



## **THE THIN GREEN LINE**

### **NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION**

**Nov 2013 – March 2014**

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**The Thin Green Line** is a quarterly publication about the activities of the International Ranger Federation (IRF), an organization of non-governmental and governmental ranger organizations from around the world. If you have a submission for **The Thin Green Line**, please send it to [executivepa@internationalrangers.org](mailto:executivepa@internationalrangers.org). Thank you to our volunteer translators for the non-English editions.

#### **OFFICER REPORTS**

##### **From the President**

Thank you to everyone in the IRF Executive Committee and to Rangers around the world who have been working hard to progress our priority objectives over the last few months.

We have seen a number of very positive steps forward, including: preparations for the World Parks Congress in November 2014; developing networks such as the Clinton Global Initiative; preparations for the European Rangers Training Seminar in May; developing World Ranger Day and an awards program in recognition of Rangers; potential corporate support from Patagonia; and more.

Rangers are being heard and recognised in ever growing circles and at increasingly higher levels. I believe it is only a matter of some little time before we will see further the fruits of our labour.

It can often be hard to find the time and energy for IRF volunteer work amongst our paid jobs and life's other demands, and I thank you for striving onwards to continue the work that we have together committed to, in supporting our ranger profession and our Ranger Family.

It is also important to acknowledge that we cannot always lean on the same few people to put in the hard yards, the action of getting things done. We are always in need of more people putting their hand up to volunteer, following through on actions, and encouraging others to get involved as well. With I encourage all to do as much as possible for your own associations and within the IRF network

IRF priorities continue to evolve over time, with the main priorities for 2014 being:

- 1) World Parks Congress
- 2) World Ranger Day
- 3) Gaining regular income for IRF
- 4) Gaining paid staff for IRF
- 5) Growing IRF's network and membership
- 6) IRF associations helping each other - Twinning Programs
- 7) Working with The Thin Green Line Foundation to get practical support to rangers and families in need.

Following are some major points of interest and links for important IRF related projects.

3<sup>rd</sup> EUROPEAN RANGERS TRAINING SEMINAR – 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May, Croatia

Thank you to everyone who has been working hard to bring this event together. More information, including the program, is at <http://ranger.brijuni.hr>

WORLD RANGER DAY JULY 31<sup>ST</sup>

An electronic package of information will soon be sent to all associations and ranger contacts to support participation in World Ranger Day. This is our time to acknowledge the sacrifice and hard work of rangers around the world and to celebrate the achievements and contributions our profession makes to the world. Three IRF Awards (see below) will also be announced on World Ranger Day this year

IRF AWARD PROGRAM

I am happy to announce that three IRF awards will be presented in 2014:

- Young Conservationist Award
- Dr Jane Goodall Hope and Inspiration Ranger Award
- IRF Lifetime Achievement Award

Please keep an eye on the IRF website and Facebook page calling for Award nominations in May.

WORLD PARKS CONGRESS – 12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014, Sydney, Australia

Please keep an eye on the News section of the IRF website

<http://internationalrangers.org/news/> for regular updates and information on how you can support or get involved in IRF representation at this major international event.

SOUTH AMERICA

The IRF community is really feeling the absence of a Regional Representative for South America. I have had positive conversations with some of the member associations and ask any members in the region to please get in touch with me personally to discuss options for once again increasing the involvement of South America in the IRF. I will be visiting South and Central America in September/October this year with the view of working with Latin American associations and Rangers to discuss a way forward.

Please contact me at any time with your suggestions, ideas, or concerns with IRF.

Many thanks to all of you, keep up your great work in the field, and lets work together for a stronger ranger profession. More strength to your arms!

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### **From the Vice President**

Once again I would like to express a sincere thank you to all who have contributed to the work of the IRF over the past few months. Yet again our President has been leading from the front and is being the most active and productive of all of us. If each one of us apply ourselves to do just one thing of meaning between each meeting and report, we can collectively achieve something that will be satisfactorily worthwhile for the ranger community we committed to serve when we accepted the responsibility of our executive committee positions at Arusha in November 2012. I urge everyone to consider what each one of us can do to contribute to further the aims of the IRF between this edition of our newsletter and the next one.

My main IRF related activities over the last number of months have been related to:

- representing IRF on the Board of The Thin Green Line Foundation;
- maintaining partnership activities between IRF members and my own organization in support of rangers on the ground, such as the provision of equipment, training, cash for patrols etc (as part of the ongoing twinning support from PAWA, individual members, and contributions in support of rangers by TTGLF);
- serving on the interim Board of the recently established Ranger Federation of Asia; and
- liaison with IUCN and WCPA.

On the IUCN front, the most recent developments to report on are the following:

- The WCPA best practice guideline standards on anti-poaching training for field rangers, for which I am coordinating a team of authors from the IRF to develop, has been approved as an IUCN project. The final document will be an IUCN / IRF / TTGLF publication. A consultative workshop is being planned for inclusion in the World Parks Congress in November.
- Andrew Nixon, Victorian Rangers Association, unfortunately had to step down as the IRF lead for the “Mentoring and Ranger Exchanges” component of the IUCN WCPA Capacity Development Advisory Committee. If anyone is interested in taking on this role on behalf of the IRF and IUCN please let me know, otherwise this initiative may be set aside before reaching any positive results.
- I wrote a summary of the IRF’s role in capacity development for a chapter on Capacity Development being put together for an e-book to be launched by the WCPA at the WPC.

