

The Thin Green Line

The Thin Green Line is a quarterly publication about the activities of the International Ranger Federation (IRF), a Federation of Ranger organisations.

If you have a submission for The Thin Green Line, please send it to executivepa@internationalrangers.org.
Thank you to our volunteer translators for the non-English editions.



Volume 26, July 2014 – Sept 2014

Calendar of Events

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

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

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



From the President

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WITH THE WORLD PARKS CONGRESS only a month away in Sydney, Australia, along with recent events, it gives me reason to pause and see where we've come from, where we are and where we are going.

Having just returned from a trip by invitation to the Clinton Global initiative in New York to launch a commitment to highlight the work of rangers world wide and in particular to train and equip 400 rangers throughout Africa, I know that our message and the

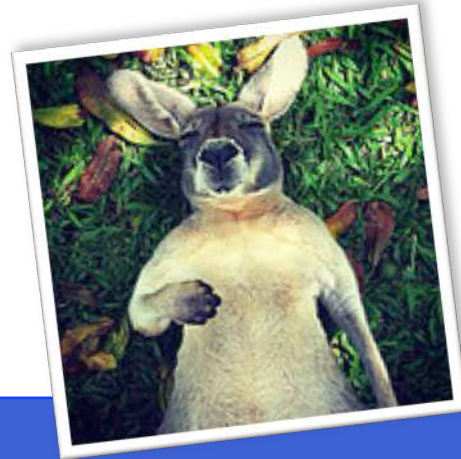
Jeanine Grobbelaar

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

10-12 February, 2015 [National Park Law Enforcement Association \(PLEA\) annual conference](#)
[Austin, Texas](#)
www.parkranger.org

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



Continued from the President....

rangers' message and inspiration is cutting through to the highest levels. Hilary Clinton, Chelsea Clinton and President Bongo of Gabon all mentioned it as critical that the world supports rangers and their families. And the Leonardo Di Caprio foundation allowed me to inform the crowd that they are very interested in supporting this important initiative and will announce it in the coming months.

Add that to Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, completing a World Ranger Day address and it gives me hope that rangers are being heard; we are gaining increased community and leadership respect.

And whilst this is great, it is not enough to rest here of course. We need to turn this good-will into action and I believe those wheels are also turning.

Thanks to our partners IUCN and Parks Victoria we will feature at the World Parks Congress with a "Pop Up" ranger station in the middle of the congress. We will also have:

- our ranger awards presented during the closing ceremony to the full World Parks Congress delegation of nearly 4000 people (see below for our very deserving winners!) with all winners speaking to the full delegation;
- a dedicated side event for the award winner to present their stories;
- a meet the rangers side event organised by PAWA;
- myself, as President, to present a keynote address during sub-plenary and participate in a World Leaders panel on Wildlife Crime with an emphasis on the impact to rangers and their families;
- Wayne Lotter, VP of IRF and PAMS director, will facilitate a workshop on Best Practice guidelines of Field Ranger Anti-poaching training.

Continued from the President....

Aside from the congress, there is also support happening for rangers via IRF's charity arm, The Thin Green Line Foundation with:

- Widow support of 10 widows approved for South East Asia
- Equipment support for 20 rangers in Indonesia
- Ranger training approved for 20 rangers in Zambia
- Training continuing for 60 Community Rangers in Kenya
- First Aid training ready to be rolled out in Tanzania and Kenya
- Widow support for Bolivia, and South Africa
- Support for 10 rangers from Brazil, Costa Rica, Kenya, Tanzania, DRC, Kyrgyz Republic, Bonaire, Malawi, Cambodia and Zambia to attend the World Parks Congress and represent nature.

Thankyou to all in the IRF Executive helping to make a lot of this happen as well as a host of rangers and TGLF staff and volunteers. We are making a difference, and whilst there is a long way to go, as rangers we should feel proud that the world is listening to our message and starting to support us at increasing levels.

Finally congratulations to our dedicated, amazing and inspiring nominees and winners of our three awards. In all 3 awards there were many deserving winners and it is a difficult process to single out one. To all of you nominated, you have my utmost respect and that of the conservation and global community. To the winners you should savour this moment to recognise the incredible work you are doing, often in the face of adversity.

The winners of the Awards are:

International Young Conservationist Award: (dual winners; one from the ranger frontline and one from research and education)

- Maximillian Jenes Project Coordinator- Ruvuma Elephant Project from Tanzania for fighting and winning the battle on elephant poaching by a unique combination of field patrols, arrests, intelligence gathering, community engagement and sheer guts and determination.
- Tiwonge I Mzumara-Gawa, of Malawi- Ornithologist for ground breaking research and education with rare and endangered bird species in Malawi, and climbing numerous obstacles in the pursuit of bird protection and engagement of all stakeholders

Continued from the President....

