



THE THIN GREEN LINE NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION

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OFFICERS REPORTS

President's Report

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

When I accepted the position as President of the IRF in Australia, I knew it would be a lot of hard work. What I did not take into account was that the Fifth World Parks Congress (WPC) would take place only six months into my term of office. And what a roller-coaster ride those six months have been....

WPC was the IRF's first organized contribution to a major international conservation event, a rare opportunity to highlight the important role of rangers and the great difficulties under which they work, and we had only a very short time to prepare for this!

Although we all know that rangers are a very special breed, the lead-up to, and into, WPC really showed just how much depth, commitment and drive rangers have:

- Rick Smith and Bill Wade worked tirelessly in polishing and pushing the “Ranger Competency” resolution, developed at the Third IRF Congress in Kruger in 2000.
- Juan Carlos Gambarotta and Tim Snow further developed and promoted the “Protecting the Protector” issue, first raised at the First IRF Congress in Zakopane in 1995 and expanded and refined at the Fourth IRF Congress in Wilson’s Prom earlier this year.
- The Danish Rangers prepared the “Shared Principles” resolution adopted at Wilson’s Prom in preparation for WPC.
- With the support of Ian Player and John Forrest, I revived the concept of an international task group (euphemistically termed the “Green Helmet Brigade”) for intervention in protected areas under threat as a result of regional conflict, an idea first muted in the 1980’s by the GRAA, adopted at the Second IRF Congress held in Costa Rica in 1997, and ratified in Kruger in 2000.
- The IRF submitted two formal recommendations to the IUCN for consideration during WPC, “Ranger Competencies” and “Protecting the Protector,” but unfortunately, and despite amendments and resubmission, these were not accepted.

Besides the substance issues, there was also a mountain of administrative work which needed to be done. Deanne Adams was a pillar of strength, not only in the arrangements for the IRF exhibition booth at WPC, but in many other ways. Gordon Miller worked tirelessly amongst our friends and donor community, and in making arrangements for funded rangers. The local GRAA rangers were extremely helpful and supportive, both in pre-congress organization and during the congress.

In recognition of this big occasion (and in a slightly late celebration of the IRF’s tenth anniversary), it was decided to produce a full-color hardcopy special edition of the IRF’s Thin Green Line. Thanks to a sterling effort by Bill Halainen, Stewart Bonney and his team at NPIB and to JLO Publishers, and of course all the rangers who contributed, this magazine was prepared and printed in record time and made available at WPC. This special edition of the Thin Green Line is of world class and something to keep and be proud of. (Rangers who would like a copy of the special edition of the Thin Green Line at cost price plus postage please contact Gordon Miller. Only a limited number available).

The small group of rangers who met together in a hotel suite in Durban the night before the opening of WPC were not overly optimistic about our chances of being heard by the international conservation community. Our recommendations had been ignored in the pre-congress preparations, and we all had past experience of seeing the real issues buried in purely academic and bureaucratic debate.

But rangers are passionate about the natural and cultural heritage for which they are responsible at coal-face level. Without the protectors, there would be no protected areas and we were determined to bring real issues to the attention of the international conservation community.

At the first meeting in the hotel room, focus and priorities were established, and tasks assigned.

The WPC opening ceremony saw 36 rangers in their specially-commissioned blue IRF shirts seated together in a group. Nelson Mandela’s opening speech was inspiring and in particular his reference to the importance of youth in conservation.

Then the real work began in the workshops. For the next nine days, the IRF delegates contributed intelligently, meaningfully and skillfully and brought a sense of the real issues to the debate. Valuable contributions were also made outside of the formal proceedings; in the corridors, in private meetings, over cups of tea during the breaks, and especially in discussions with visitors to the IRF exhibition booth. The group of rangers supporting the IRF contribution to WPC eventually grew to 52 rangers from 22 countries.

The valuable contribution of the rangers to the discussions was soon recognized, with panelists soon commenting positively on the role of the ranger. Some comments from leaders and panelists included the following:

“... rangers must be well equipped, trained and supported.”

“... rangers are out there every day, they are our eyes and ears on the ground, sometimes risking their lives, and we need to help them.”

“... we need to get the rangers out there, and this is urgent.”

“... maybe we should be focusing on the people who are out there protecting the biodiversity for all the world.”

