Founded in 1992, the International Ranger Federation now has member ranger associations in 40 countries.

This special edition contains contributions from working rangers around the world who make up “The Thin Green Line – the last barrier holding back people who would exploit, trample or otherwise destroy the world’s national parks and protected areas, and the plants and animals which live in them”.

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MESSAGE FROM DAVID ZELLER
President, International Ranger Federation

SINCE 1992 the IRF has grown into a truly representative organisation, with a membership of 40 ranger associations from 33 countries on all seven continents, with at least an additional 11 ranger associations currently in the process of formation and affiliation.

In celebrating the 10th anniversary of the IRF we take pride in the phenomenal growth of the Federation, the solid outputs of the past four World Congresses of the Federation, the partnerships established, the successful interventions, the training and capacity building programmes undertaken and on-going, the twinnings and exchanges, and many more achievements.

The Mission statement of the IRF is:
"To develop, advance and promote throughout the world community, the ranger profession and its role in the conservation of natural and cultural resources."

This mission is supplementary and complimentary to that of agencies, organisations and NGOs which strive for the sustainable conservation of our natural and cultural resources. Unfortunately, while conservation agencies and NGOs plan, fund and implement laudable conservation projects and programmes, the very people upon whom the success of these ventures lay are often ignored or taken for granted. In protecting parks and other precious natural and cultural areas it is vital to have well-trained, motivated and properly equipped rangers in place. For without the protectors there will be no protected areas.

MESSAGE FROM RICK SMITH, IRF President 2000-2003

WHEN I assumed the presidency of IRF, I felt it was imperative that the officers and the organisation's International Executive Committee accomplish four goals.

First we needed to add additional associations to the IRF so that we could truly become what we called ourselves: the international family of rangers. This has been achieved as shown in the "IRF Milestone Events".

Our second need was to establish an organizational structure that would allow us to operate efficiently, something difficult to do when almost all leadership positions were filled by volunteers. Our first step was to hire our former President Gordon Miller as our Executive Director. We then needed to establish a website to provide information regarding the Federation and to promote internal communications among our affiliated associations. The site www.int-ranger.net provides up-to-date information about the IRF and its affiliated associations. We upgraded our quarterly bulletin, renaming it The Thin Green Line.

We developed a protocol for addressing requests for assistance from individual rangers or their associations. At the Australia Congress, we edited our constitution and our standing rules and revised our mission and vision statements.

Our third objective was to explore fundraising options that would allow the Federation to become an organisation that truly represents the points of view of rangers. The International Executive Committee made a successful application to the US-based Turner Foundation for a grant. The first instalment of the grant allowed the Federation to...
pay our Executive Director’s salary, revise and reprint our brochures, produce our mission and vision statements, and fund some important travel so that our officers and Executive Director could conduct important Federation business. The second instalment will allow us to continue the exploration.

The International Ranger Federation Consultancy also did its part by successfully competing for contracts to train rangers in three countries, instructing visiting park professionals in protected area management, and preparing professional job profiles for rangers in Wales. The money that the Consultancy has generated has gone directly into making the Federation a more effective organisation.

Our final goal during my presidency was to build relationships in the international conservation community so that rangers could play a more active role in the international forums where policies and strategies on the management of protected areas are proposed and debated. For too long, the people who carry them out – the rangers in the field – have been excluded from the policy-making process, meaning that the process lacks the important test of practicality. The fact that rangers are playing an important role in the Fifth World Parks Congress is a measure of our success in this arena.

I am especially gratified to have been the President of the Federation when we put in place many of the organisational structures that will allow us to assist the world’s rangers in accomplishing their goals. I thank the many people who worked with me to move us closer to a dream that is shared by many rangers: an organisation of rangers dedicated to preserving and protecting the world’s natural and cultural heritage.

I was honoured that rangers around the world elected me as their leader. More importantly, however, I am awed by the dedication, the resolve and the commitment to the preservation and protection of the world’s natural and cultural heritage that I saw among the rangers with whom I worked.

Many rangers work under conditions that are truly dismal. Many are not supported well by their governments nor respected by their fellow citizens. They are often not well paid. They and their families are at times threatened and attacked by people who wish to exploit the resources that the rangers protect. Some even work in the midst of civil wars or other grave disorders. Every year, some die or are injured in the line of duty. And yet, they ranger on. These rangers, the men and women who work in our protected areas, are the true heroes of conservation. We owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude. I know I will never forget them.

MESSAGE FROM GORDON MILLER
IRF President, 1992-2000

THE Federation now has four World Congresses behind it and approaches the IUCN 5th World Parks Congress still without much in the bank but with a great deal of optimism for the future.

Since the Caracas congress the Federation has developed a close working relationship with the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by both parties at the Third World Ranger Congress in Kruger National Park. A measure of that cooperation is the fact that there is a delegation of over 30 rangers representing the IRF and rangers worldwide here in Durban. If the spirit of IRF Congresses is transmitted, I am sure that for once those at the grass roots can rest assured that their voice will be heard.

Protected areas around the world are experiencing unprecedented pressures and threats to their integrity and rangers will always be at the front line, a fact that is increasingly being recognised.

Sharing skills in diverse areas such as resource management, enforcement, interpretation, education and working with local communities will be vitally important. A vibrant Federation dedicated to raising professional standards among rangers worldwide is essential if we are to maintain “the thin green line”.

MESSAGE FROM DAVID SHEPPARD
Head, IUCN Programme on Protected Areas and Secretary-General, 2003 World Parks Congress

THE world’s protected areas represent a magnificent gift from past and present to future generations. The management of these areas, so that they are passed on in as good or better condition than they are now, rests largely on the efforts of the men and women in the field – park rangers and managers.

Too often, the vital efforts of those on the front line are not given adequate attention and this is an aspect which must be carefully considered at key events such as the World Parks Congress. Particular attention needs to be given to strengthening the capacity of park rangers to effectively undertake their tasks and responsibilities.

Linkages and partnerships need to be established between those working on capacity-related initiatives, such as the WCPA Theme Programme on Training, and ranger organisations, to achieve this goal.
THE HEART OF THE RANGER

By IAN PLAYER

I HAD two great mentors in my life, both of whom gave me valuable advice which I often quote.

Colonel Sir Laurens van der Post, soldier, writer and explorer, always said to me: “Whenever you speak or write, do so from your own experience”. Qumba Magqubu Ntombela, a Zulu ranger unable to read or write or speak English, was the wisest and most knowledgeable man I ever knew. My life with him is told in my book, Zulu Wilderness, Shadow and Soul. He always said: “When you are going to tell a story, leave nothing out”. And he was a master story-teller.

The former is easy, the latter is made impossible by the constraints of space in this article.

The 5th World Parks Congress comes at a critical time in the history of conservation in our world. There is hardly a park in any country that is not under some threat or another. I speak with 51 years of experience, and having been a witness to the terrible destruction of natural areas and wild animals. The rangers are the thin green line between destruction and continued life of the parks. Take them away and there is collapse and chaos. Sadly, I have seen this happen in many places.

The heart of the ranger has to beat strongly, with pride, passion and conviction, if he or she is going to be able to stand up to the dangerous forces when they appear – as they inevitably will, and in many different guises.

Forgive me for concentrating mainly on Africa in this article: it is the continent of my birth and the place of my main work, and I write from my own experience.

My own career began when I returned from the Second World War after serving in Italy with the 6th South African Armoured Division. I went in at 17 and came out at 19. For six years I was totally lost in the civilian world until through the grace of God I was accepted as a game ranger by the Natal Parks, Game and Fish Preservation Board, in April 1952. It was an entrée into the proverbial world of blood, sweat and tears, and the beginning of an inner and an outer journey of great relevance to my life. Whatever I put into conservation has been rewarded a hundred times over.

One of my first stations was Richards Bay on the north coast of KwaZulu-Natal, at that time a beautiful bay with a small tourist village on its northern bank. It was my job to catch prawns and mullet to supply the fishermen who were on holiday from the hinterland of our country. It was my first experience of the many hostile, rude and unceasingly demanding members of the public.

When I complained to my director, Col. Vincent, he said: “Player, you will have to learn to develop a hide as thick as the pachyderms for which you are responsible”. But it came as a great shock to be abused, threatened and in some instances beaten up. However, the place was beautiful and I swam in a warm, clean sea and canoed in a kayak around the bay when not out netting with Shangaan men from Mozambique. From them I learnt how to avoid the crocodiles and sharks when we pulled the nets in the dark.

Then came devastating news: Richards Bay was going to be turned into a modern port. Today it is a city, and ocean-going liners move through areas where I once canoed amongst pelican and flamingo. The wildlife has gone and it is perhaps significant that just before construction began, more than a hundred fish eagles circled one morning over the bay as though to say goodbye. This phenomenon has never been seen before or since. You

Rhino
IAN PLAYER was born in Johannesburg in 1927 and educated there. He started his conservation career in 1952 as a game ranger with the Natal Parks Board, retiring as Chief Conservator 22 years later.

Between then and 1987 he founded the International Wilderness Leadership Foundation in the USA, raised the initial money and co-founded the Wilderness Foundation in the UK, and established the World Wilderness Congress which first convened in Johannesburg in 1977.

I can imagine their great lyrical screaming cries ringing from the sky. Defiance and farewell in our anthropomorphic interpretation.

Resistance to this development was hopeless, but 25 years later a mining company wanted to mine the eastern shores of the St Lucia Game Reserve. Over the years, through the work of many rangers in the field, we had built up a formidable body of sympathisers. A lengthy battle began with the slogan: “If we lose the battle for St Lucia, we will lose the war for the environment”. Four years later and after a momentous struggle, the battle was won and St Lucia Game Reserve became the first World Heritage Site in South Africa. This was a magnificent victory, particularly as the odds of winning it were given as two per cent. If ever there was an environmental David and Goliath encounter, this was it.

The rangers in the field were the eyes and ears of the campaign, passing on critical information as the row raged in newspapers, on radio and television. Men like Warden Gordon Forrest were constantly in the front line, warding off false information, lobbying politicians and anyone who would listen to the story of this unique lake. Most of the time this had to be done sub rosa because many of the politicians and some senior parks staff favoured the mining, but we knew this would have been disastrous for the lake, and the end of an incredible variety of wildlife.

I was to see this many times in my career. The moment arrives in every ranger’s life when he or she is confronted with a crisis of conscience, having to take orders which they know are wrong. When this happens, a copy of The Art of War by Sun Tzu is a handy little book to have at your bedside. Another reminder comes from Sir William Shawcross, the chief prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials. He said that individuals had to obey their own conscience. The trick, as they say, is how you do it. As the old saying goes: “There are many ways to skin a cat”.

Almost without exception every national park and game reserve in South Africa owes its existence to individuals who worked in the parks and reserves and became imbued with the spirit of place. Without Col. Stevenson Hamilton the Kruger National Park would never have survived. In Zululand it was Major Vaughan Kirby and Captain H.B. Potter. Yet it should never be forgotten that without the loyal support of the black rangers whose lives were difficult and who earned a pittance of a salary, there would have been no success. Men like Mali Mdhletshe, Magqubu Ntombela, Sigohlo Mbazine and Philip Mtetwa had to stand up against their own relatives and the local community in their fights against poaching incursions into the parks.

I have been privileged to meet some truly heroic rangers whose dedication to what my friend Nick Steele called the most noble cause in the world today – wildlife conservation – was an example to our profession. In 1961 I was catching rhino in Uganda and met rangers from the former Belgian Congo who stuck to their posts for years, being shot at and harassed by poaching gangs, and without being paid.

My colleague Paul Dutton (who also writes in this publication) who served the Natal Parks Board at Lake St Lucia and Ndumo Game Reserves, went on to work in Mozambique during the Frelimo-Renamo civil war. Paul tells of black rangers who were not paid for five years and longer, but they continued to stay as a presence in the Gorongoza Park. Some of them were mutilated, and their ears and noses had been cut off. This is a story repeated throughout Africa and in other parts of the world, to this day.