Inaugural Dr Jane Goodall Hope and Inspiration Ranger Award:

- Luigi Eybrecht: Facing violence and instability at home, Luigi was placed in a boys' home at the age of six. He has overcome significant odds and is the volunteer Commander of the Bonaire Junior Rangers, a youth nature education club. He is also a newly appointed Assistant Ranger for STINAPA Bonaire, the organization that manages the world famous Bonaire National Marine Park and the Dutch Caribbean's first protected area – the Washington Slagbaai National Park. When you get to read his full story you will be inspired. He was a unanimous choice supported by Dr Jane Goodall herself.

Inaugural International Ranger Federation Life-Time Achievement Award:

- Jobogo Mirindi- Democratic Republic of Congo. A life-long career in the often dangerous fields of DRC, Jobogo was key in establishing cross border conservation projects across DRC, Rwanda and Uganda. He has been a strong advocate of ranger's welfare and of rangers as a key in the conservation battle. It's hard to imagine a more deserving winner.

It must be noted that this was an extremely high calibre of nominations with a handful of points of 480 possible points separating the top six. The IRF will also be awarding special commendations to: Ramesh Kumar Thapa (Nepal), Robert (Bob) Reid (UK), Gerardo L. Leadsman (Philippines) Stephan Bognar (Cambodia), Gordon Miller (UK).

In closing I'm looking forward to working with you all to raise the profile of our rangers' work and increasing support on the ground. Keep up the good fight and thank you to all of you that make the IRF what it is.





From the Vice President

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The last few months would probably be best summarized as 'more of the same' insofar as my IRF work and activities are concerned. No new or additional activities have been started, and none of the old ones have been concluded.

My main IRF related activities, excluding the usual International Executive Committee liaisons and duties, have been primarily related to:

- representing IRF on the Board of The Thin Green Line Foundation and participating in the monthly meetings via Skype connection;
- liaison with IUCN and WCPA, primarily related to the planned workshop at the World Parks Congress (WPC) on the *in prep* best practice guideline standards on anti-poaching training for field rangers;
- participation on the editorial committee of the IUCN's journal "PARKS"; and
- serving on the Board of the Ranger Federation of Asia (which is growing healthily in terms of its membership and embarking on some exciting projects, including one related to employment and welfare standards).

Sincere thank you to all who continue to contribute to the work of IRF. Our President and Secretary have several exciting things to report on with regard to what's in process, in particular related to the upcoming WPC, and to the IRF awards process that has just been concluded. I will not attempt to repeat what they have to say on these things, here.

Should anyone have any enquiries concerning any of the above, please contact me directly on my email address below.

Best wishes and regards.



From the Secretary

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(REPEAT) 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!

From the Treasurer

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(REPEAT) 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.



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

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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. 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

Regional Representative Reports

Africa

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50th Anniversary of Big Game Parks, Swaziland

On the 11th July Swaziland celebrated their National conservation day, as part of their "50 years of Swazi Nature Conservation".

The celebrations were held at Mlilwane Nature reserve with the Honourable Majesty King Mswati III being the guest speaker. Several dignitaries from the Swazi royalty, and

parliament attended as well as the who's who from the international conservation fraternity. Ted Reilly, member number 16 of the GRAA, gave an emotional speech regarding the struggles he faced 50 years ago in order to establish conservation in a country where most wildlife was extinct. Many criticised him by saying "Yours is a fantastic but impossible dream". Ted persevered with a dedicated

team in order to reintroduce 22 mammal species back into Swaziland. Ted also had passionate rangers who literally put their lives on the line in order to protect these animals.

The Swazi Prime minister gave a speech, but King Msawti III took the stage and delivered a speech that could be used worldwide as the cornerstone for the conservation of all wildlife and total support of their field rangers. The King also cautioned politicians who condemn field rangers for conducting their duties in order to save their wildlife heritage, to step in line in no uncertain terms.

The Rangers were honoured with the unveiling of a Bronze statue of a ranger by the King. True to Ted's nature the foundation of the Bronze statue also doubles as a cave for the resident warthogs.



