

# The Thin Green Line

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.



Volume 25, April 2014 – June 2014

## Calendar of Events

- 31<sup>st</sup> July [World Ranger Day](http://www.internationalrangers.org/world-ranger-day)  
[www.internationalrangers.org/world-ranger-day](http://www.internationalrangers.org/world-ranger-day)
- 15-19 October [National Wilderness Conference](http://www.wilderness50th.org)  
[Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA](http://www.wilderness50th.org)  
[www.wilderness50th.org](http://www.wilderness50th.org)
- 22-26 October [Ranger Rendezvous \(ANPR annual conference\)](http://www.anpr.org)  
[Estes Park \(Rocky Mountains\), Colorado, USA.](http://www.anpr.org)  
[www.anpr.org](http://www.anpr.org)



## From the President

Sean Willmore  
President IRF & Member Victoria Rangers Association  
[president@internationalrangers.org](mailto:president@internationalrangers.org)  
W: <http://internationalrangers.org>  
T: +61 (0) 3 5931 3202

Hi to all Rangers out there. We come to a busy time of year with our ranger awards announced, World Ranger Day activities, Development of our WRD kit, progressing new associations, preparations for the World Parks Congress in November and much more.

Here's some things I've been involved in as President or that I'm aware are happening:

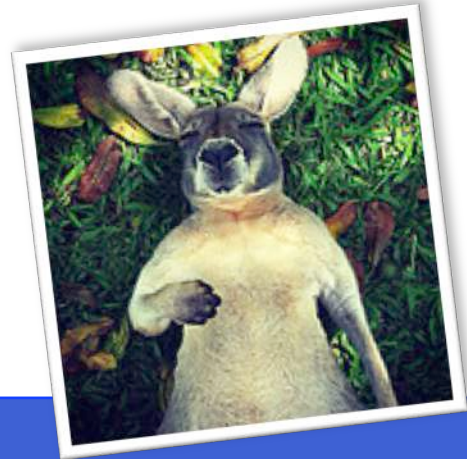
Jeanine Grobbelaar

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

## Calendar of Events

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

22-26 May 2016 [8th World Ranger Congress  
Estes Park, Colorado, USA.](#)



## Continued from the President....

**WORLD RANGER DAY: JULY 31<sup>st</sup>**- we will be sending out the 2014 Honour Roll, World Ranger sign which this year will say “ Respecting World Rangers Day”. The Duke of Cambridge (Prince William) is also filming a video message for us tomorrow, which we will share along with a message from Dr Jane Goodall. World Ranger Day is spreading and we are working with IUCN and other organisations to spread the word far and wide. I hope you and your Ranger Colleagues will participate. More information will be on the IRF website and Facebook page

**AWARDS** – There are three awards recognizing the great work of Rangers. They are now available online at [www.internationalrangers.org/awards](http://www.internationalrangers.org/awards)

**Young Conservationist Award**- supported by Parks Victoria

**Dr. Jane Goodall Hope and Inspiration Ranger Award**- Supported by The Thin Green Line

**IRF Lifetime Achievement Award** Supported by the Thin Green Line

This is a great chance to highlight the work of young, inspiring and experienced rangers alike. All winners will be invited to the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney, with \$5000 of costs paid each.

Please Pass the above link to all your ranger and conservation connections and encourage as many entries as possible. Thanks to the awards team for helping put this together including Peter Cleary Oceania rep, Chris Galliers- Africa Rep and Greg Wallace- PAWA rep

**IUCN World Parks Congress.** We've been working hard with the IUCN, Parks Victoria and other networks. We have secured reduced accommodation rates in Lane Cove National Park, shirts for all IRF affiliate rangers, a mock ranger Station in the main congress where we can present our work and allow delegates to meet rangers. We have some key presentations and workshops for rangers and delegates and want to get as many rangers there as possible. For more details please email Tegan Burton on [Tegan.Burton@internationalrangers.org](mailto:Tegan.Burton@internationalrangers.org)

## Continued from the President....

### **Sponsorship to IUCN World Parks Congress Sydney November 2014:**

It is expensive to attend the congress and we have managed to secure some funding for IRF rangers and ranger affiliates.

The Thin Green Line Foundation( TTGLF) will fund the following:

- Full Congress attendance for up to 6 delegates including airfares, congress fees and accommodation. Visas will be at the cost of the delegate. Supported 50% by TTGLF and 50% by another agency
- Congress Fees and accommodation for up to 10 Rangers- Airfares/visas are the applicant's responsibility- supported by TTGLF

For all the above you will need to forward a copy of your IUCN application for support if you did apply and/or a short brief on why you would be a suitable candidate to represent the IRF/TTGLF and ranger at the WPC. Send Applications to [sean.willmore@thingreenline.org.au](mailto:sean.willmore@thingreenline.org.au) Wayne Lotter the Vice president of IRF and myself will select the successful applicants based on the contributions of the applicant to the IRF and TTGLF to date and potentially going forward, aswell and the quality of the submission. Note applicants will out number our ability to support so please understand that support will be competitive. Applications close Aug 20. Please pass onto your networks.

Going forward I hope to travel to Latin America and work with our Ranger Associations and ranger groups there and discuss greater collaboration there.

I will also be speaking about ranger at the Clinton Global Initiative in New York.