“I haven't had much exposure in the past to rangers and it was fascinating to talk and interact with them.”

To paraphrase an often repeated compliment: “It is great to see so many rangers in attendance, bringing real issues to the world’s attention”.

More subtle and interesting was that, within a few days, a large number of delegates were wearing blue shirts, and many offers were made to try to buy the IRF/WPC shirts from rangers! The IRF delegation in their blue shirts became easily recognized and, dare I say it, envied by other delegates

The young rangers made a huge impact on youth issues, and very smartly turned the youth debate from paying mere “lip service” into focusing on real issues.

The IRF hotel suite became the nerve center for IRF delegate reports and strategy meetings, with a regular 6 p.m. meeting each evening, and much work being done, often into the early hours of the morning. All was not dull, as meeting with friends and colleagues from across the world also necessitated some typical ranger socializing. A number of visitors and VIP’s also visited us at the suite, wanting to meet and talk with the rangers.

The IRF booth in the exhibition center was manned by rangers in uniform throughout WPC. Almost all the VIPs and delegates attending WPC paid a visit to the IRF booth, where they could talk face to face with rangers about issues and experiences. Over 190 WPC delegates left their names and addresses for further contact and information. The IRF booth generated a lot of new, very good friends – in government, NGO’s and the donor community – and was a very worthwhile effort.

It was a proud and moving moment, when John Makombo accepted an IUCN Packard Award on behalf of “all the rangers who have lost their lives in the course of duty.” After his moving acceptance speech John asked the rangers in the audience to stand and be recognized, to a standing ovation.

On presenting the award, Kenton Miller, IUCN WCPA chair, announced the creation of a fund for the support of the families of rangers who died while on duty. This fund will be jointly managed by the IUCN and IRF. The IUCN has made the first significant contribution to the fund, and we will be seeking matching donations to increase the size of the fund to aid the ever increasing number of widowed and orphaned ranger families.

What did the IRF achieve at WPC?

- In terms of having important ranger issues debated and tied into WPC outcomes, I believe that we achieved far more than we ever thought possible. No less than 20 IRF recommendations are contained in the WPC recommendations!
- The IRF gained a lot of new friends who can be of great support to the IRF in the future. We also met rangers from countries who were unaware of the IRF, and will be seeing a number of new national associations joining the international family of rangers.
- Our impact and contribution to WPC was far greater than our small .02% of the total number of delegates present. The meaningful and significant contributions of the rangers throughout WPC can be clearly read in the outcomes of WPC – the Durban Accord, the Durban Action Plan, recommendations, and the message to the Convention on Biodiversity and Emerging Issues. It is gratifying that the international conservation community appears to be listening to the rangers for the first time – that “thin green line” of **professionals** at the coal-face of conservation.

For details on the specific recommendations issued, go to the IUCN web site at www.iucn.org and click on the Fifth World Congress. Look at recommendations 5.1, 5.2, and 5.15. These are the ones where our efforts are most clear:

- 5.1 recognizes that threats to field staff are one of the realities of the 21st century;

- 5.2 specifically mentions rangers as one of the group of employees who need better training, housing, and personal security; and
- 5.15 talks about establishing a fund to compensate families of park employees killed in the line of duty.

Now for some thoughts on the road that now lies ahead...

We are committed to working with the international conservation community in ensuring that the outcomes of WPC are put into practice as tangible benefits to parks and beyond their boundaries. We all share common goals. With the recognition of the professional contribution that rangers can make, we can contribute significantly to the sustainable conservation of the natural and cultural heritage for the benefit of all, and in particular of the youth, local communities and indigenous peoples.

We must also focus on the gains made in ensuring that rangers are properly supported to carry out their important work safely and competently. Institutions and agencies must heed the recommendations from WPC in ensuring that institutional support is in place, including harsh penalties for attacks on rangers.

We will be expanding the already successful IRF involvement with youth, and we will be working with international and continental bodies towards the creation of a "Green Helmet Brigade" for rapid response and intervention in protected areas under threat through conflict.

We will need money to do all that needs to be done, and we will need to call on our new (and old) friends in the donor community and take advantage of the increased profile of the IRF in obtaining the necessary funding. We also need to build on the IUCN/IRF fund for ranger families.