I had personal experience in the Philippines,
working on the island of Mindoro when Ferdinand Marcos was president. I appeared before Marcos, who had much sympathy for conservation, and told him that the rangers in the mountains looking after the dwarf tamaraw buffalo had not seen a senior officer for years and their pay was infrequent, but they carried on with their work. Another example of the thin green line. Marcos called in his Minister of Conservation and gave him hell, then invited me to dinner at his palace where I was able to give him a very detailed account of the parlous working conditions of his men. Marcos helped a group of us to create a gene pool for the tamaraw near the village of San José. The current Philippine government has made the tamaraw a priority, but again it is the ranger in the field who stands in the way of chaos and destruction. Their lives are constantly in danger from internecine fighting.

I am often asked what makes a good ranger. A
detailed answer would run to many pages, but the short answer is: "unflinching belief in the cause". I had the good fortune to lead the original team which captured and translocated the endangered southern white rhino. Such was their dedication that I had to plead with my fellow rangers to stop working and take rest periods. Their devotion to the white rhino was so great that they would have given their lives without hesitation. But this devotion came about from working in wild and isolated places and becoming imbued with the spirit of the wild. The psychic connection between mind, body, and soul and the land created unusual people.

Virgil, the Roman poet, wrote: “Blessed are those who learn to know the gods of the wild”.

For me, as I am sure it is for you, this has certainly been the case. Working with Zulu rangers such as Magqubu Ntombela in Imfolozi Game Reserve was the opportunity to see the African veld through the eyes of a superb natural historian, who missed no nuance and made me realise we were brother and sister to all other life. In Ndumo Game Reserve on the Mozambique border it was Catuane Tembe and Sigohlo Mbazine who were tutors to me and fellow ranger Ken Tinley – who now lives in Australia. We canoed down rivers amongst the hippo and crocodile and even learnt to smell the difference between the two. The scent of the bush, its diurnal and nocturnal rhythms and the calls of birds and animals became part of our daily life. In this way we remained in Tao.

I have been fortunate to travel in the Australian outback and meet fellow rangers in Kakadu, Uluru and Cape York, and to the United States and the great National Parks of Yellowstone and Yosemite, as well as in the Fish and Game Commissions.

I have learnt that worldwide the world of the ranger today differs very little from the early days of our profession, except perhaps in the advances made by science. Nevertheless, as important as science has become to our work, I would say that science and poetry should be partners. Poetry and art awaken the intuitive functions, and then we are able to articulate our feelings and passion to a wider audience. Yes, we are the thin green line and we are relatively few, but a deep determination will ensure we remain a relevant factor in the sometimes very difficult world of conservation.

There is one challenge which has been staring us in the face for a long time: the need for an international ranger force under the supervision of the United Nations. We have seen the selfless work of the Blue Helmet Brigade throughout the troubled countries of our world. We now desperately need a green helmet brigade which can be sent to protect parks in places such as Liberia, until civil government can effectively take control. I clearly remember Uganda after Idi Amin took over and a slaughter ensued in the parks. A green helmet brigade, made up of African and other nations, would have saved those parks, together with a future tourist industry, critical to the economy of Uganda.

David Zeller will address this subject at the World Parks Congress.
PROTECTING THE PROTECTORS

ATTACKS ON RANGERS ARE OUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE

TIM SNOW, the African representative on the Executive, looks at the problem of rangers facing violence and even death in the course of their duties. His article is based on a report by IRF Vice-President Juan Carlos Gambarotta with contributions by Game Rangers Association of Africa Central Committee colleagues.

THE VIOLENCE CONTINUES

BRAZIL: (Message forwarded by a local resident to IRF Vice President, Juan Carlos Gambarotta)

"............Erik Mota, manager of the Serra dos Reis State Park in Rondonia, came some 15 days ago to tell us he had been intimidated and that a ranger station had been destroyed. He believed the attack had been carried out by timber poachers who had been making threatening telephone calls to him.

"Erik was killed yesterday with three shots."

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO:
(from Jobogo Mirindi, IRF country representative)

One of our rangers was kidnapped last week by militant forces in Virunga National Park Rutshuru sector. His name is Safari Sulubika. He was 41 and the father of five children.

He was taken by a rebel group in the bush on his way back from patrol. We have organised patrols to find him but now have little hope of finding his body.

PHILIPPINES:
Sixto Atienza, a director of a team of volunteer rangers who enforced fisheries regulations and Marine Protected Areas in Balayan Bay, was shot and killed by an unknown assailant.

In his two years as leader of the group, Atienza, 44, had overseen the arrest of more than 120 illegal fishermen and the confiscation of 26 boats.

There is speculation that his murder, carried out in public immediately after he had given a speech at a festival, was intended as retribution for his team's enforcement activities.

MANY rangers have been killed in the line of duty. Rangers often have to face danger from the very animals they strive to protect, or because of the extreme conditions in which they work; especially in Africa and Asia. But the most dangerous adversary they face is the armed poacher and this is a cause of concern because of the rapid escalation of this threat.

Rangers have been killed since the beginning of our profession; Lawrence Lees was shot dead in 1931 in Canada's Riding Mountains National Park and during the nineteenth century half of Spain's 800 forest rangers were killed in the line of duty. In the United States, it has been reported that attacks and threats to rangers increased from 10 to 104 cases between 2000 and 2002. This survey focused on cases from 1998 to the start of this year.

Table 1. Reports by continent.

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Many forms of violence were reported but the only ones considered were:

- physical attacks on rangers
- clear attempts to attack rangers, and
- deliberate damage to property and equipment

The goals of the survey were:

- to determine the distribution of the problem internationally.
- To analyse the conditions at the moment of the attack.
- To probe whether the outcome may have been different if the ranger was operating as a pair or a team, and had better communication, weapons and equipment. It was not possible to draw any conclusion on this point because in many cases inadequate information was submitted.
A representative group dedicates the plaque at Wilsons Promontory to those rangers who have lost their lives while protecting our precious natural and cultural heritage. The beautiful wooden surround was carved by Argentine ranger Alejandro Capparos during his stay at the Congress.

The IRF intends to have a similar memorial plaque erected in a park on each continent, and eventually in each country.

At our Fourth World Congress of the IRF in Australia in March, more violence and another attack were reported. Ironically, a memorial was dedicated at Wilsons Promontory National Park during this congress. The plaque reads:

*Dedicated to all rangers around the world who have made the supreme sacrifice.*

*We salute them for their dedication to conservation.*

*May they be an example to all who follow.*

Despite the incompleteness of the survey, it shows rangers were killed in South America, North America, Asia, Europe and Africa, so casualties happen in countries of very different cultures, economies and protected area development.

While the death of some rangers had plenty of media coverage, the names of many others are unknown, as in the case of the seven rangers killed in Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda.

This survey covered only 17 countries, and even in these countries it is very likely many more cases occurred. What of the many other countries where rangers are employed to protect our environment?

The sources of violence are so different and diverse that it would be almost impossible to stop it. But at least the probability of new cases would be reduced if all rangers were well trained in tactics, worked with a companion, had good communication and were armed.

The possession of a weapon is not always a solution, because many of the rangers killed were armed. In one case, the ranger was killed with his own sidearm. In another, a ranger was shot despite wearing a bullet-proof vest and having a back-up.

We urge employers to hire the appropriate number of rangers for every protected area, and to provide adequate equipment, training and motivation. In many cases good equipment and training goes a long way towards motivated staff.

Many rangers have died while working in quite good conditions, but without proper equipment and support, or without adequate communication and back-up support. Working in solitude and without the possibility to respond to a gunshot or an armed attacker, are factors that count heavily against the ranger. Rangers also appeal for justice, because if the attackers are not properly punished the cycle of violence will be repeated.

If rangers' working conditions are not improved, many more rangers will be attacked and killed. A ranger's job is dangerous, and too many employers do not recognize this. Life cannot be bought again. Rangers deserve far better support than they receive.
PROTECTING THE PROTECTORS

WHAT WE MUST DO

INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION
NOTING that rangers, in protected areas world-wide, provide frontline park protection and consequently face a variety of risks while performing their duties and that rangers, at an alarming rate, are being threatened, physically assaulted and killed while working in protected areas.

RECALLING that rangers are susceptible to violence for many reasons. Often rangers protect very valuable natural and cultural heritage resources and as a result are vulnerable to acts of violence stemming from poaching, looting, and commercial exploitation. Compounding the problem is the fact that rangers work in remote locations, frequently alone, often with poor communications and limited availability of back-up support. In some parts of the world rangers find themselves attempting to manage protected areas in the midst of armed conflicts or outright warfare;

AWARE of the inherent obligation that managers have to provide for the safety and protection of rangers/employees from threats and physical violence;

MINDFUL that the International Ranger Federation and its affiliates are deeply concerned about the alarming levels of threats and physical violence faced by rangers, other protected area employees and their families in protected areas and have made this issue one of their highest priorities;

RECOGNISING that maintaining the security and protection of rangers and employees who live and work in protected areas is essential if the world’s protected areas are to survive;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the preparedness of rangers in many protected areas can be substantially improved, and many of the threats facing rangers can be prevented, reduced or eliminated through improved staffing and training, increased awareness, and adequate support and resources.

The 5th World Parks Congress, in Durban, South Africa (5-17 September 2003), recommends:

Governments, NGOs, local communities and civil society:
1. ADOPT AND PROMOTE a sufficient legal framework and operational capability (including support with appropriate laws, regulations, policy, standards, and operational planning) so that rangers can perform their protection duties safely;
2. ADOPT AND PROMOTE the preparation of threat assessments for rangers to determine the appropriate types and levels of protection for rangers;
3. RECOGNISE that in developing, evaluating and implementing personal protection programmes and training, cultural differences and challenges exist;
4. DEVELOP AND DELIVER personal protection and situational awareness training modules that better prepare rangers and managers to work safely in protected area environments;
5. ENSURE that personal protection equipment that is serviceable and commensurate with the level of risk that may be encountered is provided to rangers;
6. ADOPT AND PROMOTE the enacting of laws that provide specific protections for rangers who are physically assaulted while performing their duties, strong penalties for assaults and physical violence against rangers and vigorous pursuit and prosecution of persons who kill or injure rangers as a deterrent to continued violence; and
7. ESTABLISH a “lessons learned” forum to provide relevant and accessible information on threats and violence to rangers to assist in preventing similar incidents in the future.

The GRAA
THE Game Rangers Association of Africa (GRAA) was founded in 1971 in Zululand, South Africa. The political isolation of South Africa prevented expansion of membership into the rest of Africa until 1994, but rangers now work and communicate across political boundaries. There are now members in South Africa, Swaziland, Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Uganda, Rwanda, Angola, Egypt, Lesotho.

Acknowledgement:
Sincere thanks and acknowledgement to:

Augusto Atturo and Guido Baldi (Italy), Bill Halainen and Richard Smith (USA), Daniel Paz and Marcelo Ochoa (Argentina), Stewart Bonney and Tony Wilson (UK), Francisco Semedo (Portugal), Inês Possari (Brasil), J.Pierre J. Mirindi (DR Congo), Rod Braby (Namibia), Hector Caimaris (Uruguay), Carola Vaca and Lila Sainz (Bolivia), Arrie Schreiber (South Africa), Joachim Kouame (Ivory Coast), Francisco Tejedor, Roberto Naveiras and Isidro Jimenez (Spain), José Melchor (Venezuela), Michal Skalka (Czech Republic) and Susana Valverde (Ecuador). These rangers provided the basic information for the compilation of this article.
IT'S 1991 and three rangers from the US, Scotland and England join a party of fellow rangers on an excursion on Loch Lomond following a Scottish Countryside Rangers Association conference nearby. The tranquillity of the loch obviously has its effect because the three talk of their dream of a worldwide rangers organisation that would bring together rangers from every continent.