Via the Thin Green Line Foundation ranger projects have been supported for Anti-poaching training in Kenya and Tanzania and we hope to raise more funds for other regions. We need your active engagement to form projects for your regions that support rangers and their situations. A number of widows have been supported or are in the process for support throughout Africa, Latin America, and Asia.

Finally congratulations to Florin Halastauan, ORF Europe representative, Branko Stivic, President Croatian Ranger Association and all involved in the European Ranger Congress that saw 130 ranger delegates come together from across Europe. There were some great discussions and workshops with 4 main topics of: Junior Rangers, Twinning Projects, Communication and Ranger Training. We should aim to this in each region every four years!

To all of you out there- keep up the great work for your patch, let's support each other and make a loud noise for Rangers this World Rangers Day, July 31.

Best to you all

Sean Wilmore



## From the Vice President

Wayne D. Lotter

Vice President IRF & Member Game Rangers Association of Africa

[wayne@pamsfoundation.org](mailto:wayne@pamsfoundation.org) W: <http://internationalrangers.org> T: +61 (0) 3 5931 3202

I would like to sincerely thank the small team of people who have been working on preparations for the World Parks Congress and ensuring as much representation of rangers and practical protected area issues there, as possible!

As is typical with committees, the difference made is primarily thanks to a minority of 'doers'. These people make it a priority to find ways to make positive things happen and ensure the relevance and growth of organisations such as, in our case, the IRF. While there are always those who never get around to doing the work needed in between meetings, and the few who see problems in everything and have the foot permanently on the brake and find any number of reasons to convince others that it is safest to remain stationary and keep things from happening regardless of the implications of it meaning zero progress in fulfillment of the organisations mission, it is most fortunate for the IRF that we have some IEC members who are visionary and solution focused and are making a positive difference. I will not repeat some of the positive developments that are in process, as the details of these are reported on in this newsletter by those responsible for

initiating and implementing them, including our President and Secretary.

I have not been as active as some have been for IRF over the past few months and I have not initiated anything new that was not previously reported. My main IRF related activities over the last number of months have once again been related to:

- representing IRF on the Board of The Thin Green Line Foundation (including monthly meetings that I participate in via Skype);
  - Maintaining partnership activities between IRF members and my own organization in support of rangers on the ground, such as the provision of equipment, training, and 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;
  - liaison with IUCN and WCPA; and coordinating the team of authors to develop the WCPA best practice guideline standards on anti-poaching training for field rangers.
- The proposed consultative workshop on this topic that was planned for inclusion in the World Parks Congress in November, has been approved for inclusion in the Congress

## Continued from the Vice President....

programme. As part of the preparation for this and the associated final document that will be published in 2015, we will be holding a workshop in South Africa during July and another in South East Asia during September 2014.

Finally, please be reminded of the opportunity to publish articles in the IUCN's publication "PARKS" and send me drafts of papers or ideas of potential papers from rangers for this journal. I would be pleased to hear from you in this regard. 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/)

Best wishes to all rangers as well as to the supporters of rangers, and/or the supporters of the wildlife and wild places that matter so much to us all.

## International Ranger Awards



The International Ranger Federation is pleased to announce that the 2014 Awards program has just been launched.

The program adds two new awards to the regular Young Conservationist Award, these being the Dr Jane Goodall Hope and Inspiration Ranger Award, and the IRF Lifetime Achievement Award. In combination the awards recognise the young, the inspirational, and the enduring Ranger spirit, and provide us all with the opportunity to highlight our profession and the amazing work that so many people around the world are doing.

Applications close on 25th August 2014, and Award recipients will be presented at the World Parks Congress in Sydney, Australia, November 2014.

More information - <http://internationalrangers.org/awards/>

Please help spread the word and encourage applications for a strong list of candidates.



# From the Secretary

Tegan Burton  
 Secretary IRF & Member Protected  
 Area Workers Association of NSW  
<mailto:secretary@internationalrangers.org>

As Secretary I receive a slow but steady rate of various enquiries relating to the IRF, such as interest in becoming a member, or seeking more information about some of the issues Rangers are involved in such as poaching. I would like to thank our team of Regional Representatives for their support, as they are the ones I most often ask to respond.

As the deadline for earlybird registrations to the World Parks Congress approached it was great to see the number of IRF delegates growing. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Congress in November. I also dearly hope that more delegates from a broader range of countries are able to secure sponsorship to join us at this event.

Just a reminder that if you haven't already registered for the World Parks Congress but intend to, and would like to use the IRF discounted accommodation at the Lane Cove River Tourist Park (details below) please let me know via [secretary@internationalrangers.org](mailto:secretary@internationalrangers.org)

Experience from the last World Parks Congress in Durban demonstrated the value of IRF delegates being accommodated together in order to maximize effectiveness at the Congress.

To this end the IRF has secured a discounted accommodation rate for **fully equipped cabins at the Lane Cove River Tourist Park**, within Lane Cove National Park ([www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/lane-cove-national-park/lane-cove-river-tourist-park/accommodation](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/lane-cove-national-park/lane-cove-river-tourist-park/accommodation)). This venue is about 1 hour by public transport but less than 30 minutes by road from the Congress venue. Therefore PAWA has offered to arrange coaches for direct transport to and from the Congress each day.