We must also take the gains made during WPC to the next Convention on Biodiversity meeting in 2004, and have the issues recognized by the Conference of Parties and incorporated under an international convention.

There is still a lot of work ahead, but, as was shown at WPC, there is a wealth of talent and expertise amongst rangers throughout the world, who have shown that they can work well together and contribute significantly to solid outcomes.

In reflecting on WPC and the IRF's future role and way forward, I had to study all the outputs of WPC and also revisit the many achievements of the IRF, particularly the outputs of the past four IRF congresses. It struck me most forcefully that rangers throughout the world have been addressing the same concerns and issues and identifying the same solutions for many years. Never before has the voice of the ranger been taken seriously, and we must now move forward positively to ensure that all that we hold dear and believe in becomes a reality.

In closing I must congratulate the IUCN on a very productive and stimulating Fifth World Parks Congress. The IRF is committed to supporting the IUCN and the international conservation community in attaining real and sustainable outcomes from WPC.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the following people:

- To our very good friend Peter Shadie, CEO of WPC, for never letting us down;
- To David Sheppard, Secretary General WPC, and Kenton Miller, WCPA Chair and WPC International Steering Committee, for the opportunities afforded to IRF at WPC;
- To Julia Carabias, the lead on capacity building at WPC, for all her support and encouragement;
- To Deanne Adams, for all her tremendous work and effort and time;
- To Rick Smith, Bill Wade, Juan Carlos Gamborotta, Tim Snow and Tony Sisto, for running with the ball;
- To Sean Prendergast and Declan Keiley for keeping me sane; and
- To all the IRF delegates to WPC, too numerous to mention – what a team you were;
- To the GRAA rangers who lent a helping hand in Durban, and a wonderful beach braai for the IRF delegates; and, finally,
- To all the rangers out there who could not attend WPC. Being at your posts and on duty is the real issue. Your contribution, dedication and devotion to the sustainable conservation and protection of the natural and cultural heritage is why we were at WPC.

This report focuses exclusively on WPC, as that has been what has kept me most busy pre- and post-congress. The IRF remains active in many other respects, which will be reported on at another time.

Please spare a thought for our friends in need. The Portuguese and Bolivian rangers, amongst others, are having a struggle at the moment and need your support and prayers.

I wish you all a Happy New Year and peace, health, safety and happiness.

David Zeller, President
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Vice President's Report

After months of trials and negotiations, IRF was able to form a delegation of 49 rangers for the World Parks Congress, all dressing in the very smart official blue shirt with the ying-yang logo. The Congress was very big, but people were nevertheless very aware of us. Because of that, the recommendations of the Congress contain all we wanted to recommend, even though we couldn't have our own recommendations in the form we desired.

Recommendation 5.15 on "Peace, Conflict & Protected Areas," for example, was very influenced by our team. We were able to include the words found in point b), which says "Develop the capacity for international rapid response to provide training, mediation and support for field based protected area staff in times of crisis including armed conflict."

We were also responsible for inclusion of:

- Point e), “Investigate and implement international and national instruments to strengthen protection of World Heritage Sites and other PA in times of conflict...”
- Point i), “Ensure that protected area field staff are adequately trained, equipped and continually supported to maintain conservation effectiveness, morale and safety.”
- Point o), “Establish a fund to assist families of protected area staff killed or injured in the line of duty.”

Other points within this recommendation also include ideas of ours.

Thanks to new official information provided at the Congress by Jobogo Mirindi from Democratic Republic of Congo and Daniel Onsembe from Kenya, I was able to add some more names to the list of rangers killed on duty. We know well the list is far from being complete even for the short period of time of five years which was the time frame, but I appreciate very much the effort made by all who provided data through the last minute to help us give all Congress attendees an overview of the problem. During that period, at least 65 rangers were killed in the line of duty.

The Congress provided an excellent opportunity to meet new rangers, and I personally was very happy to see that in some cases native people are organizing themselves to protect the parks where they live. I was very glad to establish contacts with people from the Philippines and Papua New Guinea, who consider the indigenous people they work with as rangers. The Federation should not miss this opportunity to incorporate this new kind of rangers. Cuba is very interested in becoming a member of the Federation as well.

My final thought is that the Congress was “sincere.” We know that most of the protected areas of the world face a tremendous lack of staff, infrastructure, budget and in many cases political support. Protected areas in many countries still are not considered seriously.

