



GUARDAPARQUE

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Guardaparque is a publication prepared bi-monthly (every other month) and issued by the International Ranger Federation (IRF), an organization of non-governmental and governmental ranger organizations from around the world. If you have a submission for **Guardaparque**, please send it to Editor Bill Halainen (Bill_Halainen@nps.gov).

Message From The Editor

Because this newsletter is now being translated in both Spanish and French and because it takes time and effort by volunteers to complete those translations, it will now be published six times a year, every other month. For this reason, every effort will also be made to keep articles as short as possible, including links for more information.

Guardaparque has also been slightly reorganized. The section called “News About Rangers” is now at the top. That’s because, sadly, there are so many cases about rangers being attacked and sometimes killed and such news needs to appear first. It will also include other news about rangers.

A section called “Notices” now appears at the end. It is for general use, with notices on training, job opportunities, publications, and so forth. The other sections remain the same.

Thanks to the many people who sent in submissions or helped with the translations for this issue.

Bill Halainen, Editor
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News About Rangers

India – Jharkhand Forests Forest Guard Murdered

A forest guard in Jharkhand was killed and his body thrown into the jungle in the Dumka District in January. Jogeswar Pahari was posted as a forest guard at Narganj village. His body bore the marks of having been hit by stones.

More: <http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/forest-guard-killed-in-dumka/949777.html>

**Kenya – Kasigau Corridor
Elephant Poachers Kill Wildlife Ranger**

Wildlife ranger Abdullahi Mohammed was killed in the line of duty in Kenya in late winter by elephant poachers. A ranger with the conservation organization Wildlife Works, Mohammed was shot by poachers in Wildlife Works Kasigau Corridor project, a REDD program (Reduced Emissions From Deforestation and Degradation). It was the first time in 15 years that a Wildlife Works ranger was killed in the line of duty. Another Wildlife Works ranger, Ijema Funan, was also shot, but is expected to recover. The poachers escaped.

More: http://news.mongabay.com/2012/0115-hance_ranger_killed_kenya.html#ixzz1jdmmJjfD

**Republic of South Africa – Kruger National Park
Four Park Staff Arrested For Poaching Rhinos**

Four people working in South Africa's Kruger National Park have been arrested in connection with rhino poaching – a ranger, two field guides and a traffic official. They were detained after two rhinos were found killed in the park. The animals had been shot and their horns removed. Further investigations into the killing of the two rhino and possibly other rhino poaching incidents in the area are currently being conducted.

More: <http://africajournalismtheworld.com/2012/02/29/s-africa-kruger-park-rangers-arrested-over-rhino-poaching/>

**Kenya – Tsavo National Park
Two Rangers Killed By Poachers**

An armed gang of suspected poachers killed two rangers on patrol in a private ranch in Taita on March 2nd. The rangers were on a normal patrol in Sagalla ranch when they encountered the six armed men, who shot them dead. The rangers killed were a man and an expectant woman.

Cases of poaching are common on the private ranches bordering Tsavo National Park. There are unconfirmed reports that some 30 elephants have been killed on Taita ranches over the last seven months.

More: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201203060012.html>

**Philippines – Forestry Service
Forestry Specialist Murdered In Her Office**

Forestry specialist Melania Dirain, 47, was shot dead in February inside her office by an unidentified gunman. She was a forestry specialist at the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Sanchez Mira, Cagayan.

Dirain, a mother of three and a widow, joined the office in 1989 as a forest guard. In January 2010, she was promoted to the position of forestry specialist. At the time of her death, Dirain was the team leader of the CENRO in the apprehension of undocumented lumber and enforcement of forest protection laws. Her death could be related to the anti-illegal logging campaign in the region.

More: <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/breaking-news/2012/02/10/police-urged-hasten-probe-killing-forester-205345>

Ghana – Forestry Service Forest Guard Killed By Armed Robbers

Armed robbers killed a forest guard in February after molesting and robbing about 140 passengers traveling from Dormaa-Ahenkro to Kofikumikrom near the Ghana-Cote d'Ivoire border. A second forest guard managed to escape. The body of the 30-year-old forest guard, Christian Boakye, was found by a police patrol. It was reported that Boakye was shot and killed by the robbers as he attempted to escape from the robbery scene. The two forest guards were returning from their normal duties on a motorbike when they got caught up in the incident.

Chile – Parque Nacional Torres del Paine Rangers Deal With Difficult Working Conditions

Rangers for CONAF, the national forest corporation, have reported difficult working conditions in the Torres del Paine and called on the government to increase the organization's resources. Rangers report working more than 13 hour days in difficult situations.

More: <http://www.biobiochile.cl/2012/01/08/denuncian-precariedad-de-condiciones-laborales-de-guardaparques-en-torres-del-paine.shtml>

Brazil – Parques Estatales de Rio de Janeiro More Rangers To Be Hired

In order to ensure more effective protection of national protected areas, the state of Rio de Janeiro has authorized the hiring of 220 rangers for its park entire system. The State Environment Institute (INEA) is the organ responsible for the selection and recruitment process.