**Available options** for accommodation for nine nights from 11<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November are (note all prices quoted in Australian Dollars):

- triple share = \$396 (\$44/night)
- twin share = \$558 (\$62/night)
- single cabin = \$972 (\$108/night)

To take advantage of this accommodation offer please do not book direct with the Tourist Park. Instead, you simply need to advise me via [secretary@internationalrangers.org.au](mailto:secretary@internationalrangers.org.au) of your accommodation preferences and all arrangements will be made from there.

## US World Ranger Congress Update

**Bob Krumenaker** [bob.wrc8@gmail.com](mailto:bob.wrc8@gmail.com) Conference Chair 8th World Ranger Congress - 2016  
Hosted by the US Association of National Park Rangers



Planning is well underway for the 8th World Ranger Congress, to be held in the US May 21-27, 2016, and whose theme will be *Connecting Parks, Rangers, and Communities*. The US National Park Service (NPS) will be celebrating its centennial that year, and the WRC is one of many events the NPS will officially participate in celebrating that milestone. In addition to the NPS, the *George Wright Society* (GWS) has signed on as a conference partner, and will assist with the call for papers, conference registration, and financial management. The GWS is the primary sponsor of the US's premier interdisciplinary conference on parks and protected areas. GWS also publishes the well-regarded *George Wright Forum*, which has a worldwide focus on protected areas, and will devote all or part of an issue to the World Ranger Congress soon after the event. For more information, contact Bob Krumenaker, Conference Chair / Incident Commander at [bob.wrc8@gmail.com](mailto:bob.wrc8@gmail.com).

## From the Treasurer

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

The IRF continues to hold funds in UK-based bank accounts. The Association of National Park Rangers (United States) is also holding funds 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.



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.



# From the Editor

Nicola Potger  
Volunteer Editor

[executivepa@internationalrangers.org](mailto:executivepa@internationalrangers.org)

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)

## Regional Representative Reports

### Africa

Chris Galliers

Africa Regional Representative & Chairman Game Rangers Association of Africa

[chrisgalliers@gameranger.co.za](mailto:chrisgalliers@gameranger.co.za)



At the end of April 2014 the Game Rangers' Association of Africa (GRAA) hosted its 44th Annual General Meeting at Nakavango Camp, Stanley and Livingstone Game Reserve in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The event was attended by rangers from far and wide with members travelling from South Africa, Zambia, Namibia, Botswana and of course from within Zimbabwe itself.

The event began on Wednesday 29th April

with a Wildlife Poisoning Prevention Workshop hosted by long-standing GRAA member and poisoning expert Tim Snow. This was well attended by GRAA members as well as field rangers from the International Anti-Poaching Foundation (IAPF), Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit (VFAPU) and Zimparks. Poisoning has been a problem in Zimbabwe in recent times and this workshop will hopefully go a long way to ensure that every effort is made to get this under control. Tim

has plans to continue his work in the area in the near future.



Thursday was a day with many interesting presentations during the morning. GRAA Chairman Chris Galliers and IRF Africa Representative, welcomed delegates before an Anti-Poaching Strategy Workshop ensued. The panel for this included Damien Mander (IAPF), Charles Brightman (VFAPU), Trevor Lane (Bhejane Trust) and Hilary Midiri (Ecologist, Zimparks). Each panel member had a chance to highlight their efforts in the region in terms of anti-poaching and other conservation initiatives. The idea behind this workshop was to explore areas of collaboration amongst different organisations in combating wildlife crime. Members of the floor interacted with the panel and shared their experiences in the field of anti-poaching. One hopes that the GRAA can play an active role in bringing together different parties in combating wildlife crime in Zimbabwe.



Ryno Gerber (Suritec) then presented on the use of intricate software and technology to assist in aspects of anti-poaching and ranger duties. This was a real eye opener on the powers of technology and how they can be used to pro-actively combat poaching of Africa's natural resources. Hendrik Van Rooyen (PISA Integrity Assessment Centre) followed this with a presentation on testing methods for ranger selection programs, employment screening, use of integrity management programs as well as use of technology in post-crime investigations.

The afternoon's session was hosted by Ruben De Kock (GRAA and SAWC) who explained the importance of establishing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for field rangers. Once it had been established as to how to write up SOPs, discussion groups then set about documenting five SOPs each. The idea here was to generate 20 field ranger SOPs that could be taken back to the respective reserves by the rangers in attendance.





Friday's field trip started by an excursion into the nearby Zambezi National Park accompanied by Zimparks Officials and Trevor Lane (Bhejane Trust) to view the work that has been done in re-establishing waterpoints in the Chamabondo Vlei area. The rejuvenation of this area was evident and the game is sure to follow now that these water points are operational once more after such a long period. The potential of this park is truly remarkable and one hopes that in years to come it returns to its former glory.

The Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust was visited in the afternoon where the newly established VFWT Wildlife Laboratory and Clinic was viewed. It will be an additional field resource site for the Zimbabwe Department of Veterinary Services, Wildlife Unit, as well as play a role in hosting visiting vets, veterinary and pre-veterinary interns interested in contributing towards conservation. This was followed by a tour of the falls by those who had not yet been. Always a sight to behold!