Finally I would like to remind everyone of the opportunity to publish articles in the IUCN's publication "PARKS". I would be pleased to receive draft or proposed articles from rangers for this journal at any time. The journal can be found at [http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap\\_home/gpap\\_capacity2/gpap\\_parks2/](http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap_home/gpap_capacity2/gpap_parks2/)

Should anyone have any enquiries concerning any of the above, or would like to become more involved with and contribute to any IRF activities or initiatives, please contact me directly on the email address below.

Wayne D. Lotter  
Vice President IRF & Member Game Rangers Association of Africa  
[wayne@pamsfoundation.org](mailto:wayne@pamsfoundation.org)

### **From the Secretary**

There have been two main highlights in my role as Secretary in recent months. The first of these relates to new memberships – receiving enquiries, putting new associations in touch with existing associations to build relationships, and processing new member applications. On that note I would like to welcome the Tennessee Park Rangers Association (United States) to the IRF, and also look forward to announcing several additional new members shortly.

The second highlight has been my involvement in preparations for a strong and visible representation at the upcoming World Parks Congress, November 2014. I am very much looking forward to seeing many of my IRF colleagues from around the world at this event which is being held in my home country of Australia. I am sure that IRF representation will be very effective, just as it was at the last WPC in Durban, South Africa 10 years ago.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all associations that it is a requirement of membership to submit at least one article per year to the IRF newsletter The Thin Green Line. I express my sincere thanks to those that have submitted articles for this edition!

Tegan Burton  
Secretary IRF & Member Protected Area Workers Association of NSW  
[secretary@internationalrangers.org](mailto:secretary@internationalrangers.org)

### **From the Treasurer**

The IRF continues to hold funds in UK-based bank accounts. The Association of National Park Rangers (United States) is also holding funding from a Parks Victoria (Australia) grant for the next International Young Conservationist Award, to be presented in late 2014.

The IRF continues to receive periodic income through donations and minor merchandise sales, while the only ongoing expense is the hosting of the IRF website.

Meg Weesner  
Treasurer IRF & Member Association of National Park Rangers  
[treasurer@internationalrangers.org](mailto:treasurer@internationalrangers.org)

## **From the Editor**

The IRF website is a place where your stories can be told, and we can learn about our colleagues from around the world. We'd love more POSTCARDS FROM THE FIELD to post on the site - <http://internationalrangers.org/postcards/>. Just a few words and a photo go a long way to keeping in touch. We'll even publish "Wish you were here" if you send us a great photo!

If you need inspiration for a postcard, you can ask for a quiz to be sent to you from [webteam@internationalrangers.org](mailto:webteam@internationalrangers.org). Or, if you have a great story on your own website it can also be linked.

The News section of our website - <http://internationalrangers.org/news/> - is also an invaluable communication tool. This is the place to share significant ranger news or major events from your part of the world that deserve to be on the front page – photos essential! Again please send text and photos to [webteam@internationalrangers.org](mailto:webteam@internationalrangers.org)

Nicola Potger  
Volunteer Editor  
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## **REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

### **Africa**

#### **RECOGNITION OF RHINO CONSERVATIONISTS**

At last the people who dedicate themselves in the fight against rhino poaching in Africa are being recognized for the work they do. Dr Larry Hansen, Founder of the Rhino Conservation Awards, and Ms Xiaoyang Yu, Founding partner of China New Enterprise Investment (CNEI), initiated the Rhino Conservation Awards in 2012, which follows a similar award Dr Hansen started in India more than 13 years ago against tiger poaching. In conjunction with The Game Ranger's Association of Africa (GRAA) and endorsed by the Department of Environmental Affairs, these awards sponsored by Ms Yu and Hasselblad Cameras are given to a cross section of people from all African rhino States who work to stop rhino poaching. The aim of the sponsors is to see more poachers captured and prosecuted, and to raise awareness to reduce market demand for Rhino horn.

At the award ceremony which was held in Johannesburg recently, Dr Hansen emphasized in his address that these awards are about the people, to recognize the individuals who work tirelessly to combat rhino poaching and to show them that their efforts are appreciated.

The event was very well attended by a cross section of people in the conservation, media, judicial and government sectors including Mr. Fundisile Mketeni, Deputy Director General of Environmental Affairs: Biodiversity and Conservation the international sponsors and conservationists from many Parks, reserves as well as private reserves, throughout the country.

In his keynote address, Mr Mketeni stated that the South African government remains committed to intensifying interventions to fight against rhino poaching through the enhancement of international relations, at sub-regional, regional and international level including through CITES structure. Recent initiatives introduced by the Department include hosting a rhino DNA sampling workshop which included law enforcement officers from each of the 11 African rhinoceros range states as well as China, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Department has also registered a database of all rhino-related funders and anti-poaching ventures, to assist with monitoring of fundraising operations to ensure greater legitimacy of those organisations working in the rhino space. Mr Mketeni thanked the individuals and organisations receiving awards for their passion and dedication to raising awareness of the plight of the rhino.

Maj Gen(ret) Johan Jooste Commanding Officer Special Projects Kruger National Park stressed the point that the fight against rhino poachers is a war and his aim is to create the best anti-poaching force in Africa, through developing a superior reaction force; become more proactive through intelligence gathering and increased use of technology.