Some people asked me: Do those congresses help parks in any form? I think yes, but not the Congress itself. Rather, it helps attendants to get their own picture and is up to everyone to choose his/her path.

Juan Carlos Gambarotta, Vice President

P.S.: I must mention a high point of the Congress for me. I finally saw Nelson Mandela. From far, not as desired, but at least could hear his still potent voice, one more time telling the truth...

Editor's Report

Outgoing Editor

This is the 30th and last edition of IRF's newsletter that I will be editing for the International Ranger Federation. Although I definitely intend to remain an active member of this organization and available to Dave Zeller for any tasks he may have at hand, it's time to turn the publication over to someone who has the time, inclination and dedication necessary to get the newsletter out on a quarterly basis. Last year, I was able to get out just one edition, which is simply not sufficient for an organization that has such a strong need for regular communications and is in such a period of active growth.

Fortunately, a colleague here in the U.S. National Park Service has stepped up the plate. Laura Illige, who works as a ranger in a wonderful woodlands park in the heart of Washington, D.C., will become editor with the next issue, due out in April. I will work closely with Laura to assure a seamless transition, and will remain available to help her in anyway possible. As you'll see below, Laura will be making every effort to revive the publication's quarterly schedule. It will be up to all of you to help her meet those deadline!

Nearly a dozen years have now passed since the meeting that several of us held at a hotel near Loch Lomond in 1992 to discuss the founding of IRF. In reflecting about IRF's evolution over that period, nothing is so striking as the rapidity of its growth. It's clear in retrospect that we were all ready for this to happen and only needed the seed to be planted. Of all the many people who deserve great credit for making IRF happen, none deserves it more than Gordon Miller. His vision,

energy and persistence in the face of considerable challenges (financial, organizational, logistical, political) are the single greatest reason for IRF's surviving its infancy and becoming a mature organization.

It is increasingly evident that our thin green line is becoming thinner and more frayed every day. Population growth, resource exploitation, and the political undermining of environmentalism and the principles of conservation are making it harder and harder for us to hold what little ground we hold and have worked so hard and so long to protect. It's hard not to become discouraged and gloomy about our prospects, but we can keep going and keep up the good fight if we all work together and support each other whenever and wherever possible. IRF is and will be the forum and foundation for those efforts in the future.

Bill Halainen
Outgoing Editor

Incoming Editor

Happy New Year to everyone in the IRF. My name is Laura Illige, and I have been a member of IRF since 1997. I attended the IRF Congresses in Costa Rica in 1997 and in Australia in 2003.

I am honored and a bit overwhelmed to be taking over for Bill Halainen as editor of the electronic newsletter for the IRF, [The Thin Green Line](#). He's done a great job, and I hope to live up to Bill's high standards. Feel free to contact me at any time – I can be reached via email at thingreenline@starpower.net, and my postal address is 7346 Carroll Ave, Apt. 2, Takoma Park, MD, 20912, USA. I live in the Washington, DC area and work for the U.S. National Park Service at Rock Creek Park in DC. If you are in the area look me up!

Please also use the above address to submit articles for [The Thin Green Line](#). The submission deadline and publication schedule for newsletter in 2004 will be as follows:

Issue	Submission Due Date	Publication Date
April	Friday, March 12	Sunday, April 4
July	Friday, June 11	Sunday, July 4
October	Friday, September 10	Sunday, October 3
January	Friday, December 10	Sunday, January 2

Laura Illige
Incoming Editor

Past President's Report

Past president Rick Smith attended the World Parks Congress, and has provided this version in Spanish for inclusion in [Thin Green Line](#):

Quinto Congreso Mundial De Parques

El Quinto Congreso Mundial de Parques representó el comienzo de una nueva época para la profesión de guardaparque. Los 39 guardaparques de 6 continentes que asistieron tuvieron un impacto innegable sobre las deliberaciones de los delegados del Congreso. No solo fueron fácilmente reconocibles por el uso de las camisas de la FIG, pero también se mantuvieron enfocados sobre la meta de modificar las recomendaciones en borrador para que se dirigieran a las preocupaciones de los guardaparques relacionadas con capacitación y seguridad personal.