For those that booked Saturday started off with a birding walk with Dean McGregor a legendary safari pro guide. Specials such as Collared Palm Thrush, Tropical Boubou and Northern Grey-Headed Sparrow were found. Others went on a game drive around the property where GRAA member and Senior Warden of the reserve, James Slade spoke of

the conservation initiatives being undertaken. The AGM followed this where portfolio holders presented their year's work. The strategic direction of the GRAA was also presented as well as the financials which were duly approved.



The week ended off with a memorable sundowner cruise on the mighty Zambezi river followed by the awards dinner and ceremony at an exquisite outdoor venue within the Stanley and Livingstone Reserve. Paul Dutton and Louis Olivier were both awarded the Spirit of Africa Lifetime Achievement Award which is the highest honour the association can bestow on any individual. Both men are worthy recipients for the huge contribution they have made to conservation over their careers! Long may it continue!



The venue for the GRAA AGM for 2015 is still to be decided but if Vic Falls 2014 was anything to go by, it is not to be missed! Thank you to all those who attended and to all those who contributed to another successful AGM programme.



## Central America

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

The following is a repeat from the last newsletter:

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.

## Europe

Florin Halastauan

Europe Regional Representative & Member Asociatia Rangerilor din Romania

[Florin\\_hombre@yahoo.com](mailto:Florin_hombre@yahoo.com)



The European Rangers Seminar in Croatia seminar had the success hoped for by us (Sean, Florin and Croatia Ranger Association). A total of 120 rangers from 24 countries in Europe and Australia attended. Discussions were held on issues for European rangers: sharing experience; collaboration between associations; activities to celebrate International Ranger Day; Junior ranger project; and, collaborating with Euro Park. There were also proposals for the future work of the IRF. For future work online IC meeting will present a report of the Seminar.

Rangers Association of Croatia and the Ministry of Environment of Croatia provided a great place and a very well organised seminar.

**Thank them** on behalf of the IC – IRF. I firmly believe that the Rangers Association of Croatia is a strong point in Europe for the IRF. I thank Sean Willmore very much for attending the Seminar and his work for this. With Sean's work and help, IRF in Europe has seen increased interest from rangers and especially of the young. Attracting new ranger membership depends on the work of the IEC and how we approach them, especially the young.

## North America

Jeff Ohlfs

North America Regional Representative & Member Association of  
National Park Rangers



My focus this last quarter was co-chairing the CSPRA/PRAC annual conference. More than 200 participants, presenters and special guests from 30 plus park agencies and two colleges/universities, convened in Yosemite Valley for the 2014 California Parks Training Conference (CPTC) on March 3-6, on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of California State Parks and the setting aside of Yosemite Valley as a park. The conference program included over 20 different trainings segments from Bats to the OHMVR Outreach Program to Fire Management at Yosemite National Park. The annual Parks Conference is sponsored by the California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA) and the Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC) and this year was also supported by a wide number of agencies, groups and individuals, including the National Park Service (NPS) and California State Parks (CSP).

In addition to the many distinctive and engaging training sessions, there was a unique memorial ceremony to honor **Galen Clark**, first Yosemite Guardian and California's first state park ranger, on the occasion of his 200th birthday anniversary. The event took place at the Yosemite Cemetery, where Clark is buried and it featured a surprise visit by Clark himself (channeled by **Miles Standish**). Clark, during the ceremony recognized his great-great granddaughter **Lita Karlstrand** in the assembled crowd of 80 people and hugged and greeted her mightily. The "Ceremony in the Cemetery" was a joint effort of the Conference and the NPS, who also used the event to highlight the renovation of the historic cemetery and invited other descendants of those buried at the cemetery including Native American's from the Yosemite region.

At the opening session, Yosemite National Park

Superintendent **Don Neubacher** welcomed the group on behalf of the National Park Service. Also featured at the opening session, was a screening of the brand new **Ken Burns'** film "*Yosemite: A Gathering of Spirit*". The film chronicles, as only Ken Burns and writer/producer Dayton Duncan can, the setting aside in the 1864 legislation signed by President Abraham Lincoln, Yosemite Valley as California's first state park and the birthplace of the park movement in United States, branded by Burns as "America's Best Idea".

The finale of the conference was the banquet in the fabulous dining hall of the Ahwahnee Hotel, one of the finest of National Park Lodges in the US. California State Parks Director **Major General Anthony L. Jackson, USMC (Ret)** was the featured speaker. Director Jackson gave an inspirational presentation of the value of parks, past current and into the future, and praised the efforts of the 200 park professionals from 30 agencies and guests as the representatives of many stewards of our local, regional, state and national parks in California.

I have been working with the next World Ranger Conference Committee, please read their report. I introduced our organization to the Richardson Center for Global Engagement which has been supporting ranger training in Africa. The center is the work of former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson. I have also been in contact with North Carolina's state rangers and hope they will join as a provisional member. I'm still

waiting on a decision from the Washington State Park Rangers Association as to their decision to join the IRF. On June 30<sup>th</sup>, I will be attending the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln signing the Yosemite Grant which gave California its first state park and set aside Yosemite for future generations. I will report on this in the next issue.

Finally, I would like share a memorial to California's State Park Rangers. At Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, in Northern California, there is a memorial grove dedicated to the California State Park Rangers. If you get a chance, please visit it. This is summer vacation in the Northern Hemisphere, my wish is everyone stays safe during this season.