The GRAA and Dr Hansen were delighted with the number and quality of entrants received this year, which included entrants from Kenya. The increase in nominations shows how important it is to recognize the people involved in rhino conservation. The nomination process which includes participants throughout all African Rhino states covers the following categories: Awareness & Education; Youth; Science & Research; Intelligence Gathering and Field Ranger. Dr Hansen handed over the trophies and certificates to runners up and winners.

The winners of the awards were Best Awareness & Education - Kevin Gillmer Divisional CE, Unitrans Volkswagen; Best Youth Involvement - Hamisi Buya, Musician – Kenya; Best Science & Research - Dr Sam Ferreira, Large Mammal Ecologist, SANParks; Best Intelligence Gathering - Don English, Regional Ranger KNP and Best Field Ranger Wilson Siwela, Field Ranger Sergeant, KNP. Second and third place winners received trophies and there were three Kenyan entrants who received third and second place awards.

#### *RANGER ASSOCIATIONS*

I have been able to connect with a number of Park Wardens from the SADC region of Africa over the last 3 months. In discussion with them, similar issues that are affecting their work were raised by all of them:

- an interest and need for training (a need for up-skilling);
- increase in resources and capacity needed to deal with current threats, particularly for field rangers / anti-poaching personnel.

Current trends also point to the fact that there is a reduced ability within protected areas to deal with traditional conservation management aspects due to the intensification of poaching. Human capital and resources are required to be focused on anti-poaching. As many would know the main poaching war is being fought against elephant and rhino poachers.

As the intensity of efforts against poachers grows, so too will the determination of poachers. We are seeing poachers resorting to new tactics (the stealing and use of official ranger uniforms to disguise themselves). In some areas, poachers are becoming more hostile in and aggressive (the carrying of handguns in addition to rifles).

Unfortunately there is a need to engage with the issue at a diplomatic/political level. It is also important to work with other global structures such as the IUCN and CITIES and other sympathetic countries in order for the respective countries to internalize the real risk.

## MEDIA AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

### *Organisations 'for' Rangers*

There has been a lot of attention paid to rangers and the current poaching situation in Africa. This attention has mostly been positive on paper and the public domain but for the most part it has been slow to transfer to benefits on the ground. 'Rangers' are becoming almost a commodity for a number of organizations who have never engaged with rangers before. This is concerning as it leads to a fragmentation of resources and effort which also can dilute a voice for rangers. We need to work hard at unification in order to have maximum impact and to ensure that resources are utilized correctly. IRF should be seen as *the* global voice of rangers and should be consulted on planned ranger interventions.

### *Human rights/Conservation Actions*

The human rights fraternity seems to be also taking an interest in rangers and the way they react to poaching and in some cases the shoot-to-kill decree. Each country's laws have variances as to what determines the acceptable level of force. The bottom line is that armed people who are there to commit an illegal act are also willing to use whatever force is necessary to escape. This includes aggressively killing anyone who could prevent them from achieving their objective. In such cases, I believe lethal force is justifiable. The current situation is essentially a war and therefore it will be treated as such by both sides.

Following up on the deaths of suspected poachers also varies from country to country as they each have differing capacities to carry out such investigations in terms of financial and human resources. We know that there are cases from all parts of the world where people in authority can overstep their mandate and it is a concern. We certainly advocate best practice principles and actions that are carried out within the bounds of the respective country laws. Thus we advocate that people in such positions of authority need to have gone through high levels of quality training in order to ensure compliance with the law.

We have seen this before in specific cases (recently in Zimbabwe) and also a few years back where Swaziland rangers were taken to task on human rights issues. It is not a clear cut issue and is always politically loaded. I have been asked a few times recently to comment by on this issue by different journalists. The ranger role of honour proves to be important in being able to back up the increasing risk to rangers lives from homicides. We need to look at what other data we can get hold of to back our views.

## DONATIONS

We received equipment donation from rangers in the UK through Ian Brooker from Dartmoor. We thank him for this donation however we have struggled to access it through customs. What we have learned is that in future in order to access donated equipment

more easily, we need to mark it as second hand sports goods rather than second hand clothing. Who would have known that a change in a few words would make such a difference!

#### THE COMING YEAR 2014

At lot of interest is being generated for the WPC, Sydney 2014. We have to see good African representation at the Congress. We would really like to do as much as possible to raise the profile of rangers, their work, their value and knowledge.

Chris Galliers  
Africa Regional Representative & Member Game Rangers Association of Africa  
[chrisgalliers@gameranger.co.za](mailto:chrisgalliers@gameranger.co.za)

#### **Central America**

Throughout the Central American region rangers do not enjoy a good quality of life, but rather are treated as illiterate peasants. It is partially true that there is only a small percentage of literate rangers, but despite this in each protected area there is a focus to maintain a range of training to enable development.

In Guatemala there was an assembly of the ranger association AG-GUA and a new President, Dario Lopez, has been announced. A meeting also took place in Costa Rica. Unfortunately other countries are yet to form associations. There is a transboundary park between Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador with whom we have very good communication, however lack of funding has prevented a congress.

One of the objectives in Central America is to have the first regional congress and the intention is to train rangers to be able to protect natural resources more efficiently. Another objective is to create a handbook that can be delivered in protected areas so that all guards are trained.

Another objective is to unify the rangers creating a regional network that has constant communication with the IRF through representatives and be able to get projects like ranger schools in the region.