Evidencia del éxito de los delegados de la FIG pueden encontrarse en las recomendaciones finales adoptadas por los 2.500 delegados. La recomendación 5.1 dice en un lugar:

“Una de las presiones que aumentará durante el siglo veintiuno es la aparición de amenazas cada vez mayores contra el bienestar y la seguridad de las personas empleadas en las áreas protegidas.

Habida cuenta de lo antedicho, los PARTICIPANTES en el ciclo “Aumento de la capacidad: desarrollo de la capacidad de gestión”, organizado en el marco del V Congreso Mundial de Parques, celebrado en Durban (Sudáfrica) del 8 al 17 de septiembre de 2003:

1. RECOMIENDAN que los gobiernos, las organizaciones intergubernamentales, las ONG, las comunidades locales y la sociedad civil:

velando por que el personal de las áreas protegidas y los organismos encargados de su gestión tengan en materia de adopción de decisiones la autoridad suficiente para alcanzar los objetivos de gestión y conservación de los sistemas de áreas.”

La recomendación 5.2 incluye lo siguiente:

“RECOMIENDAN que las autoridades encargadas de las áreas protegidas contraten a sus empleados y los formen y respalden en modos que propicien el logro y el mantenimiento de elevados niveles de compromiso y rendimiento:

Velando por que todo el personal del área protegida (en particular, los vigilantes, guardas y guardabosques, que en el desempeño de sus tareas tienen que hacer frente a diversas dificultades y amenazas) disfrute de unas condiciones de vida, de trabajo, sanitarias y de seguridad y protección adecuadas, mediante la prestación de apoyo en materia de gestión, el suministro de equipo y la facilitación de formación;

Fomentando la promoción profesional y la conservación de los empleados, mediante la vinculación de los salarios, las prestaciones y los ascensos a la actuación profesional;

RECOMIENDAN que la Comisión Mundial de Áreas Protegidas avance hacia una puesta en común de los niveles de competencia:

- a. Acordando para el personal de las áreas protegidas niveles generales de competencia de aplicación mundial, que puedan adaptarse en los planos local, regional y nacional; y
- b. Fomentando y posibilitando el empleo de normas y autoevaluaciones que permitan aumentar la eficiencia del personal de áreas protegidas y mejorar su formación;”

La recomendación 5.15 dice:

“Por consiguiente, los PARTICIPANTES en el ciclo “Promoción de un apoyo más amplio en favor de las áreas protegidas” organizado en el marco del V Congreso Mundial de Parques, celebrado en Durban (Sudáfrica) del 8 al 17 de septiembre de 2003:

1. RECOMIENDAN a los gobiernos, las organizaciones no gubernamentales, las comunidades locales y la sociedad civil que:

ASEGUREN que el personal de las áreas protegidas cuente con la formación y el equipo necesarios y que se le ayude en todo momento a mantener la eficacia, la filosofía y la seguridad de las medidas de conservación;

ESTABLEZCAN un fondo destinado a prestar ayuda a las familias de trabajadores de áreas protegidas que mueran o resulten heridos en el desempeño de sus funciones:”

En su conjunto, estas declaraciones reconocen las preocupaciones que siempre han tenido los guardaparques sobre el nivel creciente de amenazas y violencia en contra de ellos en las áreas protegidas, sobre las malas condiciones de vida y trabajo que tienen que tolerar, y sobre la necesidad de proveer a los guardaparques capacitación profesional, supervisión moderna, y equipo adecuado. Que estas declaraciones aparecen en las recomendaciones finales del Congreso es testimonio a los esfuerzos intensivos de los delegados de la FIG a asegurar que los intereses de los guardaparques fueron reconocidos por los demás participantes.

Durante el último día del Congreso, la comunidad conservacionista mundial dio un paso importante más en el reconocimiento del rol crucial que juegan los guardaparques en el manejo de las áreas protegidas. La UICN presentó a

John Makumbo, Uguanda, representado a todos los guardaparques, el premio Fred Packard International Parks Merit Award. El texto sigue:

Todos los guardaparques quienes han perdido sus vidas durante el desempeño de sus funciones en reconocimiento a su supremo valor y sacrificio por la defensa de las áreas protegidas.

Los guardaparques y otros miembros del personal de campo que trabajan en áreas en conflicto a menudo se encuentran al frente en una batalla por la conservación para proteger a la preciada fauna, flora y todo el patrimonio.