## Oceania

Peter Cleary

Oceania Regional Representative & Member Victorian Rangers Association

[pcleary@penguins.org.au](mailto:pcleary@penguins.org.au)

Rangers from four Australian Associations met in Queensland for the annual CARA/IRF Oceania meeting. Thanks to SARA and Generate (NZ) for forwarding their annual summaries and offering their apologies.

We heard from each Association and discussed the challenges, successes and progress, with many discussions about making Associations more relevant and functional. It is evident each group has its strengths and weaknesses and these forums provide an excellent opportunity for members to develop and consider actions for better outcomes. The gathering also gave the IRF an opportunity to outline its actions in Oceania and highlighted some of the projects and opportunities that have resulted as a part of this wider network. The minutes to this meeting are available through your local association.

experience the world class natural highlights of the area whilst chatting about their own patches and taking in the park infrastructure and features. The event culminated in an entertaining auction of sponsors products and Association paraphernalia followed by some funky moves displayed to the local ranger band *Threatened Species*.

The upcoming World Park's Congress in Sydney is the next event on the calendar and we hope to be able to bring together as many rangers and park workers to experience all that this significant conference can offer.

Looking forward to catching you in a Park somewhere.....



Our hosts,  
the

Queensland Rangers Association provided a thought provoking range of presentations from branding, to wildlife rehabilitation, onground Park works programs and peer support services. The trade show once again provided a great opportunity for rangers to consider what products and systems are on offer to help achieve greater Park use and conservation goals. A field trip around the Crater National Park on the Atherton Tablelands gave attendees the opportunity to



**Annual General Meeting – Tuesday May 13<sup>th</sup>  
2014 Genazzano's Rainforest Retreat – Lake  
Tinaroo, Queensland**



## Member Association & Other Reports

### 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the German Ranger Association in Bavarian National Park

Betina Post

Vice-President German Ranger Association



The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the German Ranger Association took place from 9<sup>th</sup> until 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2014 in the Bavarian National Park. Almost 120 Rangers, who represented most of the Parks of Germany and several representatives of the friendly Ranger Associations from Austria, Switzerland and the Czech Republic came to the Bavarian Forest National park, whose National Park Service celebrates their 40<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2014. The Bavarian Forest National Park Service was the first Ranger Service in a park in Germany and the Black Forest National Park, as youngest member of German national parks, was one of 40 parks which gave their congratulations.

Topics of the conference were the importance of nature reserves and the role of Rangers as interpreters of direct nature experiences.

The lectures of the first day showed the importance of nature reserves to protect and preserve the Biodiversity, for example native predators like Lynx, Wolf and their habitats. The discussions also showed that there is no chance of success without the acceptance of residents and visitors. The ranger colleagues of the Bavarian Forest National Park Service gave a good insight into the problems and results of their work during the last 40 years. One highlight of the conference was a video-message of Sean Willmore, president of the IRF and Founder of TheThinGreenLineFoundation, about the work of IRF and TTGLF and their engagement for the rangers around the world.

Rangers are playing a main role as translators of the scientific work in the nature reserves. To

residents and visitors of the parks they have to give the idea, why it is so necessary for each of them to protect the Biodiversity and how important nature protection is for sustainability.

During the field-trips in the fascinating nature of the Bavarian Forest the rangers gave a clear demonstration how to reach all people and work together with them.

Next to the official themes of the conference there was time for very interesting talks and discussions with ranger colleagues not only from different parts of Germany, but also of Austria, Switzerland and the Czech Republic. For a long time the national Ranger Associations of these countries are connected in a deep friendship and an intensive exchange. We all belong to the great ranger-family.



## Portugal: Tribute to Dr Nuno Gomes Oliveira

Francisco Correia e Senhor Doutor Nuno Gomes Oliveira

The Associação Portuguesa de Guardas e Vigilantes da Natureza (Portuguese Ranger Association) paid tribute to Dr Nuno Gomes Oliveira at the 17th National Meeting of Rangers on 4-5 May 2014, in Rio Maior.

The tribute follows here:

It is with great honour and enormous satisfaction that, at this moment, before an audience of defenders of nature, the Associação Portuguesa de Guardas e Vigilantes da Natureza pays tribute to Dr Nuno Gomes Oliveira, who devotes his life to environmental causes.

Your dedication to the defense of Nature, always marked by courage, persistence, knowledge and hard work.

Your opinions are respected and echo around the country, encouraging the preservation and protection of áreas importante for nature conservation.

Over the years we have followed thr fruits of your labour, reflected in environmental education and awareness for many Portuguese.

Brilliant manager and scientist, possessing vast, deep and diverse culture, accompanied always by immense humility, without doubt one of the most characteristic marks of your unforgettable personality.

Owner of an intense ife, you perform your numerous activities with courage, pride and responsibility, working and fighting for the ideas and theories you believe in.

Nuno Fernando da Ascensão Gomes Oliveira was born in Vila Nova de Gaia (Porto, Portugal), has a Bachelors degree in Biology (University of Bordeaux), a Masters in Human Ecology (University of Évora) and a PhD in Biology – specialising in Ecology (University of Coimbra).

He was a collaborator for the Centre for Ornithological Studies in the Faculty of Science (Porto, 1971-74) and a founder of the Portuguese Centre for the Study and Protection of Wildlife (1974).