My proposal as Regional Representative is to conduct the first Central American ranger congress, where the integration of representatives from each country is provided. I count on your support to give me ideas on how to achieve funding and make this conference a reality.

Cesar Augusto Flores Lopez  
Central America Regional Representative & Member Asociación de Guardarecursos de Guatemala  
[Titinoflores2000@yahoo.com](mailto:Titinoflores2000@yahoo.com)



## Europe

There are many ongoing projects, mostly in Eastern Europe, including partnerships with the WWF and IUCN. The main focus is on preparations for the European Rangers Training Seminar, which will be held on 13 – 17 May 2014 at Brijuni National Park, Croatia. Information about the Seminar is at [www.ranger.brijuni.hr](http://www.ranger.brijuni.hr). We are looking forward to hosting more than 100 participants from around Europe.

I would also like to share the news of an award being received by a colleague – Aarno Tervonen, Finland, was granted the REPONEN Award by the local community, nature tourism entrepreneurs, hikers and other partners for his work in developing Repovesi National Park over the last 10 years. This was the first time that the award was granted and it will now be an annual event.

Florin Halastauan  
Europe Regional Representative &  
Member Asociatia Rangerilor din Romania  
[Florin\\_hombre@yahoo.com](mailto:Florin_hombre@yahoo.com)



## North America

In October 2013 I attended ANPR's XXXVI Ranger Rendezvous in St. Louis, Missouri. It was a small turnout due to the government shutdown that occurred a few weeks before. Jobogo Mirindi was there with his director Dr. Cosma Wilungula Balongelwa and fellow chief ranger Radar Nishuli. They gave a presentation on the conservation work and issues confronting their national efforts to protect wildlife and lands in the Democratic Republic of Congo. IRF Treasurer Meg Weesner and I gave a presentation on the IRF. The city was overflowing because St. Louis was in baseball's World Series across the street from our hotel. I could watch a portion of the game from my room window!

During that conference much discussion was had about the next World Ranger Congress in 2016. ANPR has established an organizing committee and is moving very quickly to set dates and final arrangements. Look forward to news updates.

I have been very busy being the co-chair for the California Parks Training for both CSPRA and PRAC. This will be held March 3-6 2014 in Yosemite National Park. This year is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President Lincoln signing the Yosemite Grant giving Yosemite to California, which became California's first state park and the beginning for that agency.

Hopefully, we'll soon have a report on PLEA's annual conference which was held February 4-6 2014 in Punta Gorda, Florida.

It was a privilege for me to work with the Tennessee State Park Rangers Association who has voted to join the IRF, and IEC has voted to accept them. Please extend a warm welcome to our newest member association! I'm now working on the Washington State Parks rangers.

Trivia time. I was involved in a survey of California Parks for a presentation at California Parks Training this March. California has 14,125 protected areas administered by 661 agencies at all levels of government and non-profits of which only 166 have or had rangers at one time with most of those rangers represented by PRAC or CSPRA. No wonder they call it the Republic of California!

I'm hoping everyone had a wonderful and safe holiday season.

Jeff Ohlfs  
North America Regional Representative & Member Association of National Park Rangers  
[deserttraveler2@roadrunner.com](mailto:deserttraveler2@roadrunner.com)

## **Oceania**

The Council of Australian Ranger Associations AGM will be hosted by the Queensland Ranger Association and will take place on the Atherton Tablelands near Cairns on the 13th May. It is at this forum that we hope to be able to gain expressions of interest for available funds for visiting delegates and provide them also with any pre- or post- IUCN World Parks Congress opportunities, to enhance their experience.

The main focus in Oceania continues to be gearing up for the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney, 2014. The IRF has contacted the UN WPC organising committee with the possibility of providing some sponsorship options for rangers in the Oceania region. Rangers around Sydney will hopefully help in the billeting out of any visiting IRF delegates. We aim to attract delegates who will then return home to form their own associations and continue seeking guidance and mentoring, with the sponsoring Oceania Association.

In other news, Oceania members have been using the IRF to establish contacts in Africa and America to future research projects and fellowships. It is greatly advantageous for IRF associated members to be able to source expertise and connections at essentially the touch of a button. It is hoped that the desired results are achieved through these avenues and the results are distributed to strengthen the federation.

Relationships are being reinforced through The Thin Green Line Foundation and Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa (KJ) (an Aboriginal Corporation in WA supporting many indigenous rangers) for future benefits to rangers in Oceania. It is hoped collective outcomes will be achieved including exchanges.

Until next time, hoping to catch you in a Park, Sanctuary or Protected Area somewhere.

Peter Cleary  
Oceania Regional Representative & Member Victorian Rangers Association  
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## MEMBER ASSOCIATION AND OTHER REPORTS

### Associação Portuguesa de Guardas e Vigilantes da Natureza (Portugal)

#### JUNIOR NATURE WATCHERS TRAIL 'THE DISCOVERY OF NATURE'

Fernando II school, located in Sintra (Portugal), has built an environmental interpretation trail in the woods within the school with the collaboration of Sintra-Cascais Natural Park. A result of this initiative is to accomplish a the creation of a training programme for Junior Nature Watchers.

Among the activities planned for the trail is conducting training for the Junior Nature Watchers, who are students with duties of protection by foot and increasing their colleagues awareness to the existing values. Students who joined the training program are between 10 and 15 years.