El hecho de que viven en las condiciones mas difíciles y que a menudo se sacrificuen de esa forma para conservar las áreas protegidas, constituye un extraordinario testimonio de su dedicación, compromiso y pasión por la conservación.

La UICN y la FIG se han comprometido a resaltar esta realidad durante el Quinto Congreso Mundial de Parques Nacionales.

La UICN aportará una suma para iniciar un fondo de ayuda para las familias de los guardaparques que han perdido sus vidas estando en servicio. Ese fondo va a ser administrado conjuntamente por UICN y FIG.

Presidente
Comisión Mundial de Áreas Protegidas
17 de setiembre de 2003

No hay duda de que los guardaparques hayan jugado un rol importante en el Quinto Congreso Mundial de Parques. Estoy orgulloso de los señoras y señores que asistieron al Congreso y trabajaron mucho para que nuestras preocupaciones fueran reconocidas. Todos los guardaparques del mundo les debemos gratitud.

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IRF Consultancy (IRFC) Report

Mike Marshall has passed along the attached report on a foundation ranger training class held in Austria from October 10 – 24, 2003. It was prepared by Claas Fischer of the German Ranger Association:

The last international course of TOPAS took place from October 20th to 24th in a small town in Austria called Petronell-Carnuntum, which is surrounded by ancient Roman sites. Twelve participants from nine European countries were hosted in a modern eco-house by the Academy of the “Danube Flood Plains National Park”.

Having already attended the TOPAS-course on interpretation in May in the National Park Harz, Germany, my expectations for this “Foundation Ranger Training” were quite high. But when Mike Marshall, Ted Talbot [both IRF], Janice Burley [Losehill Hall) and Pete Townsend (TOPAS) were launching the course, it was obvious that it was going to be excellent, and very professional.

The course had been run in Iceland successfully, but this was the first time that it was tested in a multinational framework where language became the decisive factor. There were big differences in language skills as not everybody had learnt English in school days. The treatment of the subjects could therefore not be overly profound. Nevertheless, the variety of nationalities attending provided a great opportunity to practice global thinking and broaden everybody’s horizon. I was amazed at the fact that Germany was unique with nation-wide standardised ranger training and that only a few countries had ranger associations.

Throughout the countries, the activities of the rangers seemed fairly similar, though differences emerged in detail; e.g. in Italy, rangers have permission to wear a gun, and in Romania the rangers share an aversion to sheep because of over-pasturing.

For me, the greatest value of the training lay in the practical field exercises and team experiences like:

- ‘creating a management plan for a hill near the Slovak border (collaboration with Italy came off very pleasant.)
- approaching the public in role play (our course instructors did a great job acting as “villains”!)
- taking part in an “Earth Walk” (I was eager to find new encouragement for my nature education programs.)
- creating an interpretation plan for an ancient Roman amphitheatre (I felt pretty inspired with my task to conceive a program of art for children.)

Intermediate excursions to the Danube River and to the local museum exhibiting Roman ruins rounded off the curriculum and provided fascinating insights into nature and culture of our residential place.

I want to thank TOPAS, IRF and Losehill Hall for all the worthwhile experiences and contacts by bringing about this forward-looking course.

For more information on the German Ranger Association, go to www.bundesverband-naturwacht.de

Mike Marshall
IRFC Ltd.

Regional Representatives Report

North America

Coordination of the IRF booth at the World Parks Congress is not part of the job description for the North American representative, but that is the bulk of work done since the last [Thin Green Line](#). And it was a fun job!

While our president and executive director pursued several potential sponsors for an IRF booth, the rest of us were looking at our obligations and deciding what we could do at the Congress. When the final schedule for staffing the booth came together, we had two rangers working every shift, with 40 rangers contributing their time over the ten days of the Congress. Special thanks go to local GRAA ranger Peter Coulan for loaning (and transporting) the furniture for the booth and for volunteering extra time for booth shifts. Peter and GRAA ranger George Zaloumis each covered a long day alone during the two days that the rest of us were on field trips. Their extra time made it possible for the rest of the delegates to see a little of South Africa.