50th Anniversary of Big Game Parks, Swaziland



Ranger for Rhinos 2015 Calendar

Natural Causes, a company based in Cape Town, in partnership with ex-supermodel turned South African photographer, Josie Borain, have created a Rangers for Rhinos 2015 Calendar for two NGO's, the Game Rangers Association of Africa and Resource Africa, both involved in anti-rhino poaching projects, with the following objectives:

- To raise money that will be used to stop the poaching of rhinos
- To raise awareness of the work done by South Africa's conservation fraternity, in particular its game rangers, in the anti-poaching campaign in South Africa
- The calendar wholesales at R75 and retails at R150. We have linked to a Shopify store on our Facebook Rangers for Rhinos Page.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Rangers-for-Rhinos/506179069516497>

Please contact Nicky Monro at 27 84 799-8008, or nicolamonro@gmail.com for further information.

Awards Presented to Celebrate Rhino Conservation



The Rhino Conservation Awards 2014 were held on the 31st of July 2014, at the Montecasino Ballroom, Fourways, coinciding with the celebration of World Ranger Day as proclaimed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

The annual Rhino Conservation Awards were first held in 2012, having been founded by Dr Larry Hansen, in an effort to create awareness of rhino conservation issues while recognising exceptional individuals and organisations for their efforts in protecting Africa's rhino population. The Awards are held in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Affairs of South Africa and the Game Rangers' Association of Africa (GRAA) - a non-profit organisation with a membership of over 1500 across Africa, many of whom are rangers active in anti-poaching activities.

In 2014, the stature of the Awards was confirmed as His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco accepted the position of Patron of the Rhino Conservation Initiative and the Rhino Conservation Awards. HSH Prince Albert is committed to the protection of species dangerously close to extinction, through the support of his Foundation to various preservation projects. It is hoped that this patronage will encourage international publicity and lead to the reduction of rhino poaching. Barclays Africa Group Ltd also joined as co-sponsor along with the existing sponsor, Ms Xiaoyang Yu, Founder Partner of China New Enterprise Investment (CNEI), a China focused growth capital fund, and one of the originators of the Awards.

Dr Hansen welcomed guests, gave thanks to all who gave of their time to make the Awards

a reality and played a video message from HSH Prince Albert II. The keynote address was given by the South African Minister of Environmental Affairs, Ms Bomo Edna Molewa, and guests were addressed by a representative from the ABSA/Barclays Africa Group, after which Louis Olivier gave some insights into the life of a ranger. The Awards were attended by members of the DEA, the South African National Parks Board, media, sponsors and organisations and individuals involved in rhino conservation.

This year, nominations were invited from African Rhino Range States in five categories, namely; Best Field Ranger, Best Conservation Practitioner, Best Political & Judicial Support, Best Science Research & Technology and Best Awareness, Education or Funding. The nomination process was open to anyone to nominate any candidate that they felt was worthy of an Award. A large number of nominations were received and the executive committee carefully reviewed all nominations to draw up a shortlist of finalists in each category. A panel of adjudicators then identified the winners in each category, to be honoured at the gala dinner ceremony.

The awards were proudly handed to winners and runners up before dessert was served. The winner in the Best Field Ranger category was Mpho Malongwa, working at Wilderness Safaris Botswana. The runner up was Amos Mzimba while Wilson Siwela was elected as second runner up, both of whom are Field Ranger Sergeants at the Kruger National Park.

Continued...

(KNP). In the Best Conservation Practitioner category, the winner was Lawrence Munro from Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. Second place went to Rob Thomson, Section Ranger at KNP, while third place went to Jack Greeff, security officer for Ntomeni Ranger Services. The winner of the Best Political and Judicial Support category was Botswana's President, President Lieutenant General Seretse Khama Ian Khama. The runner up was law practitioner, Coert Jordaan, and second runner up was Lovemore Mangwashu of the Lowveld Rhino Trust, Zimbabwe. In the Best Science, Research and Technology category, the winner was Saving the Survivors, Onderstepoort, with Colonel (Rtd) Chris Serfontein from the CSIR coming in second place and wildlife veterinarian, Dr William Fowlds, in third place. The winner of the final category, Best Awareness, Education and Funding was the SANParks Honorary Rangers, Counter Poaching Region. The runner up in this category was the Southern African Wildlife College, while rhino awareness ambassador and African explorer, Kingsley Holgate, was second runner up.

The Rhino Conservation Awards recognise those that are willing to sacrifice of themselves and their resources to ensure that this iconic species is not lost to future generations. With global reach and a platform for appreciation, so much more can be achieved and so many more efforts acknowledged.