More: <http://www.pciconcursos.com.br/noticias/governo-rj-autoriza-a-contratacao-temporaria-de-220-guarda-parques>

Scotland – Parks and Protected Areas Report Confirms Importance Of Rangers

Scottish Natural Heritage has put out a report confirming that Scotland's ranger services are an important asset, providing real and tangible benefits for the people and environment of Scotland. The report recognizes the vital part ranger services play in helping to improve public health, well-being and supporting the economy.

During the year nearly 12 million visits were made by members of the public to the places and facilities managed by the ranger services that contributed to the report. Nearly 100,000 people attended ranger-led events. Around 50,000 young people and adults in education worked with a ranger on projects related to their studies. And over 4,000 people were involved in volunteering with ranger services, carrying out a wide range of tasks outside including litter clearance, path maintenance, tree planting and helping to control invasive plants.

For a full copy of the report, go to <http://www.snh.gov.uk/publications-data-and-research/publications/search-the-catalogue/publication-detail/?id=1828>

More: <http://www.scra-online.co.uk/26-news/16-snh-promotes-the-difference-that-rangers-make>

Law Enforcement And Emergency Services

Republic of South Africa – Kruger National Park Suspected Poacher Killed, Two Wounded In Shootout With Rangers

Rangers shot dead a suspected rhino poacher and wounded two others at the Kruger National Park on March 7th. The rangers saw four men crossing a river and ordered them to stop. The men allegedly shot at the rangers, who then returned fire. One of the poachers died at the scene and two were taken to a hospital. The fourth man was arrested and it was hoped he would lead authorities to another person involved in poaching. A rifle and several knives, apparently for hacking off rhino horns, were confiscated. The arrested man has already admitted to the killing of three rhinos that were killed in the park last week. He was expected to appear in court soon.

More: http://www.saps.gov.za/_dynamicModules/internetSite/newsBuild.asp?myURL=1447

United States – Mount Rainier National Park Major Search For Four Missing People Unsuccessful

A major, seven-day-long search for four people in two missing parties on Mount Rainier was suspended in late January. The four people were in two parties – one pair was headed up the mountain to do some winter camping, the other pair planned to make a climb. They headed off on their separate trips on the second weekend in January. The entire region was then hit by a series of severe winter storms. Although all four were well equipped, the storms proved too much for them. Searchers looked for them by ground and air for a full week before giving up the effort.

More: <http://home.nps.gov/applications/digest/headline.cfm?type=Incidents&id=6037&urlarea=incidents>

United States – Western Parks Two More Men Convicted In Major Cultural Theft Case

Two more men have been sentenced following their conviction for theft and sale of cultural items from national parks and other federal protected areas in the United States. The men were arrested as part of a five-year-long investigation called “Operation Antiquity” that focused on such thefts. Many of the stolen items were knowingly sold through a commercial gallery. The investigation continues.

More: <http://home.nps.gov/applications/digest/headline.cfm?type=Incidents&id=6103>

Species Management

Cameroon – Bouba N'Djida National Park African Elephant Slaughter Highest In Decades

Despite recent attempts by soldiers in Cameroon to stop the mass slaughter of elephants, poachers are continuing to kill the animals in record numbers. Tons of tusks are being moved on camels and horses from Africa, mostly to buyers willing to pay high prices in China and Thailand. Poachers who recently killed at least 100 elephants in Cameroon's Bouba N'Djida National Park are reportedly from Chad and Sudan, according to the World Wildlife Fund. Unlike decades past when poachers across the continent ran down elephants using spears, the attackers are now highly organized and armed with sophisticated weapons. Many have used grenade launchers and high-powered rifles, allowing them to kill with greater ease and outgun police and military trying to stop them.

More: http://news.blogs.cnn.com/2012/03/15/african-elephant-slaughter-highest-in-more-than-two-decades-experts-say/?hpt=hp_t3

**Republic of South Africa – Kruger National Park
Huge Number Of Rhinos Poached**

The number of rhinos poached in South Africa this year stands at the “alarming figure” of 159, with 95 of them taken from Kruger National Park. “This is no longer an environmental management problem only, but it has become a matter in which we have involved all law enforcement agencies,” said the country’s environmental affairs minister. She said 90 people had been arrested for poaching this year.

She said that the government is implementing interventions and also looking at new initiatives that could assist in the fight against rhino poaching, including the deployment of 150 new rangers.

More: <http://www.thepost.co.za/159-rhino-poached-in-sa-1.1270548>

Notices

**Uruguay - Laguna de Rocha Protected Area
Rangers Seek Equipment**

Past President Gordon Miller has passed along a message from Nestor Hugo Leal, a ranger at Laguna de Rocha. The park’s four rangers have little equipment and have to use their own kayaks, binoculars, GPS, phones, cameras and other gear. If you can help, contact Nestor at nestorhleal@gmail.com.

For more information, go to <http://www.agentesforestales.es/noticias/381-guardaparques-piden-apoyo-para-vigilar-la-laguna-de-rocha-en-uruguay.html>

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Prepared and published by the International Ranger Federation as a service to rangers around the world.

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