In 1981 he drew up, at the request of the municipality of Valongo, the first study for the classification of the mountains of St Justa, Pias and Castiçal, and in 1990, again at the request of Valongo, prepared a new edition.

He was the author of the project “Parque Biológico de Gaia”, a program for which he has been responsible since 1983.

He was the author of the projects “Parque de Dunas da Aguda”, “Parque Biológico de Vinhais”, “Parque Botânico do Castelo”, “Parque Municipal da Lavandeira” and “Parque do Conde das Devesas”, among others.

Dr Nuno Gomes Oliveira developed work in various protected áreas, in Portugal and overseas, and was the author of the proposal for the creation of the “Reserva Natural das Dunas de S. Jacinto” (1971) and the “Reserva Natural Local do Estuário do Douro” (2008).

He collaborated with the National Commission of the Environment, the National Service of Population Participation, the National Service of Parks, Reserves and Conservation of Nature, the Hunting Service, the Institute for the Conservation of Nature and the Institute for the





### Termino com a citação de Albert Einstein:

“Não se deve ir atrás de  
objectivos fáceis.

É preciso buscar o que só  
pode ser alcançado  
por meio dos maiores  
esforços.”



### Eggs

In a nest....

## Continued

Promotion of the Environment, and with various local authorities, and was a member of the National Board of Scientific and Technological Investigation and the Committee for the Challenges of Modern Society, NATO.

Em 1990 he received the National Prize for the Conservation of Nature and World Heritage, awarded by the State Secretaries for the Environment, Youth and Energy.

In 2000 he was conferred an Honourable Mention by the Portuguese Federation of Associations in Defense of the Environment, for distinguishing himself through action as a friend of the environment. He is the author of dozens of publications, films and lectures, from which the stand out books are ‘Introduction to the study and observation of birds’ (1979), ‘Areas of natural importance in the Porto region – a memory for the future’ (2008), ‘Ecotourism and Nature Conservation’ (2009), ‘José Bonifácio de Andrada e Silva, the first ecologista of Portugal and Brazil’ (2011), ‘Essay on the Camellias and the Park of Quinta do Conde das Devesas’ (2013), and ‘Biological Park of Gaia, 1983-2013 (2013).

He was the Director (2000/2005) and the President (2005/2010) of the municipal Biological Park of Gaia, EEM and Vice-President of the Waters and Biological Park of Gaia, EEM (2011/2013).

He is currently the Director of the Biological Park of Gaia, a non-executive Director of Simdouro, Saneamento of Grande Porto, SA (Water Group of Portugal), and member of the Portuguese Association of Camellias.

Dr Nuno Gomes Oliveira managed, with undeniable expertise, to unite the knowledge acquired through universities and on the ground, with the art of making this knowledge popular and accessible, through his literary works and the protected areas that he created.

I finish with a quote from Albert Einstein:

“You shouldn’t go after easy targets. Find what can only be achieved through the greatest of efforts”.

Thank you very much! Dr Nuno Gomes Oliveira

# XVII NATIONAL MEETING OF RANGERS

## “Rangers and Biodiversity” RIO MAIOR 4 - 5 May 2014, Portugal

Francisco José Semedo Correia  
Presidente da APGVN

The General Assembly of the United Nations declared in March 2010 that the period 2011 – 2020 would be the United Nations Decade of Biodiversity ([A/RES/65/161](#)) with the aim of promoting the implementation of a strategic plan for biodiversity and highlighting the importance of living in harmony with nature.



The primary objective is to integrate and promote biodiversity at different levels. Throughout the decade governments are encouraged to develop, implement and communicate the results of their national strategies for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

The world is invited to take action in order to safeguard the variety of life on Earth.

Following the appeal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Associação Portuguesa de Guardas e Vigilantes da Natureza (Portuguese Ranger Association) organised the XVII National Meeting of Rangers, addressing the theme “Rangers and Biodiversity”.

The functions of Rangers are those of the State authority and for the safeguarding of the natural

values of ecosystems.

Rangers are fundamental components of the public mission of management of protected areas (National Parks, Nature Parks, Natural Reserves and Protected Landscapes), as well as the management of water resources and forestry.

As it happens today, this does not mean that they cannot develop and provide support to other activities that contribute to the protection of natural values and which do not fall in the strictest sense of vigilance and management, including direct actions for the conservation of species and habitats in ongoing projects and programs.

The Institute for the Conservation of Nature and Forests (ICNF) has been developing monitoring programs that standardise methodologies and enhance sampling effort, involving most Rangers.

In this sense, the focus of these Technical Days on biodiversity and on the monitoring of species and habitats came as a result of this work to date and will help in the effort of increasing the quality of our knowledge.