See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMg0q3FtbKI> - t=50

Special Report. (Excerpt from Wildlife News)

The killing fields of India – rangers under attack

Kevin Heath / September 8, 2014

Badly paid, ill-equipped and under resourced the wildlife rangers of India are now operating in the most dangerous place on Earth to be a ranger. A new survey released today says that so far in 2014 there has been 24 deaths of rangers and in the last 3 years 72 forest rangers have been killed either by poachers or wild animals.....

.....The survey by the International Ranger Federation also compared the



Special Thanks

Thanks go to the volunteer translation team who reproduce this newsletter into Spanish and Portuguese. They are:

Miliany Campos
Osvaldo Barassi Gajargo
Rebecca Mencos

number of ranger deaths in India during 2013 with other countries. India saw 14 rangers killed in 2013 compared to 9 in war-torn Congo and 9 in the Philippines. 7 Ugandan rangers were also killed in 2013 and Chad lost 6 rangers together with Kazakhstan.

2014 is turning out to be a particularly bloody year for ranger deaths as the war on poachers starts to pick up. Yet again India is bearing the brunt of ranger killings with 24 deaths so far this year. Kenya has seen 10 of its rangers killed, Thailand has experienced 6 ranger deaths and Tanzania three rangers.

Most of the rangers have been killed by poachers or wildlife. A number though died on duty following infection of disease or injuries such through vehicle accidents and forest fires.

Indian rangers regularly face large crowds unarmed and this places them at great risk. Rangers are regularly attacked or kidnapped by large numbers of illegal loggers after rare woods in the Indian forests. Many rangers in national parks and sanctuaries go without pay or supplies for months but still continue to go out on patrol to protect the animals.....

.....India is a booming economy, it has a funded space programme and one of the highest number of billionaires on the planet. It has the resources to ensure that wildlife rangers are paid, trained and equipped. The survey though clearly shows there is no political will to provide those rangers with the resources they need to do the job effectively and safely.

Europe

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Since the end of the Rangers European conference in Croatia, there have been different meetings between European rangers at small projects and between rangers personally. This type of collaboration is one of the most common European methods, given the space and fast travel. We continued discussion of the twin project.

Trans-boundary Ranger Conference at Bavarian Forest National Park.

On the 19th of September we had a Ranger conference in the Bavarian forest, with participants from the Bavarian forest national park and the Sumava national park Ranger service.

Continued...

It was after the German Ranger Conference in spring, and the 2nd Conference on the 40th anniversary of the Bavarian forest Ranger Service. In addition to the new Bavarian Environment Minister, 27 Czech Rangers and former Chief Ranger of the Ranger Services attended.

After the Minister's greeting were presentations, including:

Michael Grossmann, Chief Ranger of Bavarian forest national park spoke about the Ranger profession in the Bavarian Forest National Park and the changes in the last 40 years.

Petr Srail, Chief Ranger of Šumava National Park talked about the Ranger Service in Šumava Mountain. This service is similar to the Bavarian Forest, but the rangers there are also much more involved in the rescue service. They work very closely with the police and the fire department and other emergency services in the area of Šumava.

Manfred Lütkepohl talked as the representative of the German Ranger Association about the global profession of Ranger and what problems there are. He gave also a small overview of the activities of the IRF and the Thin Green Line Foundation and the IRF Seminar in Brijuni/ Croatia.

Martin Solar from Slovenia spoke about cross-border cooperation, using the example from the Triglav National Park, Slovenia and the Nature Park Pre Alpi Giulie Italy.

In the afternoon there was a cross-border migration from Bavaria to the Czech Republic. We spoke about the forest development in both national parks and the former Iron Curtain.

In addition, further cooperation was agreed. There will continue to be common Ranger Patrols, in both protected areas; (in each case, a German and a Czech Ranger). Our co-operation will increase with guides and information - Desks and the Junior Ranger program. In the near future there will also be joint training and field exploration.



14th Croatian Ranger Seminar-2014

14th Croatian Ranger Seminar was held from 24th till 25th September, 2014, in a park of nature Papuk. The seminar was organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection Republic of Croatia and the Croatian ranger Association.

The seminar was attended by 110 participants from all national parks, nature parks and district offices for the protection of nature from Croatia, and rangers from Hungary and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On the first day of the seminar, in the village of Velika, rangers were able to hear more about the values and management in protected Papuk nature area, crime methodology in order to protect nature, the project Capacity Building Service in the protection of nature and the role of rangers in visiting protected areas. Rangers from Hungary and Bosnia and Herzegovina presented their protected areas and their supervision service.

Also presented through the seminar were: the new rangers uniforms, official badges and rangers identification cards; discussion about 3rd IRF European Ranger training seminar which was held on Brijuni (Croatia); and, the Mediterranean monk seal in Istria.