Bill Halainen from the Association of National Park Rangers, Bob Reid from the Scottish Countryside Rangers Association and Gordon Miller from the Association of Countryside Rangers (England and Wales) (ACR) had tossed ideas around for a while but it all came together on that boat trip. Bill went back to the States to discuss the plans with ANPR President Rick Smith, who in true General Patten style said: “Let’s just do it!” Less than a year later and the three associations were meeting at Losehill Hall, the Peak National Park Study Centre in England to sign an accord officially creating the Federation.

For my sins I was elected Chairman, later President, and set about trying to use contacts that I had developed around the world. A decision was also taken that we should endeavour to organise a World Congress as soon as possible.

I was fortunate in having Mike Marshall, Colin Dilcock, and Sue Clark of ACR and Bob Reid mad enough to join me on what at first seemed an impossible dream. Poland had recently emerged from Iron Curtain isolation and was still relatively cheap, an important factor for rangers travelling from all parts of the globe, and had some spectacular national parks, particularly the Tatras. I had some useful contacts in Poland and it was close enough for us to plan the First Congress in detail.

The Federation had no source of income and the Congress had to be self-sufficient with a minimum 120 delegates to break even – a figure we just achieved. The first problem arose when the first instalment of the hotel booking became due in January 1995. A trip to the ANPR Rendezvous in Durango, Colorado, and a plea to its members for a $10,000 loan was fortunately successful. It was a momentous decision that was to make it possible to host the first congress in Zakopane in the Tatras and to subsequently launch the Federation to the outside world.

Sleepless nights didn’t stop there as the bookings slowly trickled in and with only weeks to go to the event only a handful of delegates were registered although we had succeeded in raising funds for a number of developing country delegates. Excellent speakers and many notable contributions from individual delegates were part of a very full and enthralling Congress, which also included a walk in the Tatra National Park and time to relax on a raft trip through the Dunejec Gorge of the Pieniny National Park. The atmosphere created at that first memorable Congress has carried forward to subsequent congresses as new friendships are made and old ones are strengthened, batteries are recharged and we all return home inspired by our experiences.

Zakopane gave us the opportunity to establish the democracy of the organisation and the International Executive Council became the decision-making authority and later statutes were adopted. The Federation was always envisaged as a networking organisation that could bring encouragement to those who often work in isolation and in difficult circumstances, provide a forum for exchanging expertise and give those at the grass roots a voice in the wider world. Helping rangers to establish associations has always been the most effective way of achieving these aims given the limited resources that the Federation has had available.

Differing national laws and the difficulties of identifying key activists have not made it easy to
establish new associations and I have found patience to be the greatest virtue. The first seeds sown can take years before an association finally comes to fruition but we have made steady progress and the rate of new members applying continues to grow.

The Federation now has four World Congresses behind it and approaches the forthcoming IUCN 5th World Parks Congress still without much in the bank but with a great deal of optimism for the future. At the last World Parks Congress in Caracas there was only one ranger present, Bill Halainen, representing the IRF. Since that congress the Federation has developed a close working relationship with IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by both parties at the Third World Ranger Congress in Kruger National Park, South Africa. A measure of that co-operation is the fact that there will be a delegation of over 30 rangers representing the IRF and rangers worldwide in Durban for the 5th World Parks Congress 2003. If the spirit of IRF Congresses is transmitted to Durban then I am sure that for once those at the grass roots can rest assured that their voice will be heard.

Protected areas around the world are experiencing unprecedented pressures and threats to their integrity and rangers will always be at the front line, a fact that is increasingly being recognised. Sharing skills in diverse areas such as resource management, enforcement, interpretation, education and working with local communities will be vitally important. A vibrant Federation dedicated to raising professional standards among rangers world wide is essential if we are to maintain “the thin green line”.
IRF MILESTONE EVENTS

1991
Gordon Miller, Bob Reid and Bill Halainen are among a small group who attend an international meeting at the Balloch Hotel, Loch Lomond, Scotland, where the idea of creating the International Ranger Federation is formulated.

1992
A Charter founding the IRF is signed at the Peak District National Park, England. The agreement is signed by the Countryside Management Association, on behalf of rangers in England and Wales, the Scottish Countryside Ranger Association and the United States Association of National Park Rangers. Gordon Miller becomes first President.

The Game Rangers Association of Africa joins the Federation, closely followed by Northern Ireland.

Finland, Denmark, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Paraguay, California State, Western Australia, Romania and Portugal join as the Federation takes steps to organise the very first World Ranger Congress.

1995
First IRF World Congress held in Zakopane, Poland: rangers representing 35 nations attend.

(Details of the Zakopane Declaration are printed in this 10th anniversary issue.)

During the year Iceland, Nepal and Canada join the family.

1996
German National Park Rangers form a national association as a first step towards membership of IRF. Costa Rica rangers form an association as the second World Congress, destined for their home soil, is planned. Juan Carlos Gambarotta, inspired by his visit to the First World Congress, forms a Uruguayan association and they join the Federation, along with Slovakia.

1997
The 2nd IRF World Congress is held in San José, Costa Rica. Rangers representing 41 countries on six continents attend.

(Details of the San José Declaration are printed in this issue). Rangers throughout Latin America start networking, and two training conferences follow.

Swedish rangers form an association and become the third Scandinavian country to join the IRF.

1998
The first training course sponsored by IRF in the Western Hemisphere is held in Mexico. 54 rangers from 14 Latin American and Caribbean countries attend.

1999
The Czech Republic's Association of Protected Area Rangers, the Association of Argentinian Park Rangers, Galápagos Rangers' Association and the Austrian Ranger Association join IRF.

2000
Associations representing Australian rangers (in Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania), and the Assam Forest and Tamil Nadu Forest Ranger Associations in India, join IRF.

The Ranger Association of Russia is formed and their application for membership is accepted.

A five-nation ranger training conference is held in Argentina and the Argentine Ranger Association holds its first national congress, with representatives attending from Bolivia, Chile and Uruguay.

The 3rd IRF World Congress is held in Kruger National Park, South Africa. More than 300 delegates from 50 countries attend. A Memorandum of Understanding between the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and the IRF is signed at Kruger, marking the start of a close working relationship. Significant support from IFAW and UNESCO World Heritage Centre contributes to a high percentage of rangers from developing countries, particularly in Africa, attending the Congress.
Delegates at the Kruger NP congress, 2000.

(The Kruger Statement is printed in this issue.)

Gordon Miller steps down after serving eight years as IRF president; he is succeeded by Rick Smith of ANPR. Also relinquishing their official leadership roles are Mike Marshall and John Forrest, who like Gordon were part of the founding group.

2001

The title of IRF’s newsletter is changed to The Thin Green Line, emphasising that rangers are “the last barrier holding back people who would exploit, trample or otherwise destroy the world’s parks and protected areas, and the plants and animals that live in them”.

The IRF Consultancy is registered as a limited company, wholly owned by IRF. Its goal: to generate income for IRF by marketing the expertise of its individual members. Declan Kiely and Michael Marshall are appointed working directors.

Ivory Coast and Bolivia Ranger Associations join IRF. Mozambique Ranger Association formed. First national meetings of Austrian Rangers and Guatemalan Park Rangers Associations held.

Gordon Miller assumed role of IRF executive director.

The first Latin American Congress of Park Rangers in Malargue, Argentina, is attended by representatives from Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Uruguay and Venezuela.

First joint meeting held in UK between rangers from England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

2002

The Turner Foundation approves a grant of US $30,000 to the IRF.

Italian Parks and Protected Area Guards Association join IRF.

First ever ranger training course is held in the Dominican Republic.

A Memorandum of Understanding signed between IRF and Europarc at their annual conference in Wales.

2003

The 4th IRF World Congress at Wilsons Promontory National Park, Victoria, Australia is attended by rangers from more than 30 countries, with a significant attendance from S.E. Asia and the South Pacific.

(Resolutions to be taken to the 2003 World Parks Congress on “Protecting the Protector” and “Environmental Principles” are printed in this issue.)

Rick Smith steps down as IRF President and is replaced by David Zeller.

IRFC bid to organise 5th IRF World Congress at Loch Lomond, Scotland, in September 2006 is successful.

Throughout this period the Federation’s main source of information, the bulletin Thin Green Line, has been edited on a regular basis by one of the founding members, Bill Halainen, making him the longest serving officer.

The Federation now has 40 member associations, two associate members and representatives in a further eight countries, with assistance being given to a number of developing associations in other countries around the globe – truly a “world family”.

I REMEMBER IT WELL...

At 6.30 in the evening, May 21, 1995 the raising of IRF flag in Zakopane, Poland, at the opening ceremony of our first congress was, no doubt, a significant stride.

The yin-yang symbol of the IRF flag may represent the world balance of land masses and water, and also the balance that should exist between development and conservation. Even the ranger profession itself has to do with opposite and dependent issues, whether confiscating the gun of a poacher or teaching children in the countryside.

Zakopane was a perfect beginning, because while it would have been much easier to organise a regional congress to be the IRF’s first it had world character instead. So since its very beginning, organisers decided to open the arena for all colleagues around the world.

The Second Congress, held in San José, Costa Rica, was full of colour and, even while it was attended by colleagues from all around the world, it represented a giant party to Latin American rangers, for we all feel we are one huge nation.

Immediately after the Congress the Argentinian Ranger Association was founded and since then it has played a very important role in the sub-continent, organising yearly congresses and providing scholarships to train rangers at the Olrog Argentinian Rangers’ School in Tucumán.

The Third IRF Congress was held inside the Kruger National Park in South Africa. Most attendees had never been in the African bush before, and this Congress, for many, represented the desired once-in-a-lifetime experience in the African wilderness. A sensible person should not die before experiencing it.

As happened in Costa Rica with the Latin American rangers, this event was very important for Africans – so important that during the Congress a couple of meetings were enough to sign a Continental Agreement which very much enlarged the existing Game Rangers Association of Africa.

The American Association “International Game Warden” produced an excellent video about the IRF with material obtained during this Congress.

At the end of the Congress, Gordon Miller, standing down after eight years as President of IRF, presented The President’s Award: a beautiful painting by Mike Landman, former chief ranger of Kruger National Park, who – sick as he was – painted two fighting kudus with his left hand. The Award was eventually given to me – one of the most emotive moments of my life.

Grant from The Turner Foundation.
Thanks to the incredible effort of Rick Smith, the IRF received a generous grant from The Turner Foundation in 2002 – a very important opportunity for an institution like the IRF which does not receive any surplus from its member associations.

Fourth Congress was in Australia, the antipodes for many attendants, at the beautiful Wilsons Promontory National Park.

As was the case in all other Congresses, each meeting was held in a very distinct format, and was very representative of the continent concerned. Most rangers saw his/her first kangaroo just minutes after entering the National Park.

Wilsons Promontory also represented a turning point for the IRF, because most of the former officers left their positions and new blood replaced them: proof that the IRF is self-sustaining.

IRF has always been concerned by the tragic loss of life of many rangers, and a metal plaque was unveiled to honour those women and men who died in the most diverse ways while performing their duties. It contained a paragraph of the Zakopane Declaration, and is framed with a charming carved wood surround and set at the Tidal River Lookout, an incredibly beautiful and peaceful place.

Following the tradition begun by the former President, Rick Smith gave an aboriginal killing stick as The President's Award to Bill Halainen, editor of the ANPR magazine and one of the key persons in the foundation of the IRF.

Finally, the fact that rangers from up to 58 countries have been able to gather in every Congress is because of the huge amount of energy and kindness shown by many members who have worked to finance colleagues from poorer countries.