The initial project will run for 5 years, it is intended that students who are currently 10 years old will remain in the program until the age of 15 years. The expansion of a secondary education initiative will depend on the success of the current project.



Ongoing activities include environmental education, interpretation of the trail, and the realization of educational games that are part of the training. Recognition as a Nature Watcher is provided through a Junior diploma and distribution of baseball cap and t-shirt with the logo of VN Jr.

The main objectives of the program consist of encouraging students to explore and learn more about nature, "form" the pedestrian trail guides "to the discovery of nature", and promote the profession among young people.

Francisco Semedo Correia  
Associação Portuguesa de Guardas e Vigilantes da Natureza

### Association of National Park Rangers (United States)

The US Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR) will be hosting the **8th World Ranger Congress**, which will be held in Estes Park, Colorado, just outside Rocky Mountain National Park, from **May 21-27, 2016**. Note: Denver International Airport should be your primary airport for trip planning.

ANPR's World Ranger Congress Organizing Committee is operating using a modified Incident Command System structure, with 5 sections. Meg Weesner is heading the

program section; Joe Evans logistics; Bruce McKeeman finance: Tim Pagano communications: and Yvette Ruan international cooperation.

In order to assure financial viability for the Congress and for ANPR as the host organization, we're building a budget with a conservative break-even point of 200 delegates but no fixed attendance cap. Expect a web site in summer 2014, and early registration opportunities in 2015.

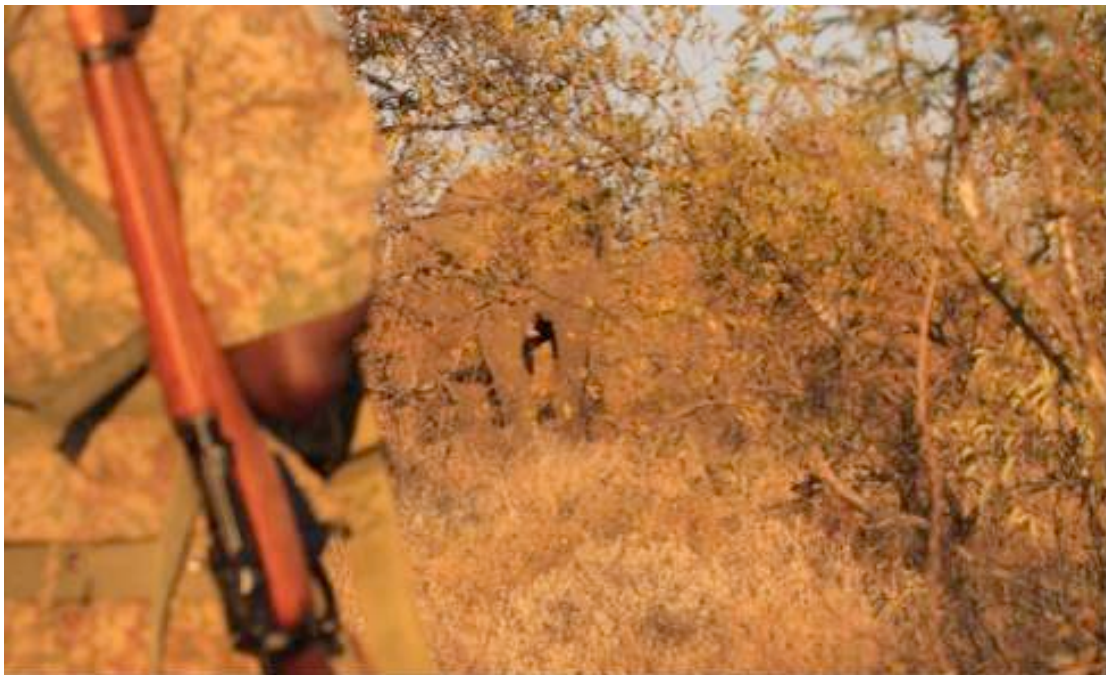
For more information please contact Bob Krumenaker, Conference Chair / Incident Commander at [bob.wrc8@gmail.com](mailto:bob.wrc8@gmail.com).

### **Game Rangers Association of Africa (Africa)**

The Game Rangers Association of Africa's next Annual General Meeting will be run in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe 30<sup>th</sup> April- 4<sup>th</sup> May 2014. The programme will involve members running a number of free training courses for rangers (some of the current courses are being looked at but still need to be confirmed - crime scene management, wildlife poisoning, development of SOPs, Human tracking) and field trips.

#### *SUPPORT AFRICA'S RANGERS*

GRAA has launched a Facebook page allowing people to post messages of support and encouragement to rangers (see Media Statement below). There has been an excellent response from people all over the world. It offers one way for the public from around the world to engage with African rangers. We hope to send these messages to rangers in the field to let them know that they are not alone and the job that they are performing is appreciated by many people that they will never get to meet. Hopefully this can contribute to improving ranger morale, it is much needed.



## **MEDIA STATEMENT - SUPPORT AFRICA'S RANGERS**

**By: The Game Rangers' Association of Africa (29/01/2014)**

The challenges facing Africa's rangers are greater than ever before in the face of a continental poaching epidemic that threatens the very existence of our continent's remarkable wildlife. These incredible men and women need your support. Maintaining motivation and morale amongst those who stand in the front line of African conservation is of paramount importance if we hope to win what can only be described as a war.