On the second day of the seminar, there was a field visit to the Park Forest Jankovac in which a famous photographer Šime Strikoman took a millennium photo entitled "Croatian rangers."

North America

Jeff Ohlfs

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I hope everyone had a safe summer/winter season depending on your hemisphere. It's supposed to be our slow season but with wildfires and missing person searches, it was anything but slow.

On June 30th, I attended the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln signing the Yosemite Grant at Yosemite National Park. It was a daylong celebration for both the National Park Service and the California State Park System. One of the highlights for me was the International evening. Yosemite had a reception for its sister parks (Chile, Mongolia, China, Nepal, and Tanzania) presenting gifts to them from the traditional people, Ahwahnechee tribe.

I hope everyone had a wonderful World Ranger Day! I took the day off and made a pilgrimage to Galen Clark's (the first American park

and they wish to join the IRF as an Associate member. They are a not-for-profit organization (NGO) that provides training, material and funding support to anti-poaching units and operations in Africa. I was in Texas in September and reached out to several of their state park rangers to bring them information about the IRF.

I was appalled at the beating of an unidentified Philadelphia City Park Ranger by a group of juvenile delinquents in August. It was a senseless beating of one of our own trying to enforce the rules of his park. I'm glad they were arrested.

I will be attending the World Parks Congress in Sydney, this November. It will be important for us to get the IRF message out to the delegates. Our President, Secretary, and Australian rangers are working hard to put an excellent program together.



Ahwahnechee Indian Gift Delegations

ranger)

former

home in Summerland, California, overlooking the Pacific Ocean (pictured above).

I continue my work with the next World Ranger Conference Committee, please read their report. I have been contacted by H.O.P.E. (Humanitarian Operations Protecting Elephants)



NPS & DPR Rangers & 150th Sign



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September 4, 2014

Dear fellow park law enforcement professionals,

I want to take this opportunity to invite you and your staff to attend the national Park Law Enforcement Association (PLEA) annual conference in Austin, Texas on February 10-12, 2015.

PLEA conferences provide an opportunity for excellent, relevant training as well as the chance to meet with other park law enforcement professionals who face and understand the same challenges as you. Park law enforcement is specialized and presents unique challenges in providing for the safety, security and enjoyment of the public that we serve. In addition to the training agenda, come and learn about the Austin Park Patrol Unit, which is responsible for patrolling more than 16,000 acres of land containing 251 parks, 15 preserves, 40 greenbelts, 47 pools, and over 74 miles of trails in the City of Austin.

For more information and to register, visit www.parkranger.org, click on "conferences" and I will see you in Austin!

Sincerely,
Tom Wakolbinger, President – PLEA
Chief of Police
DuPage County Illinois Forest Preserve Police

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Oceania

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The main focus in Oceania has been gearing up for the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney, 2014. PAWA is doing a marvelous job to accommodate visiting IRF members, provide logistical support and programming. We are trying to finalise the passage of rangers from Fiji and the Solomon Islands with the guidance of Australian Ranger Member Associations. It is hoped that through the UN networks and agencies, meaningful relationships and productive experiences eventuate. Fundraising efforts on World Rangers Day have been great in adding to the ability to achieve this result.

World Ranger Day was well celebrated in the region with efforts being put in by many Associations and certain individuals. Highlights included a 5 minute vimeo by Jo McLellan, from the Arusha Congress, on ***Why it is Great to be a Ranger?*** (visit the IRF Facebook page for viewing); a 24hr day in the life of a ranger by the Dept. of Conservation of NZ and of course the Thin Green Line Foundation Major

important that rangers seeking to enter the IRF and take advantage of what it offers, feel welcomed and duly supported.



In a recent meeting, the IRF continues to support upcoming ranger initiatives including a pilot exchange project to work with indigenous protected area rangers in outback Western Australia.

As aptly put by Tim Schneider, the Martu Leadership Program Co-ordinator..... *the partnership between the IRF and Martu is developing and there are probably lots of directions we could take this. As a start, we are looking forward to Alison coming out next year as the first IRF member on Martu country. There will be contingent of Martu that go to the world congress in November as well so no doubt we will see some of you then.*

Visiting Martu rangers from Western Australia are welcomed and met Victorian rangers and Parks Victoria staff in Rosebud, Victoria..... to experience the landscape and park management style, hopefully taking some ideas back to their country!



Fundraising

Concert involving Goyte, Tex Perkins, Nicki Bomba, Tin Pan Alley and Makana.