Thanks to all of them.
ELEVEN YEARS ON, AND MANY LESSONS LEARNED

By TONY SISTO, INTERNATIONAL CHAIR, ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL PARK RANGERS

IT is a cloudy Sunday morning in early August 2003, and I am sitting at my desk in California reading a back issue of “Ranger”, the journal of our association, ANPR. It is the Fall 1992 issue, and the article I am reading is titled “International Accord Signed”. It begins:

“On August 1 [1992], Phil Page, chairperson of England’s Association of Countryside Rangers (ACR), Steve Nunn, chairperson of the Scottish Countryside Ranger Association (SCRA), and Rick Gale, president of ANPR, signed an accord creating the International Ranger Federation (IRF) at Losehill Hall in Peak District National Park in England.”

The three men are shown in a photo sitting at a conference table. They each hold a pen poised over the IRF accord which they appear about to sign, while a smiling Gordon Miller looks on. They all look happy, as they should.

One of the first duties of the newly-formed Federation was to spread the word about the organisation, enrol national associations, and work towards an international meeting in Poland’s Tatra Mountains in 1994.

Eleven years on, and IRF is today made up of 39 national associations. The 1st World Congress in Zakopane, Poland came off successfully in 1994, and IRF recently completed its 4th international meeting at the World Congress in Victoria, Australia. There at Wilsons Promontory National Park, ANPR founding member Rick Smith, who followed Gordon Miller as IRF President, handed over the presidency of IRF to David Zeller of South Africa.

ANPR is proud of being a founding member of IRF. Organised in 1977, ANPR has now spent nearly half of its professional life in close partnership with IRF. We draw on our belonging to an international community of rangers to give us succour.

One way in which we have recently done so is in our shared action to bring the world’s attention to the threats on protected area ranger staff. From Africa, to Asia, to the Americas, rangers face threats daily, not from the wilds in which many of us patrol (although those are real) but from human

assaults on the resources. Because it is the ranger’s duty to stand in the way of such assaults, we are increasingly threatened with death or physical harm, often in remote areas of the world with little hope for immediate rescue or backup. We look forward to the discussion of this issue at the IUCN World Parks Congress in Durban.

While ANPR is stronger because of our association with IRF, and in particular with our increasing relationships with member associations in Latin America, we are also an organisation that has seen our membership decline in recent years. From a peak of over 1,600 members, we now are barely at 1,000 or less. Part of this may be a normal change in a mature organisation. Part too, undoubtedly, is the evolving role of rangers in the United States into ever more specialised niches of performance, and away from the historic “generalist” training and expertise of the past. This is probably not bad, but it does force ANPR to look closely at itself and its mission and purpose. This we have been, and will continue to do over the next few years. As we do, we will always be mindful of our friends in other countries, doing the same work, facing similar problems.

I look again at the picture on my desk. The four rangers at Losehill Hall in England are smiling broadly. They seem to be saying: “We are a strong community. This is just the beginning.” ANPR is honoured to be a part of it.
WHAT'S IN A NAME: 
AN OUTLINE HISTORY OF RANGERS

By GORDON MILLER

THE OXFORD English Dictionary defines the term ranger as: a) a keeper of a forest park b) a member of the US commando corps – a body of mounted troops, or c) girl guides. The first definition has its origins in 11th Century France and England when the king appointed rangers to protect his hunting forests from poaching and other incursions. Old French dictionaries refer to *ranger* meaning the planting of trees in ordered fashion and it is easy to see how this could have been transferred to meaning keeping order in the forest.

**History**

The term ranger came to be used in England by William the Conqueror for the guardians of the Royal Forests and indeed Prince Philip holds the title of Honorary Ranger for Windsor Great Park. It was, however, the US definition in the 19th Century that was to find its way into international usage through the adoption of the term in the first national parks.

The reputed first national park ranger, Harry Yount, was an army scout in the High Sierras of California whose intimate knowledge of the area made him a logical choice as the first park ranger – with the title Gamekeeper – at Yellowstone in 1880. He was preceded, however, by Galen Clark who became Guardian of Yosemite in 1864 when it was declared a California State Park.

In Europe, where many of the earlier parks were forests, the term was not initially used and it was more common for foresters to take on the duties of protection as forest guards, particularly as most areas were strict reserves to which the public had little or no access. This term is still used in the present although as forest guards take on more public contact roles, particularly in environmental education and recreation management, the term ranger becomes more prevalent.

In England and Wales the term warden was more commonly used until the mid-1970s because the role was more that of a guardian to protect areas and enforce byelaws. In Wales the title *ceidwad* has been adopted to replace warden as it more readily translates to the meaning of ranger. In Scotland the title ranger was chosen by the then Countryside Commission for Scotland in 1967 and adopted throughout the country. The guardian role was more often found elsewhere in Europe, e.g. *Garde Moniteur* in France, *Guardiaparco* in Italy, *Guardeparques* in Spain, *Guardas e Vigilantes* in Portugal and *Nationalparkwacht*, *Natur- und Landschaftspfleger* in Germany; although *Besucherbetreuer* in other German-speaking countries indicates a visitor carer. It is only in recent

*Harry Yount: reputed to be the first national park ranger.*

*Early days: mounted rangers on parade in Yosemite, USA, in 1915.*
What do you call a ranger? A cross-section of titles from across the world.

years that the term ranger has found general acceptance in Europe after being essentially confined to the UK.

The Slovaks now use the term ranger to reflect a move away from forest guard and a changing role with more interpretation work and environmental education. In Denmark, where the idea of a national ranger service was only developed in the past 10 years, they developed their own term Naturwejleder which literally translated means nature way leader or nature guide and once again reflects the educational role of the ranger. Other titles to be found in Europe include: Boswachter, Gajowy, Neach-curaim-na-duthcha, Nationalparkbetreuer, Naturwacht, Miskininkas, Gozdar, Roje, Termeszetvedelmior, Lisnyk and Naturoppsyn. It is, though, the commonality of core roles that makes it easier to refer collectively to those practising the profession as rangers.

Elsewhere in the world the role of the ranger is more often defined in the title by the principal role adopted in the protected areas. In Africa and India, where most parks were established by colonial govern-ernments, the term game warden was adopted for those with a management role while the practical support staff were referred to as rangers, not unlike the scouts in the early US parks. Other titles to be found in Africa include game guard, field ranger and conservator. Throughout Spanish-speaking Latin America guardaparques is generally the adopted title although the term ranger is readily understood. The term guardarecurso is also to be found in Guatemala.

Conclusion
While many terms may be used to describe the role of the ranger throughout the world, it is the core role that is more important. Initially the role was one of resource protection but increasing demands on parks and the need to increase public contact both with visitors and local populations have brought many rangers together in a common aim. The increase in involvement in environmental education has also been reflected in the way rangers work, and the wide ranging duties have in some cases been reflected in a change of title to ranger.

The development of the International Ranger Federation and the desire to raise professional standards has brought rangers around the world closer together as they realise that the differences between them are getting less and less. While the term ranger is unlikely to earn universal acceptance in parks and other protected areas, it is perhaps more important that the title is used as a collective term to avoid confusion, particularly in the public domain.

CREATING A SYMBOL

BACK in 1994 when IRF’s Bill Halainen volunteered to create a symbol for the Federation, he secured the skilled services of designer Elizabeth Pols, who also designed the US ANPR “Ranger Magazine” format and the symbol for US Federal Game Wardens Association.

Bill said: “Our objective was to have the blue of the oceans on one side and the green of the land on the other, with the white band symbolising the snowy mountains and ice caps. Originally, we had a brown dot on one side symbolising desert lands and light green on the other symbolising pampas, steppes and prairies but that proved too complicated to reproduce.”
IRF HOLD 4th CONGRESS IN AUSTRALIA

By GLEN JAMESON
CONSERVATION TEAM LEADER
RANGER, PARKS VICTORIA

ONE of Australia's premier parks, Wilsons Promontory National Park in Victoria, was the venue when some 200 Rangers from 37 countries attended the International Ranger Federation 4th World Congress.

Elaine Thomas, president of the Victorian Rangers' Association which hosted the Congress, was delighted with the success of the Congress, and in particular the range of countries represented.

"The IRF is continually working on expanding its network," she said. "At this Congress the focus was on attracting Rangers from the Asia-Pacific region. Twenty Rangers from 11 countries, including Fiji, Myanmar, Palau, China and Indonesia were represented. It is the first time that delegates from many of these countries have attended an IRF World Congress."

The theme of the Congress was "Rangers at Work - Improving the Practice", with topics being addressed under the sub-themes of "Managing the Masses", "Building Healthy Community Support" and "Healthy Habitats".

Over 70 presentations were given during the week from every continent on Earth. As it was impossible to attend everything, delegates had to choose their journey through the sessions carefully and each delegate had a different experience.

"Building Community Support" was the first theme, which included working across boundaries and working with indigenous communities. Parks across the world are islands in a cultural landscape. If they remain as islands without links with the land and the community in which they are embedded, they are doomed to a slow descent into extinction and decay. Papers delivered suggested a common blueprint for managing across boundaries, which was: engage the whole community, gather stakeholders into a formal group, scientifically evaluate and document the problem, provide equitable solutions, continue to monitor and communicate. Often issues were problems that had never been addressed in a serious, long-term manner.

In "Managing the Masses", environmental historian Simon Cubitt provided a thought-provoking challenge to the concept of national parks. Simon was critical of the cultural assumptions underlying national parks which had been found wanting, particularly in relation to the rights of indigenous and local people and the emerging focus on biodiversity. There had been a decisive international swing away from national parks towards new bioregional models which recognised the role humans had played in the landscape.

"Protecting the Protector" was a workshop which brought home the dangers faced by Rangers carrying out their duties. IRF Vice President Juan Carlos Gambarotta (Uruguay) presented statistics from a study which he had undertaken regarding the violence perpetuated against Rangers.

A permanent memorial dedicated to those Rangers who had been killed in the course of their duty was installed in Wilsons Promontory, overlooking Tidal River and the sea.

Taking the theme "Healthy Habitats" the following day, Tim Allen gave an overview of the newly-created system of marine national parks and marine sanctuaries in Victoria, one of which is at Wilsons Promontory. Tim demonstrated that communities' initial apprehension about marine parks in New Zealand had been converted into strong support for the reserves - something it is hoped will also occur in Victoria.

One stream of the sessions dealt with the massive bushfires experienced in Victoria over the past
year. The fires in the north-east of the state were some of the most extensive ever experienced, running over a 50-day period and burning approximately 1.1 million hectares/4,250 sq miles. Fire played a major role in the maintenance of biodiversity and Mike Cusack described a programme which Parks Victoria had undertaken to improve the understanding of the effects of fire disturbance on public land.

"Healthy Habitats" also explored the broad theme of human impact on the environment. As an Australian who has lived in a relatively peaceful continent, it was difficult to fully appreciate Jobogo Mirindi's story of the impacts of war on primates in the rainforests of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The nation contained Africa's largest rainforest, but a combination of military activities and human encroachment on their habitat meant that the primates' chances of long-term survival appeared poor (see below).

**Papua New Guinea's fourth National Goal** is that its natural resources and environment be protected for the future. Godfrid C. Solmu spoke of the factors which impinged on protected areas - poverty, alienation, little public awareness and poor public relations. Godfrid believed that people would not understand the need for conservation unless there were tangible economic benefits. Education was a key in reaching the community, and the goal was finding a consensus which showed flexibility on issues that accommodated traditional knowledge.

**MESSAGE FROM THE GORILLAS TO WPC DELEGATES**
(delivered by Jobogo Mirindi, IRF representative, Democratic Republic of Congo).

Dear Cousins,
Thanks to all of you who come to defend our rights at this Congress.
Remember: we are not only friends, but your cousins. We love you!

Thanks to you donors. We express our gratitude, but one thing - you should make sure your donations respond to our needs and reach us in the bush.

Dear Cousins! We never attack you for our pleasure. Remember the good time Diane Fossey spent with our parents in the Virungas without problem.

For us, Diane Fossey is a model to follow: we know some of you, like Annette Lanjouw and others, are still pursuing Diane Fossey's mission. They did not abandon us during the difficult moments of war and trouble.

