-online.co.uk
- December 10 – December 15 31st Annual Ranger Rendezvous, U.S. Association of National Park Rangers, La Fonda Hotel, Santa Fe, New Mexico.
www.anpr.org/anprrr.htm

2009

- July 31 World Ranger Day.

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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#	Fauna and Flora International	##	Int. Centre for Protected Landscapes
+	Royal Society for the Preservation of Birds	++	Great Apes Survival Project (UNEP)