Many thanks to the Tasmanian Rangers Association for endorsing the Rangers Federation of Asia and to the South Australian Rangers Association for endorsing the Kerala Forest Rangers of India into the IRF. It is

Member Association & Other Reports

Czech Republic

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World ranger day 2014 in the Czech Republic

Czech Rangers Association and Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic celebrated World Ranger Day traditionally at the National Nature Monument Panská skála near the village of Prácheň (PLA České středohoří).

There, an excellent example of a so called "stone organ" is formed of tephrite rock columns. They were uncovered during quarrying in the 2nd half of the 19th century and 1st half of the 20th century. Stone extraction was stopped in 1945 and the Czech State took over to guarantee the preservation of the rest of the rock formation in 1953.



A little lake under the "organ" wall is a well, which has been formed at quarrying and filled with rainwater. This is a place between the borders of PLA Lužické hory and České středohoří.

Rangers from the National Park, České Švýcarsko with German colleagues from the National Park, Sächsische Schweiz, protected landscape area České středohoří, PLA Labské pískovce, PLA Jizerské hory, Regional office Liberecký kraj, Regional office Jihočeský kraj were there. Professional and voluntary rangers showed visitors the problems with global and regional nature conservation, daily works on the posters and PC slideshow.

We held a minute of silence for dead rangers. We strongly believe that our celebration will help to educate the public about the work of rangers and their problems in the world.

This day around 600 visitors came - lovers of nature. We thank all organisers for their generous support. We send our best regards to all rangers and their family members.



Death of a Ranger

We are sad to report the death of Roselyne Anselmet, 55 yo, who was a Park Ranger in the Vanoise National Park.

She died following an accident (fall) while she was counting vultures, high in the mountains (2700m), on August, Saturday 23rd. She slipped and fell 100m, she died later in hospital.

She started working in the Vanoise National Park in 1982 and was the first woman Ranger in the VNP and maybe in all the French National Parks.

Jamaica

Susan Otuokon

We had 15 Rangers/Enforcement Officers in attendance: -

8 from JCMT with the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park (6 Rangers & the Chief of Corps plus a Caretaker at one of our recreational areas)

2 Forest Rangers from Forestry Dept. (one was formerly a National Park Ranger)

2 Enforcement Officers from National Environment & Planning Agency

2 Marine Park Rangers from the Montego Bay Marine Park

1 from CCAM - with the Fish Sanctuaries in the Portland Bight area

(we had invited officers from the Negril Marine Park and Protected Area and from the Oracabessa Fish Sanctuary but they were unable to attend)



Dr Semaj addresses the group of BJCMNP Rangers and others

We discussed the challenges and how they deal with them e.g. frustrations when people do not obey environmental legislation despite oft-repeated words to convince them and projects to encourage them e.g. recent fires particularly in Westphalia, which burnt hundreds of acres



Dr Semaj makes a point

including reforestation plots of JCMT and the Forestry Dept. Dr. Semaj encouraged the Park Rangers and other Enforcement

Officers saying that they were "partners with God - stewards of creation" and that the work they are doing is helping keep Jamaica and our people alive - even if people don't realise it. We also discussed how the protected areas could generate more income so as to reduce the stress from inadequate resources.

This was the first ever World Ranger Day event in Jamaica and we all agreed that it should be an annually celebrated event. Dr. Semaj volunteered to assist in making next year bigger and better.

Each Ranger got a small token of a flashlight and a bookmark with the IRF logo and Respecting Ranger Day (the certificates would have been too expensive for us to print) and our Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park Rangers got an additional token of a utility pen-knife - we were able to find a few individual sponsors in addition to the donor for the event - the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (we had some funds remaining on the Training/Workshops line item on one of our projects). I recommended they find out more about the IRF and consider forming an association and I have asked our Chief of Corps to follow up.

UK

A round up of three CMA related groups who chose to spread the word about the plight of rangers throughout the world

Rangers from Dartmoor National Park

One of the National Park's education staff was so inspired by last year's raffle which raised awareness and money for the Thin Green Line Foundation (TGLF), that she suggested we run a special event for our Ranger Ralph Club* to help celebrate World Ranger Day this year (2014).

Planning therefore started in earnest in late November and we soon recruited a crack team including two more education staff, a retired member of the National Park Authority and a couple of our voluntary wardens, to help



WRD Damper

coordinate the event.

Ideas came in thick and fast and it was eventually decided to split the kids up into groups and offer different activities, allowing each group to take part in each activity at some point during the day. It was also decided to ask each Ranger Ralph member to do a little bit of



preparation before they came along to the event to help them build a deeper understanding of what World Ranger Day was all about.