Many thanks to the park rangers who are giving their lives for our cause.

Dear Cousins, why are you keeping our babies in your zoos? We strongly request that you stop this business.

Our population has been reduced drastically and you know we are in danger. Some of you knew my grandfather Maheshe and others like Marcel Rugabo, Ninja and Mushamuka; they were all killed during the troubled period.

Dear Cousins, we hope the threats to our survival will find solutions after this Congress.

Once more, good luck. We love you.

- Young Gorillas team from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Meg Weesner works at Saguaro National Park in Tucson, Arizona for the US National Parks Service, which has been developing an inventory and monitoring programme. Inventories were undertaken, then parks worked towards identifying 'vital signs', indicators which provided a measure of ecosystem health.

Peter Shadie, presently working with the International Union of Conservation Nations (IUCN), spoke of parks being at the crossroads. Biodiversity might seriously be depleted by the end of the next two human generations. Peter is part of the IUCN organising team for the Durban World Parks Congress.

Juan Carlos Gambarotta enjoyed the Congress, noting: "Many Rangers, especially from the Third World, face many dangers - and when they attend the Congress they get a feeling that the work they do is appreciated all around the world."

There were many other vivid presentations, such as Youping Chen on China's Wangling Panda Reserve, Pedro Prieto from Argentina on sustainable firewood management, Tin Aung on biodiversity of Myanmar - but altogether too many more to mention. The presentations largely demonstrated that Rangers and park management were managing across boundaries, working with their communities to find sustainable and equitable agreements.

* A fuller version of this report appeared in Issue 9 of the National Park International Bulletin (May 2003).
WHAT WILL SHAPE OUR PARKS OF THE FUTURE?

By GLEN JAMESON,
CONSERVATION TEAM LEADER RANGER,
PARKS VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

A SERIES of newspaper and magazine articles have argued the case for an expanded role for humans in wilderness areas. They point to indigenous people being excluded from wilderness areas so that Parks can be established that are then reserved exclusively for the experiences of rich tourists.

It is pointed out that some National Parks and wilderness areas are managed almost exclusively to cater for those who can afford to hunt, to photograph, to experience. The parks have no human populations other than that which is needed to manage the parks.

Currently philosophies run to protecting the wilderness but the long-term habitation by humans in them is excluded. In most situations not even indigenous people live in parks. You may visit, camp, walk or drive through and look at them but you cannot live in them over the long term.

We have created a situation where we are growing apart from the cradle of our evolution. We have cut up the land into segments that define the journey of western civilization. Perhaps our future evolution will have more to do with the design of urban architecture than the shape of grasslands and forests. More to do with forms of mechanised transport than with the design of our legs as the shopping trolley replaces the Dilly bag.

The story began where everything was wilderness according to our current definitions. Certain human populations expanded, developed crops and domesticated animals. Cities grow, population expands, economy grows, wilderness shrinks. From everything wilderness to very little wilderness left. Cities have developed their own ecology, as have agricultural areas. Urban housing areas also have their own ecological circumstances, which change with fashions in the garden nursery industry. None of these contribute much to biodiversity, which is a major design fault of city planning. However some cities are changing, expanding the role for nature, creating “urban wilderness”. Some cities are fortunate, for within a 250-kilometre 155 mile radius of Sydney are more than 2 million hectares 7,722 square miles of national parks, state forest, water catchment and other reserves.

Rangers are part of the programme that has developed to protect the parks. They are often the last line of defence for much sought after protected species. What most articles seem to miss is that most of our current industrial and commercial activities are major threats to nature conservation. Just the sheer numbers of humans on earth means that we cannot help but destroy the indigenous biodiversity through the weight of our collective being.

Australia is amongst the world leaders with joint (indigenous inclusive) management of parks, such as that at Uluru – in Kata Tjuta National Park. Delegations from parks around the world visit that park and others to learn how to manage this process. When we have a “earthcentric” philosophy, when the threats to nature abate, when species are no longer in decline, then we can think about returning back to live in the forest. There will need to be some major changes in philosophical directions and these changes are surfacing and circling the minds that forge the future.

Presently Protected Areas are viewed and managed as separate areas from the rest of the landscape. The challenge of the future is the creation of sustainable landscapes that integrate human use and the protection of indigenous biodiversity.

Granville Parks and Wildlife Service in Tasmania reinforce a firebreak.
UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF THE GAME RANGER

By H. A. SCHREIBER,
CHAIRPERSON, GAME RANGERS
ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA

INTRODUCTION
WHAT are game rangers? What are their duties? We all know that the term game ranger is a generic term referring to specific people working in the field of wildlife management such as park wardens, district rangers, section rangers, conservationists and even field rangers. Modern terminology also talks about Protected Area Managers or PAMs or resource managers. Whatever they are called, these people all know what and who they are and refer to people in this field as rangers. They do not suffer from an inferiority complex. Sometimes, however, it is a good thing to go back to basics. Ask yourself the question: do I really have a good understanding of the work I am supposed to do as a ranger in a Protected Area?

The work of a ranger is so diversified that it is impossible to define it into one sentence or paragraph. Try if you like – even use textbooks or dictionaries – but you will find that you will have left out something.

One source you might turn to is the Game Rangers Association of Africa (GRAA). The Manifesto of the GRAA spells it out in clear terms although it is not a definition. Neither is the Vision or the Mission of the GRAA of great help although it creates the correct perception of understanding.

MANIFESTO OF THE GAME RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA

The work of a game ranger is the safekeeping of wild game, in the natural communities and native landscapes where these animals have always lived.

This is a custodianship which guards the future genetic diversity inherited from the past. For in these wild places is the testament of the laws of the Earth. Here is the insurance of the loss of matter essential to life’s survival on this planet. No other motive can displace or alter these.

As an executor of the natural estates, the game ranger may not diminish its assets, nor be party to their depletion. There are terms to this duty that are known, and there are those still to be learnt. Within these limits only may he move; since natural law determines them. To seek their understanding and to act in its light is part of the trust that he accepts.

VISION OF THE GAME RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA

The Game Rangers Association of Africa commits itself to the preservation, conservation and where possible, restoration of Africa’s biodiversity and the continued existence of its wilderness.

MISSION OF THE GAME RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA

The future of conservation in Africa and the preservation of its wilderness lie in the hands of its natural resource managers and field rangers. The Game Rangers Association of Africa is committed to ensure that those responsible for the future of conservation in Africa are dedicated, motivated, skills-trained, ethical and professional in the execution of their duties.

THE GAME RANGER PROFESSION

Game rangers are wildlife managers and the field force in Africa, working at the “coal face” of conservation. In Africa the prime responsibility of game rangers is to ensure the territorial integrity of the Protected Area under their management. Their tasks are multi-faceted and include research and monitoring, game capture and introductions, population management, burning programmes, infrastructure and equipment maintenance, public relations, environmental education, community liaison and involvement, and financial and human resource planning and administration.

Their is often a difficult, dangerous and thankless task for which they receive very little remuneration and recognition and in cases, seemingly minuscule support both morally and financially. For their dedication many have paid with their lives. In many parts of Africa, wildlife biodiversity is being threatened by people encroachment, civil wars, bad governance, etc, forcing rangers to face violence of all sorts. No wonder that the rangers in many countries such as Kenya, Ivory Coast and Botswana form part of the military.

In some parts the professional standard of rangers is among the highest in the world. The Kruger National Park in South Africa has always maintained a high standard in its rangers corps, especially since the early 1980s when the rangers came face to face with the outcomes of civil warfare such as refugees, weapon smuggling and armed poaching. The past 20 years have seen vast natural areas in Africa destroyed and denuded of viable wildlife populations. Many species, such as black rhino, have been reduced to the verge of
extinction. Reasons for this are complex, but do include insufficient money, inadequate training and lack of equipment, ineffective leadership, lack of motivation, corruption, political interference and civil wars.

Eco-tourism, perhaps potentially Africa's greatest industry, is becoming increasingly important to local and national economies but this trade is relying on a continuously diminishing asset. One of the most important remaining assets that conservation in Africa has is the existing reservoir of knowledge and expertise in wildlife management still possessed by many rangers throughout the continent. The question is how best to use this expertise to the greatest advantage of conservation areas, local communities and fellow rangers.

THE FUTURE

Africa is unique. The natural assets of the continent cannot be equalled anywhere else on Earth. Much of what has been destroyed can be rehabilitated, given adequate expertise and the will to do so. Conservation bodies are, however, receiving less funding every year and if we are to save our natural heritage in Africa, we will undoubtedly need the backing and financial assistance of First World governments and the private sector. But, not only that, it also needs the full co-operation of passionate, committed corps of rangers.

So what is the job of a game ranger? It encompasses many aspects of conservation work and includes:

★ Territorial Integrity and Law Enforcement: Actively combating potential or actual threats to the integrity of the PA.

★ Maintaining discipline:
An important aspect to be considered carefully at all times. Because of the nature of the work of a game ranger in that he may operate under extreme circumstances, a high degree of discipline is essential at all levels. A high standard of discipline will guarantee the correct relationship between section rangers and field rangers and between PAMs and communities.

★ Natural studies and scientific support:
Studying, monitoring, recording and reporting on natural occurrences and phenomena and field collection of data and samples.

★ Management planning and implementation:
Planning and carrying out actions – including at least: erosion and alien plant control, fire management and game population control.

★ Sustainable Resource Utilisation:
Promoting the value of and preventing the degradation and destruction of natural resources.

★ Environmental education:
Contributing towards a public general awareness of conservation

★ Community relations:
Contributing towards acceptance by, and cooperation of neighbouring communities in conservation management

May the roar of the African lion be heard by the children of our children's children and for ever.

MODERN-DAY DON QUIXOTES?

By PAUL DUTTON,
NATAL PARKS BOARD
GAME RANGER (1958-1972)

REFLECTING on the often halcyon days when I was a game ranger under the old Natal Parks Game and Fish Preservation Board, I am aware of many changes. Some are positive, but it is distressing to realise the threats to conservation are not decreasing. And with this is the increasing danger facing game rangers on all fronts. Maybe it is time to devote more time and energy defending the rights of the threatened game ranger, given the current trend in conservation to rely increasingly on technology to save the day.

When I first joined the Natal Parks Board, nature conservation was strongly under the influence of apartheid. Game rangers were white and game guards were black. Clear divisions of responsibility meant that game rangers spent a considerable amount of effort and time “ranging” in the realm of white politics in an effort to defend the integrity of the areas under their control, while the Zulu game guards were the true front-line rangers who worked courageously in the field, quite often forfeiting their lives in “guarding” the wildlife.

Parallel to the work of the field staff was the formation of proactive Wildlife Society branches which brought citizens into the fight against the government and its drive to de-proclaim conservation areas to satisfy the rapacious greed of white ministers and their minions for land and game biltong. On more than one occasion Durban's city hall was filled to capacity with protesting citizens. This combination of forces ensured the survival of several threatened conservation areas, including the enchanting uMkhuze Game Reserve in northern KwaZulu-Natal, but there were not the resources or focus at that time to teach all young South Africans about the value of our natural environments.
Our greatest strength, which was going it alone, has become our greatest weakness in the long term. We were administered by a head office in Pietermaritzburg which accepted direct approaches we made to the media for help in exposing threats to the areas under our control. We were a law unto ourselves and also had autonomy to write directly to the government. Not that this got us too far. In 1965 I sent a personal letter to the then Prime Minister asking him not to allow the establishment of a missile launching site in the St Lucia Game Reserve. The response was a very rapid transfer to Ndumu Game Reserve, the northernmost post in KZN.

Another confrontation I recall was when the Minister of Water Affairs promoted the building of the Josini dam on the Pongolo River in 1964 because he had earmarked a site near the dam wall for his hotel and shop. The impoundment of the river and the subsequent alteration in flood regime completely disrupted the sustainable way of life of 30,000 Amatonga people who used to harvest an abundant fishery in summer and farm the drying floodplain in winter. Today the dam remains a white elephant, delivering unseasonal winter flooding for unprofitable cotton crops.