The booth was fairly small (3 meters by 4 meters) and modest, with our IRF posters on the walls and our video of the 2000 conference in Kruger. But we had by far the busiest booth, with rangers always available to talk to those walking by. The Congress drew 3,000 delegates from 170 countries and we must have talked to someone from every one of those countries. We gathered names and business cards to swell our mailing list by nearly 160 names, many interested in ways to help rangers back home – through training, ranger exchanges, and formation of associations.

The five booth posters had photos of rangers of the world, thanks to contributions from Australia, Austria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Georgia, Russia, South Africa, Scotland, Uganda, Uruguay and USA. The messages covered by the posters:

- “What is a Ranger?” used the IRF definition plus listed names used in many languages for those doing a “ranger job”, such as *ceiwad* or *guardeparque*.
- “What is the IRF” gave a brief history and the current aims of our organisation.
- “How Do We Protect the Protectors” and “A Good Ranger Knows” each explained the IRF resolutions that came out of the last two IRF Congresses. The first poster was well-used by volunteers such as Juan Carlos Gambarotta in explaining the risks rangers take daily and what IRF recommends to governments to help reduce those risks. The second poster focused on ranger competencies, as agreed upon in Kruger, refined at Wilsons Prom, and presented at the WPC by past president Rick Smith.
- “Inspiring Places Inspiring People” outlined the responsibilities of interpretive rangers in promoting sustainable development
- “Rangers Training Rangers” outlined the work of the IRF Consultancy. We received a lot of questions about the consultancy and training. Declan Keiley, executive director of IRFC and Sean Prendergast, UK, were available at the booth for much of the follow-up on those questions.

The posters were printed in the USA, hand carried to Durban, then mounted locally. Total cost for all materials was just under \$1,000. At the end of the Congress all the posters were given to Arrie Schreiber and GRAA for use in new GRAA offices and events.

The booth served not only as a place of contact for delegates of the WPC, it was also the center of communication for IRF during the day. Messages about upcoming presentations (“Jobogo is scheduled for a 5 p.m. presentation – today!”), about changes in meetings, and media contacts were all relayed through the rangers at the booth. The IRF suite at the hotel served as the meeting and social center at night.

Thanks to all the rangers who volunteered at the booth!

Deanne Adams
North American Representative

NEWS ABOUT IRF ASSOCIATIONS

Game Rangers Association of Africa (South Africa)

Mike Landman passed away on the October 20th after suffering for a long time as a result of a brain tumor for which he was treated several years ago. He never really recovered his strength after the treatment and his health deteriorated slowly but surely. But Mike was a fighter and he fought the scythe of the Great Harvester for a long time.



His friends in conservation will remember Mike as a perfectionist and totally dedicated to the cause of conservation and to the quest of rangers. He was a professional member of the GRAA, serving for several years on the GRAA Central Committee. During that time, he also led the Lowveld Region in South Africa as Chairperson.

As GRAA representative, he attended the first IRF World Congress in Poland, where he really made an impression on many of the delegates. His participation really set the scene for the Third IRF World Congress, hosted by the GRAA in Kruger National Park, South Africa. Although he was already weak as a result of his sickness, Mike attended and participated, inspiring rangers from many countries with his passion for conservation.

Honorary membership of the GRAA was bestowed on Mike at the GRAA AGM of 1999 in recognition for his dedicated and unwavering support of the association. He always showed great pride in his uniform and was an example to many younger rangers, many of whom are still working as rangers. His name will be mentioned around ranger's campfires for a long time still to come.

In his career as a ranger, Mike participated in a wide range of conservation issues, showing great understanding of the plight of rangers. Under his management of the Wilderness Trails Section in Kruger National Park, he succeeded in improving rangers' status and position in the SANParks. In doing this, he had to face management across the negotiation table under trying circumstances. However, he persisted in a disciplined and dignified manner and was successful in the end.

During his last days, Mike suffered badly and his condition deteriorated at a rapid pace. He left behind many friends and comrades in the conservation fraternity, not only in South Africa but in many countries all over the world.

We, the fellow rangers of Mike Landman, salute you! May you rest in peace.

Vhambani Kahle!