When each child booked their place on the event, they were assigned a National Park from a list of countries with Ranger Associations affiliated to the International Ranger Federation (IRF). They were also asked to do some research on it and make a flag of the country within which the park was situated. They had to find a fascinating fact; describe the scenery/landscape/countryside within the Park; name three animals living there; and list some of the jobs carried out by the local rangers.

The night before the event, members of the event team created a massive map of the world on the ground using kiln sand. As each Ranger Ralph member arrived the next morning we asked them to find their country on the map and place their flag in it. We were not blessed with good weather at the start of the day so some of the flags began to droop in the rain but luckily, the rain soon stopped and everything dried out in time for the fascinating facts to be added to a display board so that everyone could share their research findings.

Following a short introduction about the

day's events, we got started. One of the activities had an Australian theme and the group used our fire-bowl to make damper (bread), a well known food from the Aussie Outback.

The other group's activities focussed on learning and honing various 'stalking' skills, through fun games and activities.

After lunch the activities included a hat game, which looked at all of the different roles that Rangers carry out in their daily work, and a craft event colouring in a special World Ranger Day scene and using it to make a mug to take home as a memento.

Just

before the day



WRD mugs

came to an end, everyone enjoyed a feast of Witchety Grubs, Kookie-burras and Wombat Paws (much to the delight of the children, although it did cause worry to a few parents until they realised they were biscuits, rather than the real thing!). It was suggested that if anyone wanted to, they could make a donation to the TGLF and within a few minutes, over £70 had been raised.

It was a great day and well worth all the effort and maybe we will do it all again next year!

Ian Brooker, Sector Ranger, Dartmoor National Park

<mailto:ibrooker@dartmoor.gov.uk>

Rangers at Lee Valley Park

World ranger day was first celebrated in 2012, not only to raise the profile of the work of rangers around the world, but also to remember the, on average, 100 rangers who are killed in the course of their work each year, be it shot by poachers in Africa, murdered by drug cartels in South America, accidents with machinery in Europe or enforcing bye-laws in your local park.

With this in mind, Lee Valley Rangers organised a disc golf competition for rangers, with the 'entry fees' being used to raise funds for the charity, The Thin Green Line, which supports rangers and, in many respects more importantly, their widows and orphans in the Third World.

Rangers from across the south east made their way to River Lee Country Park for the competition, registering in the Lee Valley White Water Centre, before attempting the 9 hole course to the north of the Centre. Competitors were in teams of two, but went round the course with someone from a different team, so that they could meet new people (and keep an eye on each other's score keeping), with the lowest scoring team winning a trip on a white water raft. After the competition, we all retired to the Centre for lunch and watched a video message from HRH Duke of Cambridge supporting World Ranger Day.

After lunch, Chris Aspin (Lee Valley Ranger) led some of the competitors on a cycle ride around the park, whilst I led the rest on a guided walk around the new sculptures of River Lee Country Park.

Over £100 was raised for The Thin Green Line. On behalf of rangers, their families, widows and orphans around the world, we would like to thank everyone who helped in the running of the event and look forward to seeing more fund raising efforts

next year.

Derek Evans, Ranger North

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

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Rangers at Exmoor National Park

I was in the Dulverton office when the shout came round “Anyone fancy doing something for World Ranger Day on the 31st of July?” Funnily enough I was just completing the risk assessments for a large family fun day on the same date. It seemed like an ideal opportunity, so I stuck my hand up and said I’d take it!

Before working as a Ranger on Exmoor I worked for a year and a half with a voluntary organisation in Southern Kenya near Mombasa. The work was extremely varied; teaching in schools, surveying and conserving Shimoni Forest (a rare and threatened coastal rain forest) and working with community groups in the Tsavo West National Park.

As with farmers on Exmoor, the local communities in Tsavo are trying to diversify their businesses and we would help them with the skills and training they needed. One of their main problems is stopping herds of elephants eating and trampling all of their crops. Not something an Exmoor farmer would commonly worry about!

During my time there I met several of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) rangers who as

well as catching poachers were also engaged in community work - mostly convincing locals not to shoot game for the illegal but lucrative bush-meat trade. My friend Abdi told me about the KWS recruitment process in his local village which involved a sprint race. The first ten past the post would be taken on to the next stage. Abdi was eleventh but the guy in front fell over so he just made the grade!