This taking on the system in the name of conservation has caused me to reflect on the 17th century Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes who depicts an idealistic elderly knight, Don Quixote, who represents Cervantes' own frustrations in trying to challenge corruption and social injustices in Spain at that time. The armour-suited, lance-wielding old Don on his equally ancient and emaciated steed Rosinante ranges the countryside, engaging in battle with windmills which retaliate by knocking him off his horse a number of times. Don Quixote gets as much response from the windmills as Cervantes got from the Spanish government. He eventually realises the futility of his endeavours but keeps on tilting at the enemy until he dies. What else is there to do?

Though I am no longer a game ranger, most of my time is still taken up lobbying against ill-conceived projects driven by corruption, like:
- Construction of a harbour in Mozambique's magnificent Maputo Elephant Reserve;
- A toll road through the proposed Pondoland National Park, an area of outstanding beauty and high plant endeminism;
- Disruptive dune mining near Richard's Bay and on the Pondoland coast;
- Threatened invasion of Ndumu Game Reserve, one of South Africa's prime RAMSAR sites rich in biodiversity, by mainly Mozambican refugees;
- Gill-netting which traps hapless dugongs and places these marine mammals (thought to be the source of the mythical mermaids) in danger of imminent extinction throughout the western Indian Ocean region.

Closer to home, where cell-phone towers far outnumber windmills and blight every elevated knoll from Cape Point to Beit Bridge, vigilance better be taken against possible attack from a grizzled ex-game ranger seeking solace from 45 years in active conservation. At last here is an enemy which stands still!

Sigodhlo Mbaznini photographed in Nbumu Game Reserve with Paul Dutton in 1970. Of this legendary ranger, Paul said: "He was a wonderful man who would walk the long distance to his home near the Mkuzi Game Reserve and refuse all offers of lifts. He died recently, aged 89, blind and without a pension."
JUNIOR RANGERS IN PARTNERSHIP TO PROTECT EUROPE'S HERITAGE

By BARBARA MERTIN, PROJECT LEADER, EUROPARC FEDERATION

WHAT happens when you take a group of youngsters and place them in the hands of experienced professional rangers in some of Europe's wildest and most beautiful areas? This is what happened to 160 young people from Germany, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia and the Czech Republic during the summer holidays of 2002 and 2003.

These youngsters were the lucky participants in six different Junior Ranger programmes which were developed by protected areas close to their homes under the auspices of the EUROPARC Junior Ranger Project.

The project is designed by the EUROPARC Federation in co-operation with the International Ranger Federation to deliver practical programmes of ranger activities for young people living in or close to six partner protected areas, each located in a different country. The project primarily aims to:

- Create a network of youngsters who participate in nature protection and act as advocates for their protected area.
- Raise awareness about the natural, cultural, social and economic values of protected areas.
- Promote friendship and a group ethic between youngsters by engaging them in the achievement of the common goals of European protected areas.

In addition, the project promotes pan-European co-operation between the participating protected areas through an exchange of information and experience.

Individually tailored two-week programmes of activities took place in the Triglav (Slovenia), Kampinoski and Karkonosze (Poland), Krkonose (Czech Republic) and Kiskunsag (Hungary) National Parks, and jointly in the Bavarian Forest and Upper Bavarian Forest Nature Parks (Germany) during the school summer holidays of 2002 and 2003.

The innovative programmes focus on the work of the ranger and aim to educate youngsters about the role, values and work of protected areas and their importance for recreation, local employment, economy and tourism. They aim to enthuse and inspire the youngsters about the protected area and its place in their home landscape and provide real nature conservation work experience in:

- communicating with visitors
- carrying out scientific studies
- habitat and species identification and surveying
- understanding the interaction of natural and cultural values
- basic maintenance tasks.

The project is aimed at young people from 11 to 14 and 15 to 18 years old, attending schools in local community areas in or close to the project partner protected areas. Pupils from all categories of school within these areas are encouraged to apply.

At present, the EUROPARC Junior Ranger programme is a project based on partnership between the Bavarian State Ministry for the Environment in Germany, the International Ranger Federation, the EUROPARC Federation and its members.

The Junior Ranger project has been tested over a period of two years and has been carried out with great success. It is a model project for nature education. The vision is to create a sustainable network of young people communicating with each other about their shared endeavours in nature conservation, who continue to learn and experience new aspects in the life of a park ranger and who make new friends in Europe and the world. Exchange programmes with other continents could be an additional objective. Most importantly, EUROPARC and IRF aim to create the opportunity for youngsters and protected areas to establish a relationship that will hopefully last a lifetime.

European Ranger Project

The EUROPARC Federation is pleased to be in partnership with the International Ranger Federation, whose pioneering foresight we owe our respect. It was in the Peak District National Park, England in summer 2000 when the IRF's European Ranger Project culminated in an international youth camp with participants from eight different European countries. The project involved both rangers and young people from across the continent, many of them youngsters from disadvantaged backgrounds.

For many participants, getting involved in this project and coming to the youth camp was a life-changing experience. Comments such as "In future I would like to work as a ranger and teach children" or "I learned more in four months than I did in 12 years at school" show the tremendous impact of the IRF's commitment for achieving greater youth involvement in the environment.
PROTECTED AREAS CONSERVATION IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

By GODFRID C. SOLMU, PRINCIPAL CONSERVATION OFFICER, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

ABOUT 80% of Papua New Guinea's population lives in rural areas, using as the very foundation of their existence the land's close relationship with nature. The ecology uniquely inspires and sustains the well-being of the rural population, providing the natural goods and services which underpin the nation's subsistence economy.

Many protected areas in developing countries like PNG were established by colonial authorities who took away property rights from the local communities. As human populations expand, the natural resources required to fulfill the basic needs are depleted in the periphery of protected areas, and the pressure on these areas is inevitably increased. Local communities come to resent the restrictions placed on their entry to protected zones for grazing, gathering wood for fuel, hunting and harvesting the forests' produce.

Biodiversity increases as the protection increases, especially in relation to human interventions. However, there is a range of environment quality and human community for which each type of protection caters. If they cannot be managed properly then the protection idea won't work as well.

So what impact do rangers and regulations have on the implementation of the protected areas process in PNG, or anywhere else where similar conditions prevail? This prompts the question of what the objectives of the protected areas are, and what are the end products. As rangers are given their mandate under various legislations the delivery of services can sometimes be very difficult. Most of the difficulties relate to the implementation of the field operational and enforcement activities. There are customary uses which conflict with legal implications in some of the protected areas, where participation and communication with all stakeholders are sometimes difficult due to changes which are occurring within the community, area and country.

The changes which affect protected areas for economic reasons relate to where nearby communities are benefiting from some economic benefits while areas which are under protection for neighboring communities do not make returns for the landowners. Thus, and I quote from Brown and Wyckoff (1992):

"When people are denied access to the resources to which they have had under a traditional system of tenure and resource use, conservation policy runs the risk of backfiring over the long term."

The problem is that any benefits from conservation tend to be reaped by tourists, the urban elite and society more broadly, while the opportunity costs — in terms of foregone uses of the resource — tend to be borne by local communities. The mismatched distribution of costs and benefits tends to cause a disincentive for conservation at the local level.

PNG for instance — which has a good legislation and record to cover all protected species of birds like parrots — may face rising bird exports in economic conflicts, however, that is not the case. If a policy of exclusion and restriction is put in place which leads to conflict between protected area authorities and local communities, it will promote the increase in illegal activities within national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

Therefore, rangers need to look at conservation and development projects which aim at building links between the welfare objectives of local communities and biodiversity conservation goals by providing communities with development support. Therefore some protected areas need to be regarded as processes rather than end results, having no defined methodology or different approaches. Each area will need to be dealt with individually on social, economic, political, and institutional grounds.

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THE CZECH RANGER AS A PUBLIC FIGURE

By MICHAL SKALKA,
CZECH RANGER ASSOCIATION

FOUR national parks and 24 protected landscape areas are situated in the Czech Republic. The character of these protected areas varies considerably— from mountainous terrain to meandering rivers. Different characteristics infer a need for different work among our rangers. Very important is the information service provided by professional and volunteer rangers. Each ranger also has the task of solving problems caused by visitors in protected areas. Nature in the Czech Republic is covered by laws concerning protection of landscape and environment, and visiting rules prepared by the national park authority. Unfortunately, things can look quite different in practice on a mountain ridge or in a forest.

The Czech rangers, forestry, game, fishing and water patrols have had the status of public figures since January 1, 2000, which gives a stronger legal power to rangers on one hand and higher responsibility on the other. The power of this status is granted by law, but does not solve problematic situations faced by rangers in the field. If a ranger is on duty, he has the same legal protection as a policeman, but this is only judicial and in practice doesn't always help.

Their status as public figures is helpful, as the consequences of committing offences against rangers can result in heavier penalties in law, but a real-life situation can be very different. A lawbreaker on—for instance—a mountain ridge far from civilisation and out of reach of a mobile phone signal can feel confident, because whether he can be distinguished from a well-meaning but naive visitor depends on the ranger's experience and skills. The Czech ranger can detain an undisciplined visitor, but must not use physical power or any weapon (guns are not part of a ranger's equipment in the Czech Republic). Theoretically, the law says that anyone who does not listen to a directive from a public figure is committing an offence. This directive could take the form of banishing walkers from an alpine meadow, bikers from a protected zone, or asking for an ID card. But in the face of determined opposition, detention of an offender and defence of a ranger from attack is less simple. The Czech ranger can ask for official police help and wait for it— but he may need this help immediately.

This status as a public figure places a duty on rangers to solve crime, but also a strong warning against taking the law into their own hands. Severe penalties can face rangers from Czech judges who take a hard line on public figures who flout the law, for instance by accepting a bribe.

One important aspect of a ranger's work is to prevent a crime happening. Trying to enforce their official powers can lead to higher aggression from lawbreakers, whereas good negotiating skills could provide an effective solution without unnecessary danger.

Unfortunately, Czech rangers have no training in negotiation or similar communication skills. The Czech Rangers' Association is working on a preparatory communication skills seminar for its members, because it recognises this as a way of increasing the effectiveness of rangers' work and providing them with better safety.

THE OLDEST PROFESSION!!

Contrary to popular belief, the oldest profession is that of park ranger. At least this is what one Oklahoma judge claimed. He equated the job with the cherubic guard placed at the Biblical Garden of Eden to protect it from the only two people in the world!

From Parks and Recreation, USA, November 1994
ROLES OF A RANGER IN NORTH-EAST INDIA

By D.D. BORO,
FOREST RANGE OFFICER,
KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

KAZIRANGA National Park is one of the most important protected areas in Assam, covering an area of 430 sq km/166 sq miles in the flood plains of the River Brahmaputra. It harbours the world's largest population of one-horned rhino (Rhinoceros unicornis) which numbered 1,552 in 1999, wild buffalo (Bubalus bubalis), which numbered 1,431 in 2001 and the swamp deer (Cervus duvauceli ranjitsinghi), which numbered 468 in 2000.

The park's conservation value was recognised when it was added to the list of World Heritage Sites in 1985. The management history dates back to June 1908, when it was first declared as a reserved forest. It was subsequently upgraded to a game sanctuary in 1916, a wildlife sanctuary in 1950 and finally as a national park in 1974. Since then six areas have been added to the existing national park. Besides these, the Reserve Forest of Panbari (7.65 sq km/3 sq miles) and Kukura Kata Reserve Forest (15.93 sq km/6 sq miles) are also under the administration of Kaziranga National Park.

The ranger has to play many different roles in Kaziranga. As this park is famous for the great Indian one-horned rhinos, it is particularly exposed to organised poaching, so there is a major role to play here in protection work. There are 120 anti-poaching camps comprising three to four staff with arms, ammunition and wireless, all having to be supervised and staff patrolling duties organised.