Arrie Schreiber

Asociación Española de Agentes Forestales y Medioambientales (Spain)

On October 19th, the third meeting of AEAFFMA was held. The goal of the assembly was to elect a new board of directors, the four year term of the previous board of which I was president having expired. The new board was elected unanimously and is composed of:

- Josep F. Almansa Martínez, President: feribel@telefonica.net
- Francisco Tejedor Jordán, Vice President: amanita@teleline.es
- Francisco Montesinos Fandos, Secretary: pocaigua@metrored-online.com
- Jesús García, Treasurer: saftam@csit.es
- Luis Santamaría Malde, International Relations: amyluis3@netscape.net
- Roberto Naveiras, Public Information: naveiras@agentesforestales.net
- Noelia Morán Vasallo, Women's Issues
- José Torregrosa Millá, Special Events: torregrosa@tuquebuscas.com

I leave the presidency thanking IRF for the attention paid to us since we became members.

Francisco Jordan Tejedor

Czech Ranger Association

The CRA board met in September with two managers of the Environmental Ministry of Czech Republic and discussed these topics:

- Ranger services of three PLAs and three NPs were audited by clerks of the Environment Ministry of Czech Republic (Czech Environment Inspection). Their main aims were to monitor the duties of rangers, to find differences between relevant laws and reality in establishment of ranger services, and to evaluate the main problems that ranger services have to solve. They noted big differences between ranger services in PLA's and NP's (the number of rangers, law training, equipment), and found several shortfalls, mainly due to the low budgets of the authorities administering NP's and PLA's. For detailed reports on the inspection, contact mskalka@volny.cz.
- A leaflet about protected areas (common, general information) will be prepared for publication and a subsidy for it will have been asked for from the ministry.
- CRA discussed the need for having someone in the ministry to lead and oversee ranger services, as no one is doing this now.
- Information was given to them about the Junior Ranger Project of the Europarc Federation.
- The bulletin of CRA Zpravodaj (No. 6) has been distributed to members of CRA, the ministry, and the NP and PLA authorities.
- The Czech version of homepage of CRA was put into effect.
- A language course (English and German) will be established by the end of this year by the Krkonose NP Authority. CRA will reimburse cost of participation of its members.
- We made a request to the ministry for preparation of training course about PR for rangers.

Michal Skalka

Scottish Countryside Rangers Association (Scotland)

Having just completed another exchange with our colleagues in Iceland, we are in the planning stages of the next one. We also hope to help facilitate a twinning of our latest national park (Cairngorms) and one in Iceland.

We are currently in consultation about the future of the park system in Scotland. With the recent advent of national parks, our existing regional parks and country parks are being reviewed and a strategy for their integration proposed. All of these areas currently have ranger staff; in fact, more rangers work in them than in national parks.

Our hope is that we can set up a structure to share ideas and programs across Scotland's park system, without a hierarchical structure. We see all our parks, and, indeed, the areas out with them as part of a continuum, each area having its role in recreation, conservation and the economy. The problem, as usual, is lack of funding.

We are currently working with the government, representatives of user groups and landowners to promote our new access legislation. This come into effect next year and the plan is to have mechanisms in place to educate owners and users about its implications and what they can and can't do in the countryside.

Not content with helping to organize the next IRF congress, at Stirling in June 2006, we are currently planning our own annual conference for April, 2004. The topic will be our new access legislation and how it will affect our role. Guidelines from the government to our employers are currently being rewritten to take this into account. We should know by April exactly what they entails We hope it will mean more rangers on the ground, not just a redeployment of the existing staff, but it looks like this may not be the case. What is going to be dropped from our current workload to fit in the new access work?

Tony Wilson

Bundesverband Naturwacht e. V. (Germany)

Our board has just met and talked about our next annual meeting, which will be from March 31st to April 2nd – the tenth time that German rangers have met annually. We are proud to have brought people together for these meetings; they really like to meet with each other and talk and learn. The meeting will be held at the same place as ten years ago, the Biosphere Reserve Schorfheide-Chorin, northeast of Berlin.

Things have changed a lot within the last years. Money is getting less and politicians and others (you will know them) are trying to reverse the achievements that have been made in nature conservation. Having just developed further professional training that will bring us some good colleagues, it is quite disappointing when there are no jobs for them. So we do have to give people a platform to discuss and perhaps help not to lose their aims and ideas. This way our meeting will review our work as rangers and give impetus from outside.

We also have developed a new website www.bundesverband-naturwacht.de. Please visit us.

Greetings from your German colleagues!

Heike Flemming

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