Associação Portuguesa de Guardas e Vigilantes da Natureza (Portuguese Ranger Association)



APGVN

## Member Association & Other Reports



### WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY

Emmett Johnston Conservation Ranger - Inishowen  
National Parks and Wildlife Service Ireland

In Ireland people often think of shark conservation as the preserve of tropical waters but Irish coastal waters are host to a rich variety of shark species many of them critically endangered. The biggest and arguably the most iconic marine species found off the island of Ireland is the Basking Shark. With an average dorsal fin height of over 1m, the basking shark is hard to miss; it is the largest fish in the Atlantic and the second largest in the world. Specimens have been recorded weighing in at over 5 tons or more than an African elephant and up to 11m in length. However before anyone gets images of giant Jaws, it is worth stating that the basking shark is a harmless filter feeder of plankton (tiny

since 2008 there is a moratorium on the species under the Common Fisheries Policy within European Union waters. The sharks have a protected wildlife status in just about every European country that has a coastline, but in a quirk of fate they remain unprotected under national legislation in the territorial waters of the Republic of Ireland. This means that although Ireland has responsibilities for the species under the BONN and OSPAR conventions no funding is available through the wildlife service for the implementation of conservation measures for the species. This is because it is not legally classified in Ireland as 'Wildlife' but remains a commercial fish species with a zero quota.



insect like creatures found in the water column and the basis of all life in our oceans).

The shark has a rich historic association with Ireland's western seaboard, and in particular remote coastal communities. The iconic film 'Man of Arran' about life on Ireland's storm battered western isles aptly illustrated the shark's role as a lucrative source of oil and fins for traditional subsistence farmers and Irish whalers in the past.

Today the basking shark is classed as critically endangered in the Northeast Atlantic (ICUN) and

Just like all wildlife issues around the world, finance drives the level of 'responsibility' undertaken by national governments. Ireland is no different and the economic crash that the country experienced in 2008 has seen national budgets dominated by austerity measures designed to restore financial stability. Many Rangers throughout the world are state employees and as a result they are familiar with the ebb and flow of new governments, leaders, and the implementation of 'new' policies. In Ireland since the financial crash of 2008, wildlife management has been very low on the priority list, with a severe reduction in staff, resources and a dramatic reorganising of workload priorities. However even during emergency situations and periods of significant national change, life goes on and wildlife still requires managing and protection. In fact it could be argued that it is usually during periods of national instability that wildlife suffer most and require the highest level of protection.

The basking sharks unprotected status has forced a group of Irish National Parks and Wildlife Service Rangers to work outside the

normal legislative parameters and team up with Irish NGO based marine ecologists to promote the species as a totem for Irish shark conservation and as a vehicle to study changes in the marine environment. One Irish Ranger in particular, Emmett Johnston has led the drive for the shark's protection, since he co-founded the Irish Basking Shark Study Group (IBSSG) in 2009. The groups stated goal is," To gain protection for the basking shark and increase our understanding, appreciation and knowledge of the species".



Having first established the gaps in local and international knowledge, the IBSSG has set about using a range of existing, but unrelated resources and studies to gather evidence on the role of Irish waters in the life cycle of the elusive shark. Through a collaborative approach with academic institutions and local communities they have pioneered the development of new tracking and monitoring techniques which have significantly added to the global knowledge on the species and more importantly illustrated how critical Irish waters are to the shark.

This knowledge has in turn been used to inform and implement a number of awareness raising initiatives in the remote coastal communities where sharks are most commonly encountered by commercial fishermen and leisure boaters. Community led volunteer education programmes such as the Depth Charge, Monster Munch and Shark Camp projects have resulted in the children of commercial fishermen collecting and documenting local knowledge, while also learning about the role of fish ecology and oceanography in their communities.

One of the greatest difficulties with managing the

marine resource is that many of the long established principles of terrestrial conservation and species management do not transfer well to water based habitats, that are often more dynamic in nature and fluid in formation. In this case because the basking shark has no official 'wildlife' status in Ireland conservationists were forced to think outside the box and develop direct collaborative working relationships with communities and academic institutions they did not normally work with on a day to day basis. The success of this initiative has led to voluntary mitigation measures being adopted by commercial operators in the affected areas and has also highlighted the potential to reach ones conservation goal by many different paths.

All Rangers know that bureaucracy, official labels and species classification impacts significantly on their ability to undertake their role of safeguarding the 'Wildlife' of a country and its territorial waters. In the developed world most conservation measures are implemented via state backed legislation. The availability of resources and effective enforcement are major factors in the success of the legislative approach. In this example from Ireland the result has been arguably more positive than if it were undertaken through the traditional state led legislative approach based on scientific evidence gathered by academics and experts with little input from the communities and enforced by inadequate resources. The basking shark an oceanic citizen which carries no passport and recognises no territorial boundaries now enjoys a better level of protection when in Irish waters despite its lack of legal status. If you wish to find out more log onto [www.baskingshark.ie](http://www.baskingshark.ie)



## Rangers, Children, Artisans Work Together

Florina Crisan, Romanian Ranger Association  
[asociatia\\_rangerilor\\_ro@yahoo.com](mailto:asociatia_rangerilor_ro@yahoo.com)

Romanian Ranger Association (RRA) has lots of activities in a project named „Cohabitation with benefits, man-nature, in Retezat”. RRA partners are Retezat National Park Administration (RNPA) and The Ranger Association of Iceland (RAI). The project is financed by EEA Grants.

### For the sake of Narcissus Meadow



**An ecologist family. They didn't pick flowers, but received some long lasting narcissus.**

Rangers from Retezat National Park and volunteers monitored this natural reserve along the days of Narcissus Festival, May 16-18. They kept their eyes open to avoid the destruction of the plants and to help rare species of butterflies to live. Nice artificial narcissus were offered to those tourists who choose to not pick up flowers.