Most of the camps have been provided with a country boat for patrolling duty during flood periods and these boats need regular repair and maintenance. Rangers also have to take care of roads and bridge works as no contractor is allowed to carry out work inside the national park. So we have to prepare plans and estimates like an engineer and also complete the work as per the estimate.

There are also 31 elephants in this range which have to be taken care of. When injured or ailing elephants have to be treated a doctor has to be brought here from the veterinary hospital in the nearby town area.

As the park is famous for rhino and other endangered species, it attracts an average of 45,000 for-
Jotunheimen National Park: mountain ranges separated by deep valleys.

FESTIVAL IN JOTUNHEIMEN NATIONAL PARK

By RIGMOR SOLEM
NORWEGIAN RANGER ASSOCIATION

THE whole village of Årdal (population 6,000) in the western part of the Jotunheimen National Park celebrates European National Park Day on May 24 every year. As a ranger in the area I am so lucky that the local people think me able to be a co-ordinator for the festival.

Jotunheimen National Park and the adjoining protected landscape area Utladalen covers about 1445 sq. km/558 sq. miles, a practically undisturbed area of majestic mountains, glaciers and lakes. Norway’s highest peak, Galdhøpiggen (2,496 m/8,189 ft) lies within the National Park. Most of the park lies above the tree line, but in the west the very deep valley of Utladalen separates the mountain massifs like a deep 20-kilometre 12-mile gash. This dramatic and wild valley is a continuation of the beautiful Sognefjord.

In this area you can also discover the Alpine Hurrungane, a region favoured for mountain climbing, and Vettisfossen, Europe’s highest free-falling waterfall, boasting 273m/895 ft of meltwater cascading down from the peaks. The valley and the scenery is wild, but people have lived here for generations. Today there is not much agricultural activity in Utladalen, but in the course of the last 20 years the buildings on mountain farms and settlements have been repaired and the cultural landscape has been restored.

Utladalen Naturhus, a small information centre represents a major key to understanding the way of life in a steep and untamed west Norwegian valley just a few decades ago. But the Naturhus represents much more than an information centre. It is also the meeting place for local people and the management of the PA.

A lot of planning and evaluation of the present effort takes place in a forum where representatives from all the landowners and users as well as rangers from the Nature Inspectorate participate.

Activities take place throughout the year at the Naturhus and in the surrounding area, the highlight being the annual National Park Festival on the last weekend of May.

During the festival a lot of different activities take place, not so much in the Park, as in the village, on the fjord and in the valley. There is music, plays, exhibitions and a café, all in all a lot of fun. Each year there is a prize for young people who have done anything good for nature or the environment or have worked against racism. The main objectives of the festival are that everybody should have an opportunity to participate and to learn about nature conservation.
LINES DRAWN IN THE SAND

By CHRIS ARTIEMIEW
AUSTRALIAN RANGER FEDERATION

I WOULD have to say that one of my most fortunate opportunities in my career, as an Australian national park ranger, was the chance to work at Uluru - Kata Tjuta National Park in Central Australia.

Uluru, which is gradually losing its European name of Ayers Rock, is perhaps one of the best-known landscape symbols of the Australian outback. The park covers an area of about 1,323 sq km/510 sq miles and is jointly managed by the Australian Government (through Parks Australia) and the traditional owners, the Anangu (western desert aboriginal people). But you can read this stuff in books and I know you want a fair dinkum Aussie ranger story, so I'll try not to bore you with too many facts. Trust me - I'm a ranger.

Why do I think I was so fortunate, you ask? Well I reckon it's because I got to work with the Anangu traditional owners, that's why. Not only Anangu rangers, but the elders, whose knowledge and silent wisdom are seldom seen by the two-day tourists who are the majority of visitors to the park.

But the best bit was that I also got to go outside the park into Anangu-Pitjantjatjara lands, beyond the park boundaries, which apart from the main park entry station, are often only marked by faded signs on the few red sand tracks that enter or exit the park. There were nights under a clear desert sky with more stars than were ever possibly meant to fit into such a space, as can be seen by lying on your back in a swag among the spinifex clumps. Of course, you were careful to place your bed away from any scorpion burrows or the tell-tale swirling track in the sand left by a snake on its travels the night before!

And there were places only a few piranpa (white men) had ever seen and stories told in whispers, lest others "who should not know of such things" might overhear. I can tell of being offered tender morsels of malu (kangaroo) intestines after they had been par-cooked on the coals of a mulga fire in the bed of a dry creek which may only run once in every five or 10 years. I see the twinkle of humour in the eyes of my Anangu hosts as I politely accept and eat the half black, half blood-covered piece of animal flesh which they are eating with obvious enjoyment, and they laugh with merriment when I decline the offer of another piece.

I drank from hidden springs which formed the backbone of the winding paths followed by their nomadic fathers. I was told stories of how certain landscape features had come to be formed, and what their names meant, and how logical this all was to a people who knew because their ancestors had told them so, and they were there when it all happened in the time of the dreaming.

Park boundaries are not of much importance to the Anangu. Their lands extend far beyond the awesome spectacle of Uluru, along the dreaming trails and song lines, which must be protected. For this is tjukurpa, the relationships between man, the elements and the spirit world, the magic of life itself. I remember when I was at college I learned about how small, protected areas cannot be maintained as isolated islands and hope to survive. But the Anangu already knew this from the teachings of life in the desert.

Perhaps one day you may be fortunate enough to be a ranger at Uluru - Kata Tjuta National Park and spend some time with the Anangu. For as the Anangu say: "We must all work together, so that we can all learn from one another".

An acquired taste: Anangu men prepare a meal in a dry creek bed.
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:
ASSESSMENT AND PERSPECTIVES

By JOACHIM K. KOUAMÉ, PRESIDENT, GAME RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF CÔTE D’IVOIRE

NATURAL resources management, and particularly protected areas management, is currently undergoing considerable change. There is now a clear demand for managers who can combine managerial skills with a grounding in biology and technical disciplines such as wildlife management, ecological management, administrative management, staff management and supervision, and other activities towards neighbouring communities and tourists.

Increased recognition of the role of protected areas in the global environment means that many issues are becoming important and increasingly complex. In my country (Côte d’Ivoire – Ivory Coast), restrictions of utilisation and restrictive legislation, especially concerning protected areas resources, have contributed to a situation in which local populations have to suffer the negative consequences of nature conservation.

In the past, concepts for promotion of an environmentally sensitive development of buffer zones and neighbouring areas have not been taken account of during the conception of management strategies. The inhabitants of neighbouring areas therefore had seen nature conservation as going against their own interests. Then, in the face of pressing food and cash income shortages, problems – caused by a decrease in per capita food production and scarcity of cultural land, protected areas resources, such wildlife, soils, woodlands, grazing areas, etc. – are assuming an ever greater importance.

First approaches to promote participation of the population in neighbouring areas failed because they were too selective, unique and not concentrated enough. The result of these actions is the fact that poaching in our protected areas is becoming a profit-making activity, which yields more than 150,000 tons of bush meat each year for a continuously growing market. The value of the annual production of bush meat was estimated at 77 billions FCFA (110 millions US$) in 1996, which amounts to 1.4% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

In the new vision, participatory wildlife management is the best way to deal with those problems, as it could lead to a sustainable utilisation of game and complement the income derived from agriculture, lead to an improvement of household situation, and therefore offer incentive for the protection of flora and fauna of the neighbouring as well as adjacent protected areas. Furthermore, there is an urgent need for a managerial all-rounder who can address these specialist problems in an integrated and structured fashion.

This is the challenge we will try to answer in the coming years.

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URUGUAY

By FRANCESCO LA VECCHIA, President of the Association of Rangers of Uruguay

WHILE a Protected Areas Act was approved on February 22, 2000, it has not yet been brought into action and remains only words. The dull reality for rangers is that we have to protect the integrity of parks while it is not clear which actions can be taken and which not. We are walking along a tightrope and have been told that no more rangers can be employed until 2015.

Probably two more rangers will be employed through a new project financed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to manage the Arequita National Park in agreement with Uruguay’s Conservation Agency. This park of 500 hectares/1,235 acres is located 110 km/68 miles to the north-east of Montevideo.

BOLIVIA

By ANA CAROLA VACA SALAZAR, President, Bolivian Ranger Association

RANGERS in Bolivia have made some progress in their objective of organising at national level, but we have not been able to improve our alliance with the Protected Areas Agency because it has had four different directors in a period of one year.

Meanwhile, we are supporting all training initiatives which have been introduced and we were successful in requesting that our views are taken into account in the process of selecting new personnel.

We will continue to work on behalf of protected areas and will dedicate all our will and energy to this work.
BENEFITS BEYOND BOUNDARIES

RANGER EXCHANGE BETWEEN ICELAND AND SCOTLAND

RANGER exchanges between Iceland and Scotland have been organised since 1999. This year Martin Hind, Easter Ross Ranger, part of the Planning & Development Service within the Highland Council, visited Skaftafell National Park in the south east of Iceland for one month. Johanna Katrin Thorhallsdottir, a ranger from the Environmental Agency of Iceland (UST), went to the Scottish Highlands to work with Martin and other rangers.

At Skaftafell Martin swapped ideas with rangers on leading guided walks to the tourist attractions of the park. These included wildflowers and their uses, names of places and plants and meanings and also how we have changed the landscape. Kjartan Bollason the Park's new assistant manager and Martin had interesting discussions on how best to develop the Ranger Service within the Park.

Other tasks carried out by Martin included working on self-guided leaflets for more remote paths. These leaflets would provide interpretation information on the geology, glaciology, flora and fauna as well as any safety information and rules that the Park needs to put across. This involved walking the routes and taking many photographs for the image library. Kjartan and Martin hope to continue working on the text of these during the winter months ready for printing next spring.

As many of the paths of the park are being improved, Martin went round with Kjartan and the Rangers to look at maintenance, surveying and other issues affecting the paths as part of the management of the park. An aspect that was challenging for Martin was undertaking walks with many visitors from Iceland and abroad where English isn't the first language. Hopefully, Martin's Glaswegian accent didn't prove too difficult for the visitors!

In the Highlands, Johanna Katrin was working in different places, including Inverness, Easter Ross and the Great Glen. The work included assisting with guided walks and events for children during their holidays, for example, bug hunting, pond dipping and rockpool exploring. Another part of the job was to carry out biological surveying, and maintenance of paths and sites.

There are obvious differences between the roles of the Icelandic and the Scottish rangers. In Scotland, rangers mainly work in cities and surrounding countryside. In Iceland, the rangers mostly work in National Parks and nature reserves, further away from urban areas. This obviously leads to different kinds of work and aims up to a certain point. Most of the Icelandic rangers are mainly dealing with tourists and working over the summer months. In Scotland, most Rangers have an educational and interpretation role working with schools and the local community for their events. Because of these different roles, rangers are able to gain different experiences and knowledge, which will benefit the Ranger Service that they return to.

We would like to think that the experiences gained during these exchanges have helped the Rangers Services in both countries to develop from sharing of ideas and methods.

SCOTLAND PIONEERS RANGER TWINNING
By TONY WILSON, CHAIR, SCOTTISH COUNTRYSIDE RANGERS ASSOCIATION

SINCE the formation of the IRF, the SCRA has been active in international rangering. We have set up the first twinning between ranger associations with our colleagues in Iceland, and there have been several study tours and training sessions as well as an annual exchange of staff.

We have also helped raise funds for colleagues in developing countries to provide equipment and help access training. So far, we have supported projects in Nigeria, Bolivia, Argentina and Slovakia. To cap it all we are extremely proud and excited by the prospect of the IRF Congress coming to Scotland in 2006.