The Heddon’s Mouth Big Adventure was a great platform to spread the message about World Ranger Day and the dangerous and essential work that is done day in and day out by rangers all over the world. In addition we were organising the event in partnership with the Devon National Trust ranger team so it seemed even more appropriate.

The day went well with over two hundred people joining in the games and activities and learning about the work of rangers worldwide.



My
work

on Exmoor seems a far cry from the hot dusty villages of Tsavo but I still feel a kinship with my KWS friends. We work in protected landscapes, helping the local communities and most importantly we care about these places and can hopefully make a difference however small.

Adam Vasey

Ranger - Exmoor National Park

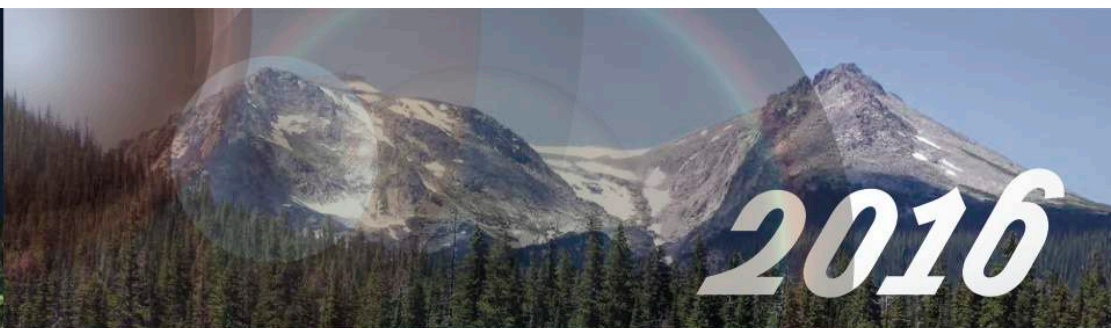
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Share Your Stories and Photos

Do you have an amazing photo from the last World Ranger Congress? Or how about an inspiring or funny story? If so, please share them with the 8th World Ranger Congress Coordinating Committee. The committee needs your digital photos and stories for numerous publicity materials such as websites, publications, etc. All photos should be for public use and include the names of any identifiable individuals if known. Also please provide a short description about the photo, including when and where it was taken. Send your photos or stories to: Blanca_Stransky@icloud.com.

For information Contact
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World Ranger Congress

ESTES PARK, COLORADO • MAY 21 – MAY 27

Connecting Parks, Rangers, and Communities

In May 2016 the US Association of National Park Rangers will host the 8th World Ranger Congress (WRC) of the International Ranger Federation (IRF). Every three years, the IRF brings together rangers from around the globe to renew their commitment to preserving and protecting the world's natural and cultural resources. This international gathering provides rangers and protected area professionals the opportunity to learn new skills, share knowledge, create lasting partnerships, and be inspired by their colleagues.

"Our best achievements come when we are working together."

We saw partnerships between protected areas and communities, partnerships between member associations, partnerships between associations and other organizations and partnerships between other organizations and the broader vision of the IRF."

-7th WRC Organizing Committee

The 8th World Ranger Congress at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado will focus on the idea of connecting parks, rangers and communities. Delegates from 40 or more countries will explore the different ways rangers and protected area professionals are actively protecting and preserving the world's natural and cultural resources from ever-increasing threats like climate change, world hunger, and poaching. Delegates will also learn how to increase

public awareness about how these special places contribute to a healthy society and sustainable economies.

The WRC will have a large digital presence, offering live video feeds from the conference and engagement through social media to encourage participation from rangers all over the world. These digital tools will foster connections among parks, rangers, and communities during the Congress which will continue to grow and prosper after its conclusion.



The George Wright Society will partner with ANPR to provide registration services for the World Ranger Congress and to devote all or part of an issue of the George Wright Forum to covering the plenary speeches and issues raised at the Congress.

Previous Congresses have resulted in formal declarations by the assembled delegates on issues affecting the international ranger community. Delegates also depart the Congress with a sense of belonging to an international family of rangers who share with each other experience and knowledge as they go about the business of caring for the world's special places.



**INTERNATIONAL
 RANGER
 FEDERATION**



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.

For additional information about individual associations please refer to individual websites or contact the IRF Secretary.

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2012 Elisângela Sales Dos Santos **Brazil** elisangela@actbrasil.org.br

2011 Héctor Antonio Caymaris **Uruguay** caymaris@gmail.com

2010 Alasdair Harris **Scotland/Madagascar** al@blueventures.org

2008 Edwin Sabuhoro **Rwanda** esabuhoro@rwandaecotours.com

2006 Christian Teran **Ecuador** cteran2@yahoo.es