A rangers' job is often done without recognition, in remote wilderness areas where communication is a serious challenge and resource support is often extremely scarce. Enormous sacrifices are made by rangers and often this is felt most noticeably by a rangers' family. We therefore also need to recognise them and thank them for their supportive role under trying circumstances. The Game Rangers' Association of Africa (GRAA) is of the opinion that often these rangers are not acutely aware of the admiration there is amongst the wider global community for the cause which they fight for every day. The GRAA has thus embarked on a social media campaign to gather messages of support for the rangers of Africa by setting up a Facebook page entitled "[Support Africa's Rangers](#)".

All those who wish to express their words of support and encouragement to the rangers of Africa are asked to post their messages on this page. Let these messages serve as a form of motivation to those in the field who will know that there are people across the globe that are thinking of them and appreciating the work that they do with such passion and commitment.

The GRAA will distribute these messages far and wide within its network. We hope these messages will serve as a measure of inspiration to the dedicated ranger corps operating across the continent. Let us unite behind these brave men and women who stand in defence of our natural heritage. They deserve our recognition and thanks.

### **Park Rangers Association of California (United States)**

*"Many small people, in many small places, do many small things, that can alter the face of the world."* - Anonymous

On October 16, 2013 I had the pleasure of attending a small function in a small zoo in San Jose California. As the President of the Park Rangers Association (PRAC) I represented both PRAC and the IRF. The Heart of the Congo event, held annually by Happy Hollow Park and Zoo, raises money to support the Park Rangers in Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These brave men work long hours in the midst of a horrific civil war, some having gone years without pay, to protect the endangered Mountain Gorilla and their habitat as well as one of the last major populations of Hippos. If this wasn't enough, they also carry out anti-charcoal-burning patrols to preserve vital habitat.

Happy Hollow Zoo has been supporting the Virunga Rangers for over six years. In that time over \$100,000 has been raised and the funds are sent to Virunga through the non-profit corporation Gorilla.cd. This group takes no administration fee for the funds that are sent. One hundred percent of the financial support goes to where it is intended.

While \$100,000 dollars seems like a small amount of money by American standards it is a large portion of the donations raised in support of our colleagues at Virunga. Over the years the funds raised by Happy Hollow have been used to:

- Provide salaries for Rangers who had not been paid in almost 10 years, and to equip them with uniforms, boots, tents and rations for patrols into the park.
- Improve the water sanitation system at Bukima patrol post in the gorilla sector, which houses 17 rangers and used a 20-year-old well which did not provide sanitary water

- Restocked the pharmacy at the park headquarters, which serves the rangers and their families.
- Help toward the purchase of a surveillance plane to provide aerial support for surveillance, getting law enforcement teams in place rapidly when poachers are located, and provide for medical evacuations and logistics.

Perhaps the most important area the funds have been allocated for is the establishment of a widows and orphans fund. Over 150 rangers in Virunga National Park have been killed in the line of duty over the last 10 years. The ranger's have shared with us that their biggest fear is not death. Their greatest fear is that their widows and orphaned children will be abandoned and left destitute in a society that cannot care for them.

For each Heart of the Congo event the Virunga Rangers prepare a video to share their story and update us on the events of the last year. This year we had hoped to have Virunga National Park Chief Warden Emmanuel de Merode attend the event in person and speak personally to the donors. Unfortunately, the US budget sequestration prevented the Chief from obtaining a visa in time to make the trip. Not one to let paper work slow him down Chief de Merode drove all night to access the technology to participate in our event by video link.

The highlight of the evening was watching Chief de Merode accept a check for \$12,123.00 from our local 4H youth groups. These young people joined Happy Hollows resident bee keeper to harvest and sell local honey from their own hives. The honey is sold through the zoos "*Gee is for Gorilla Honey*" program with the proceeds from the sales going to support the Park Rangers. The idea for the Happy Hollow's "*Gee is for Gorilla Honey*" came when the bee keeper heard about a group of women in the DRC that sold honey to help protect the gorillas – and thought, "Hey, we can do that too!" When the kids from the 4-H heard about the project they wanted to donate their honey to the gorillas as well. All told this one evenings event generated \$38,000.00 for our colleagues at Virunga National Park.



A small zoo, a small event, a small dedicated group of people. Combined they make a huge impact in the lives of others and in protecting rare and endangered species.

Remember we can all make a difference - one small step at a time.

Pam Helmke  
Park Rangers Association of California

## The Thin Green Line Foundation

### SUMMARY OF FUNDING IN SUPPORT OF RANGERS AND DEPENDANTS

#### Expended

- 199 Rangers to be trained in Tanzania and Kenya in anti-poaching - supporting the projects of Big Life ([www.biglife.org](http://www.biglife.org)) and PAMS Foundation ([www.pamsfoundation.org](http://www.pamsfoundation.org))
- Rebuild of ranger housing burnt by poachers, Lake Tanganyika, Zambia
- Support for widows in Argentina, Democratic Republic of Congo, Paraguay, Tanzania, Thailand
- Support for a community arts project through on-selling “snare wire” jewellery produced by rangers wives and community members in Zambia
- Partner in First Aid training – Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania
- Establishing TTGLF USA and TTGLF UK for tax donations and increased support for rangers

#### Committed

- Partner in Ranger training in Kenya
- Support for Ranger Training Manual
- Support for additional widows in Democratic Republic of Congo
- Support for Rangers meeting and establishment of association in Russia

## Victorian Rangers Association (Australia)

### CITY OF MELBOURNE RANGERS – CREATING STEWARDS FOR THE FUTURE

*“Through interpretation, understanding; through understanding, appreciation; through appreciation, protection” – Freeman Tilden*

For the past twelve months City of Melbourne Park Rangers have been busily executing a new Education Program. Over 200 students from nearby primary schools have been investigating the topics of ‘Water’ and ‘Habitat’, earning the title of ‘Junior Rangers’.