### Children became parents for Salas River

Six teams of children 6-10 years old, legally adopted Salas River witch flows in the middle of their village. The adults throw litter in the river, so that it isn't look properly. Children take in a serious way their job as parents to keep their “child” clean.



**Giulia, in a pink blouse, explains why she wants to be a good Mom for the river**

Rangers are very pleased to see these kids telling to their families and friends about the need of protection of the water. “You know that if you throw a plastic bag in the river, after some weeks it can kill a dolphin or a wild bird? Wild animals can swallow this plastic and died!” says Giulia, a six years girl, with a sad expression on her face.



**Children signed the Adoption Certificate**

### Artisans help flora of Retezat National Park

Two groups of girls and women from Salusa de Sus and Rau de Mori commune work together to create clay flowers. Their flowers are well done réplicas of the protected species. Instead of picking flowers in the Retezat National Park, tourists can get these wonderful art-works. The flowers are hand made in the workshops organised by RRA. Jewels, ornaments and decorations bring nature into tourists' homes.

## The Youngest Parents in the World



**Claudia, Retezat National Park biologist, supervises girls' work.**



**Some souvenirs for tourists**



### Project EEA summary

*Issue:* degradation of the environment

*Objective:* supporting sustainable development and improvement of the state of the environment in the protected areas of Romania, through the involvement of local communities and through partnerships

*Results:* participative citizenship, efficient partnerships, sustainable development, increased protection of Retezat National Park and the Narcissus Meadows biodiversity, local and national environmental watchdogs activities, development of the Romanian Ranger Association capabilities.

*Activities:* training 44 park rangers and 15 volunteer rangers, eco-tourism development, education/raising awareness, general RRA assemblies, reports, promotion through mass-media, internet.

*Target groups:* RRA members, administrations/custodians of 22 protected areas, artisans and local communities, students and teachers from Romania.

*Beneficiaries:* the local community, tourists/visitors, local and governmental authorities, tour operators.

*Partner (from donor countries):* The Ranger Iceland Association, for know-how exchange, promoting natural values of Romania and Iceland.

- Official data about EEA Grants can be found here: [www.eeagrants.org](http://www.eeagrants.org) and [www.fondong.fdsc.ro](http://www.fondong.fdsc.ro)

- Romanian Ranger Association  
[www.ranger.ro](http://www.ranger.ro),  
[www.facebook.com/rangeriidinromania.arr](https://www.facebook.com/rangeriidinromania.arr)  
 , [asociatia\\_rangerilor\\_ro@yahoo.com](mailto:asociatia_rangerilor_ro@yahoo.com),  
[florinacrisan@yahoo.com](mailto:florinacrisan@yahoo.com)



# 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

**President** Sean Willmore **Australia** [president@internationalrangers.org](mailto:president@internationalrangers.org)  
**Vice President** Wayne Lotter **Tanzania** [wayne@pamsfoundation.org](mailto:wayne@pamsfoundation.org)  
**Treasurer** Meg Weesner **United States** [treasurer@internationalrangers.org](mailto:treasurer@internationalrangers.org)  
**Secretary** Tegan Burton **Australia** [secretary@internationalrangers.org](mailto:secretary@internationalrangers.org)

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

**Africa** Chris Galliers **South Africa** [chrisgalliers@gameranger.co.za](mailto:chrisgalliers@gameranger.co.za)  
**Asia** Yong-Seok Shin **Korea** [npars@hanmail.net](mailto:npars@hanmail.net)  
**Central America** Cesar Augusto Flores Lopez **Guatemala** [Titinoflores2000@yahoo.com](mailto:Titinoflores2000@yahoo.com)  
**Europe** Florin Halastauan **Romania** [Florin\\_hombre@yahoo.com](mailto:Florin_hombre@yahoo.com)  
**North America** Jeff Ohlfs **United States** [deserttraveler2@roadrunner.com](mailto:deserttraveler2@roadrunner.com)  
**Oceania** Peter Cleary **Australia** [pcleary@penguins.org.au](mailto:pcleary@penguins.org.au)  
**South America** Vacant Please apply if interested

## PAST PRESIDENTS

**Past President** Gordon Miller **England** [irfhq@gmail.com](mailto:irfhq@gmail.com)  
**Past President** Rick Smith **United States** [rsmith0921@comcast.net](mailto:rsmith0921@comcast.net)  
**Past President** David Zeller **South Africa** [zeller.irf@gmail.com](mailto:zeller.irf@gmail.com)  
**Past President** Deanne Adams **United States** [irfdeanne@aol.com](mailto:irfdeanne@aol.com)

## STAFF & COMMITTEE LEADERS

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

## YOUNG CONSERVATIONIST AWARD RECIPIENTS

**2012** Elisângela Sales Dos Santos **Brazil** [elisangela@actbrasil.org.br](mailto:elisangela@actbrasil.org.br)  
**2011** Héctor Antonio Caymaris **Uruguay** [caymaris@gmail.com](mailto:caymaris@gmail.com)  
**2010** Alasdair Harris **Scotland/Madagascar** [al@blueventures.org](mailto:al@blueventures.org)  
**2008** Edwin Sabuhoro **Rwanda** [esabuhoro@rwandaecotours.com](mailto:esabuhoro@rwandaecotours.com)  
**2006** Christian Teran **Ecuador** [cteran2@yahoo.es](mailto:cteran2@yahoo.es)