The new program seeks to maximise learning outcomes while also providing children living in urban environments with opportunities for ‘green play.’ Rangers guide students through the unique habitats and waterways in Melbourne’s Royal Park through hands-on, experiential and interactive learning aimed to foster connections to nature.

Early in 2013 Park Rangers rolled out their first education sessions to students at St. Michael’s Primary School in North Melbourne, on the theme of ‘Habitat’. At Royal Park, Rangers facilitated student investigation of key endemic species of macro invertebrates, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

St Michael’s Primary School teacher Michael Ozbun noted that the ‘classroom outdoors’ had been great, particularly for some of the children who didn’t have easy access to parks and gardens at home. *“The lessons in the park are hands-on and fun-filled. There’s a range of interactive activities like bird watching, catching insects, climbing trees and there have been kids literally getting their hands dirty by crawling through muddy ponds to look for invertebrates”* Michael said.

Later in the year students from North Melbourne Primary School headed out to explore the theme of 'Water'. Field sessions provided students with the 'big picture' of the natural and urban water cycle, then focused on water quality in local water bodies of Royal Park by testing water physically, chemically and with invertebrate surveys. The wrap-up session focused on Wetland Ecology to teach the kids the importance of keeping waterways healthy. Royal Park, with its abundance of wetland habitat, proved the perfect outdoor classroom. In 2014 City of Melbourne Rangers are looking forward to taking students from more local Primary Schools and Early Learning Centres under their wings and out into their local parkland, creating another new group of stewards for the future.

For more information please contact Jim Szonyi, Acting Coordinator Park Rangers on [jim.szonyi@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:jim.szonyi@melbourne.vic.gov.au).

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

3<sup>rd</sup> European Rangers Training Seminar: 13 – 17 May 2014, Brijuni National Park, Croatia. [www.ranger.brijuni.hr](http://www.ranger.brijuni.hr)

World Environment Day: 5<sup>th</sup> June 2014. [www.unep.org/wed](http://www.unep.org/wed)

World Ranger Day: 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014. [www.internationalrangers.org/world-ranger-day](http://www.internationalrangers.org/world-ranger-day)

National Wilderness Conference: 15 -19 October 2014, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA. [www.wilderness50th.org](http://www.wilderness50th.org)

Ranger Rendezvous (ANPR annual conference): 22 - 26 October 2014, Estes Park (Rocky Mountains), Colorado, USA. [www.anpr.org](http://www.anpr.org)

IUCN World Parks Congress: 12 – 19 November 2014, Sydney, Australia. [www.worldparkscongress.org](http://www.worldparkscongress.org)

8<sup>th</sup> World Ranger Congress: 22 – 26 May 2016, Estes Park, Colorado, USA. More details to come in upcoming issues.

## **MESSAGES FROM 'SUPPORT AFRICA'S RANGERS'**

Heather Mackenzie - *Thank you for all that you all do protecting earths angels. You are all legends in my eyes*

Sarah Walker - *You guys rock! respect to each & every one of the rangers the work you do is awesome & priceless*

Paul Carnall - *Thank you so much for all of the hard work you do. You are all heroes who deserve medals*

Jeanine Grobbelaar - *Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the work you are doing - you are loved and appreciated by so many people. God bless you all*

Cherie Bescript - *You are all front-line heroes protecting wildlife! Thank you for all you do!*



Lisa Miller - *Thank you for protecting Africa's majestic animals....I have total respect for all of you!!*

Tessa van Helsdingen - *Being in the bush often, I know what conditions you work in. You are heroes fighting the greed of mankind. We salute you daily.*

Rhonda S. Radford - *Please be assured that your hard work and effort is greatly appreciated from many miles away. Thank you for protecting Africa's wildlife. Your bravery and courage is hugely respected. May you all stay safe!*

Kay Hall - *Thank you so much for the very brave & exhausting work you all do. You are heroes!*

Penny Thorn - *Keep up the fantastic work you are doing, each and everyone one of you is so important to the wildlife. Be proud of yourselves - you deserve to be.*

Cheryl Hurly Dormer - *Thank you brave soldiers for taking care of our precious wildlife. There is a war being waged on our animals, and you do your best to keep them safe... God bless you all and keep you safe...*

Bo Dhi - *Thank you for your tireless and brave efforts to protect Africa's precious animals! I respect you by heart!*

Mikki Hardy - *No words could ever convey the deep gratitude I feel for all involved in animal conservation \_ especially the Rangers that put their lives on the line every day to save our heritage. THANK YOU!*

Nkhangwe Eric - *Those in Central Africa in particular. Commitment and dedication they have shown is aboveboard. We thank your for your commitment is saving the humanity and our heritage. keep up the good work, and whatever your spiritual belief, you are always in our daily prayers.*

Paige Trent - *Heart-warming to see such dedication. We sleep better knowing you are protecting our most precious creatures. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.*

Ben Buckland - *Usually, out gunned and outnumbered, the rangers of APUs risked their lives to protect God's creation!*

Rukara N'ziza Nkurunziza - *When I was a kid, I dreamt of becoming a Ranger. My dream never came true due to my medical problems and low education. To all Rangers out there, thanx for doing something great to save Africa's Wildlife..... Thank you once again.*

Janet Ehrlich - *The wild animals you protect are the most important part of your African heritage and thousands of people around the world support the important work you are doing! Be strong, you are the last hope for Africa's wildlife!*

Ingrid Viring - *More and more support should pour in for the awesome job this group of game rangers do. They work under THE MOST DIFFICULT circumstances and witness the most horrific situations. What an amazing group of people*

Erik Ballauff - *Thanks for preserving a vital part of our world's heritage!*

Jacki Tribe - *I Thank You, my son Thanks You, and any unborn grandchildren Thank You.*

Sharon Hill Crouch - *Thank you for all the good that you do. Without you there would be no hope.*

Derwin Steensma - *keep up the good work guys and thanks*

## **INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION DIRECTORY**

The following is for quick reference only and does not include the names of individual ranger associations. For a full list of member associations please see [www.internationalrangers.org/members](http://www.internationalrangers.org/members). For additional information about individual associations please refer to individual websites or contact the IRF Secretary.

### **OFFICERS**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
President	Sean Willmore	Australia	<a href="mailto:president@internationalrangers.org">president@internationalrangers.org</a>
Vice President	Wayne Lotter	Tanzania	<a href="mailto:wayne@pamsfoundation.org">wayne@pamsfoundation.org</a>
Treasurer	Meg Weesner	United States	<a href="mailto:treasurer@internationalrangers.org">treasurer@internationalrangers.org</a>
Secretary	Tegan Burton	Australia	<a href="mailto:secretary@internationalrangers.org">secretary@internationalrangers.org</a>

### **REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

Africa	Chris Galliers	South Africa	<a href="mailto:chrisgalliers@gameranger.co.za">chrisgalliers@gameranger.co.za</a>
Asia	Yong-Seok Shin	Korea	<a href="mailto:npars@hanmail.net">npars@hanmail.net</a>
Central America	Cesar Augusto Flores Lopez	Guatemala	<a href="mailto:Titinoflores2000@yahoo.com">Titinoflores2000@yahoo.com</a>
Europe	Florin Halastauan	Romania	<a href="mailto:Florin_hombre@yahoo.com">Florin_hombre@yahoo.com</a>
North America	Jeff Ohlfs	United States	<a href="mailto:deserttraveler2@roadrunner.com">deserttraveler2@roadrunner.com</a>
Oceania	Peter Cleary	Australia	<a href="mailto:pcleary@penguins.org.au">pcleary@penguins.org.au</a>
South America	<i>Vacant</i>		<i>Please apply if interested</i>

### **PAST PRESIDENTS**

Past President	Gordon Miller	England	<a href="mailto:irfhq@gmail.com">irfhq@gmail.com</a>
Past President	Rick Smith	United States	<a href="mailto:rsmith0921@comcast.net">rsmith0921@comcast.net</a>
Past President	David Zeller	South Africa	<a href="mailto:zeller.irf@gmail.com">zeller.irf@gmail.com</a>
Past President	Deanne Adams	United States	<a href="mailto:irfdeanne@aol.com">irfdeanne@aol.com</a>

### **STAFF and COMMITTEE LEADERS**

Thin Green Line	Nicola Potger	Australia	<a href="mailto:executivepa@internationalrangers.org">executivepa@internationalrangers.org</a>
Guardaparque	<i>Vacant</i>		<i>Please apply if interested</i>
Website	Lucas Habib	Canada	<a href="mailto:webteam@internationalrangers.org">webteam@internationalrangers.org</a>
Marketing	<i>Vacant</i>		<i>Please apply if interested</i>
Payments Officer	Colin Dilcock	England	<a href="mailto:cdilcock@supanet.com">cdilcock@supanet.com</a>
Translation	Osvaldo Barassi	Chile/Brazil	<a href="mailto:o_barassi@yahoo.es">o_barassi@yahoo.es</a>
Awards	Sean Willmore	Australia	<a href="mailto:president@internationalrangers.org">president@internationalrangers.org</a>
Rangers without Borders	Jay Wells	United States	<a href="mailto:jaywells@methownet.com">jaywells@methownet.com</a>
Youth Development	Michal Skalka	Czech Republic	<a href="mailto:skalka.michal@seznam.cz">skalka.michal@seznam.cz</a>

### **YOUNG CONSERVATIONIST AWARD RECIPIENTS**

2012	Elisângela Sales Dos Santos	Brazil	<a href="mailto:elisangela@actbrasil.org.br">elisangela@actbrasil.org.br</a>
2011	Héctor Antonio Caymaris	Uruguay	<a href="mailto:caymaris@gmail.com">caymaris@gmail.com</a>
2010	Alasdair Harris	Scotland/Madagascar	<a href="mailto:al@blueventures.org">al@blueventures.org</a>
2008	Edwin Sabuhoro	Rwanda	<a href="mailto:esabuhoro@rwandaecotours.com">esabuhoro@rwandaecotours.com</a>
2006	Christian Teran	Ecuador	<a href="mailto:cteran2@yahoo.es">cteran2@yahoo.es</a>