The creation of Scotland's first two national parks, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs, and the Cairngorms, and recent new legislation allowing access to most of our countryside - even if privately owned - mean a busy few years ahead for rangers in Scotland and the SCRA in particular.
THE HOPE and optimism we have for the future of our world and the contrasting gloom we feel as we look at the condition of our protected areas may be illustrated by the state of national park ranger associations in one of the richest areas on the globe – North America. Despite an abundance of natural and financial resources, the protection of hundreds of nationally recognised natural and cultural sites continues to challenge the countries of Canada and the USA.

The growth of armed criminals at border areas has resulted in the death of rangers and park wardens, with resulting turmoil in both countries about the roles and responsibilities of those carrying firearms. The reduction in federal and state funding at the same time as visitor numbers continue to increase has put enormous pressures on parks. The rangers and wardens who work daily with the public and see the threats to the park areas are feeling that pressure as well.

Compared to countries where rangers may not yet even have uniforms, the rangers in North America seem to have an abundance of resources. Those resources give us our hope and optimism. However, the extensive unmet needs of parks for basic data on the condition of natural and cultural resources, for providing adequate numbers of rangers to protect those resources and to help provide connections to those resources, can also lead us to discouraging thoughts of our future.

The challenges faced by national parks and protected areas are directly reflected in the IRF member associations. North America has three member associations: one in Canada (National Park Wardens Association – NPWA) and two in the USA (California State Park Rangers Association – CSPRA and Association of National Park Rangers – ANPR). For several years the IRF and ANPR have worked with representatives in Mexico to form a ranger association; to date Mexico is without an IRF affiliate.

The Canadian association is young and the membership was shaken by the divisive debate over removal of law enforcement duties from park wardens (leaving only a contract with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to cover all park duties). Now the US National Park Service is being directed to look at contracting out park work and while that is demoralizing for employees, the resulting public outrage is also energizing the ranger association.

The California budget crisis had a direct impact on parks, with new challenges to the ranger association. The lesson for us is that even when a country has a good infrastructure and support of national parks, the work of the ranger association will continue as new needs and threats evolve.
AN EXPERIENCE WHICH CHANGED MY LIFE

By CHRIS ARTHUR
SENIOR RANGER, TASMANIAN PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE

I WAS a hand and machine compositor (typesetter) by trade, 25 years old and training to be an arts and craft teacher when I was asked to raft down the Franklin River, the last river in Tasmania to run wild from its source to the sea. The experience changed my life.

The river came under an environmental threat from a proposed series of four hydro-electric dams. I became involved with the Tasmanian Wilderness Society as a volunteer activist and spent a number of days in prison.

I was involved in managing the High Court case for the Wilderness Society, and after we won I put together the Franklin Blockade Book where 2,500 people took direct action to stop the works for damming of the river and were jailed. A bit burned out, I moved to Hobart and, one day near Christmas 1983, my friend and I wandered into the National Parks & Wildlife Service Tasmania and asked if they had any jobs. I started on the next Monday and now have been a ranger for 20 years.

I grew up in Warrane (a Tasmanian aboriginal word for “blue sky”), an urban environment outside Hobart (Tasmania’s capital city) on the eastern shore of the Derwent River.

In May 1984 I became a relieving ranger for West Tasmania based in Hobart under Chris Eden working at Lake St Clair, Strahan and Hastings. The World Heritage Area bases hadn’t been set up then. Then I moved to the Wild Rivers National Park where the rangers were the life blood of the area, assisting with many things such as helping travellers get through if it snowed, attending car accidents, and providing search and rescue assistance. During this time, whilst rafting down the Franklin River for work, I got stuck in the Great Ravine when the river rose 18 metres/59 feet over a few days – an experience which taught me a lot about myself.

I have also worked on the World Heritage-listed Macquarie Island in the Southern Ocean for seven months in 1992-1993. Here I spent 26 nights in succession spotlighting and destroying introduced domestic cats which had turned feral, spreading myxomatosis virus for rabbit control and dealing with other impacts, but I also had the amazing experience of listening and smelling 350,000 breeding king penguins. The island has now been declared cat-free after the work of almost 40 people over 30 years. It is an environment so dominating and unforgiving.

I have worked all around Tasmania, avoiding the theme-type parks like Cradle Mountain National Park. I worked as the senior ranger in the Furneaux Group of islands off the north-east of Tasmania based on Flinders Island, where I was the major government representative in a community of 700 people whose major interest was fishing and agriculture. I managed the game seasons for the taking of quail, duck, the amateur and professional shearwater harvest and wallaby control for crop protection. Dealing with these taught me to be a down-to-earth, practical person as I had to negotiate with a wide variety of political viewpoints.

On Flinders Island I managed the Cape Barren goose cull of 3,500 animals a year: even though they are the second rarest goose in the world, they are locally abundant.

The locals called me “the Critter”, maybe because I’m fairly short and broad – in fact quite stout. I have a long ginger red beard streaked with white with dark curly hair and wear glasses. They called me that because they never knew where “the Critter” was going to be. I set a very straight line in law enforcement; everybody knew where the line was because I explained it to them.

I strongly believe in the role of a ranger as custodian. We have legislative responsibility to care for our country, it is not for the “now, now, now” generation to use up with their recreational pursuits. The land is there for the next generations to come and continuing biological processes.

One thing I learned at the First IRF Congress in Poland was how little we know about the biological processes in Australia, our landscapes and reserve systems.

We don’t spend much time inventorying processes and seeing what is going on. In Europe, because of the very limited resources and effects of acid rain and such, they’ve got to work out how to work with and manage those small systems that remain.

I have learned rangering on the job and growing with the system without formal qualifications. I really like the flexibility of ranger work. Every day
you could be working on three or four different tasks such as taking out a rescue boat, fighting a fire, assisting injured wildlife or dealing with people in distress.

To me it’s a real career. I never thought it would be, as I just fell into it. I have followed it and grown with it. I believe that we need better skilled generalists.

I have attended three of the four International Rangers’ Congresses. The highlights of the Congresses have been meeting the people. I vividly remember participating in a conversation between myself, a Russian ranger and a Polish ranger about short-tailed shearwaters. In Tasmania we manage the commercial harvest of the chicks but I didn’t realise that the Inuit and Russian people in the Aleutian Islands harvest them as adults as well, where the rangers manage the harvest. The Polish ranger translated from Russian to Polish to English to keep me in the loop.

I visited some rangers whom I met at the Polish Congress as I was on my way to the Costa Rica Congress and stayed with Jeff and Deb Ohlfs.

Jeff is an enforcement ranger at the Joshua Tree National Park and we visited an historical site called Kays Ranch which was fantastic. Just spending time with rangers, observing what they do and why they do it was a real highlight. Jeff’s position is so different to mine in that he has to deal with a firearm culture and be prepared for people to shoot at him or his people.

In Tasmania we do not suffer from intimidation by firearms, but as a parks service we suffer from political and community intimidation through media and personal abuse because we are the protectors of assets which people want to utilise.

I love the work, the people, the environment. I have worked in some of the most special places in Tasmania. It’s a fantastic office, the World Heritage area of South-Western Tasmania has seven out of 10 criteria for world heritage listing.

The South West of Tasmania still calls to me. I love that type of country where the mountains meet the sedgelands and buttongrass plains. It has a real mystique about it. You’ve got to take your time walking in it, learn its moods. You can get caught between two flooded rivers and have to wait it out. It teaches you slowly.
RANGER TRAINING IN THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

By TONY SISTO, ANPR

In June, the weather can be almost perfect in the capital city of Tbilisi: warm, a bit humid, but embodying all of the aspects of a perfect Mediterranean climate.

It was into such a summer that four park rangers from the United States arrived to begin a two-week training programme with the rangers of Lagodekhi and Vashlovani National Parks. Working through the United States Department of the Interior’s International Technical Assistance Programme (ITAP), ranger Bill Supernaugh, superintendent of Badlands National Park in the United States, led the team in a two-part training programme of 26 ranger-students.

The first programme, conducted at Lagodekhi, taught law enforcement skills to prevent poaching and apprehend poachers. The second, conducted at Vashlovani, taught search-and-rescue techniques for lost people. Georgi Asatiani, Director of the Department of Protected Areas, helped co-ordinate the training.

ITAP, funded through USAID, has been involved in protected area training in the Republic of Georgia since 1999. It is one of the several training areas that the ITAP becomes involved in at the request of the host country. Beyond providing requested training and equipment to world protected area staff, it helps give the instructors a significant look at the common issues and challenges facing rangers around the world. In fact, many United States parks have become “Sister Parks” with other parks around the world. As Bill Supennaugh writes:

“A field trip to Vashlovani National Park and Reserve allowed the students to practise their tracking skills and reinforce many of the classroom subjects covered earlier. This sister park to our own northern Great Plains, semi-arid Badlands National Park exhibited many of the geological and ecological similarities which contribute to this pairing. The presence of fresh wolf tracks in the riverbed where we conducted our training added to our appreciation for this wild landscape.”

The instructors and students, in the eight days of training in both parks, conducted a mixture of classroom and field training. Classroom training, often in the mornings, consisted of appropriate field techniques in investigating a crime scene such as poaching. In the afternoons, students went into the field and investigated a re-created crime scene, where they were to secure the scene, investigate and record the often minute clues which can eventually lead to a poacher’s arrest.

Search and rescue often embodies the same types of skills: looking for clues, in this case of a person’s disappearance. Where were they last seen and who saw them? What were they carrying/wearing which could leave scraps of evidence in the woods? What aspects of people’s behaviour — either poachers or lost people — can lead rangers to successfully locate them? How can proper interview techniques of witnesses or suspects lead to an arrest or a rescue?

Using these training skills, plus the use of technical equipment such as Global Positioning System units (GPS), students were introduced to the world of both technical and intuitive techniques to solve either problem. For instance, Bill Supernaugh reported one session in which:

“A person unknown to the students was prepared and sent to the Khornabuji Castle field exercise site, a few kilometres north of Dedopleskaro, with instructions to ‘get lost’. A second person arrived at the meeting room and reported his friend overdue. The host park manager, Paata Khumarashvili of Vashlovani, who served as incident commander, organised the students. After a three-hour exercise involving search teams, tracking techniques, clue collection and analysis, the lost person was located and a critique was conducted in the field.”

The training team and students ended the training with graduation programmes, in which the equipment used during the course, including the GPS units, was distributed to the parks for future use.

The training, hopefully, will pay benefits in the long term to Georgian rangers. But the United States rangers gained as much, if not more. Through living with local families, and enjoying their evening meals and friendships, the rewards of such acceptance by a hospitable and culturally rich people were beyond measure. The realisation that rangers around the world struggle in often harsh conditions to preserve and protect the important places of the world only increased their resolve to continue to do the same in the United States. Although they realised that US rangers in their jobs are relatively fortunate to be able to enjoy the fruits of a prosperous age, and a broad
US park rangers with their Georgian counterparts during the two-week training programme.

public support of park and protected areas, the forces which threaten the work of rangers are always there, either through individuals or political ideologies and systems.

The four US rangers — Bill Supernaugh, Ken Mabery, Eric Inman and Eddy Pausch — are deeply grateful to the people and rangers of the Republic of Georgia for enriching their lives through this training experience.

Through governmental agencies, such as the ITAP programme in the United States, and other similar training programmes from NGOs around the world, this collaboration and training through shared experiences can continue.

* as reported by rangers Bill Supernaugh and Eric Inman.

INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION CONSULTANCY LTD

IRFC was formed in 1991 as the trading arm of the International Ranger Federation to provide professional services to protected area managers and those employing rangers. The aim of the company is to improve the management of protected areas globally through the support of the rangers on the ground and to provide practical assistance to fulfil the stated aim of IRF to improve the professional standards of rangers world-wide.

IRFC uses professional rangers and managers from an extensive database of experienced and expert people to provide training services, to organise conferences, seminars and international study tours, and to provide ranger manuals and training guides for a wide range of clients.

Ranger training has been completed in Butrint National Park in Albania and the Awacachi Corridor Community Project in Ecuador. A study of Countryside Management Services in Wales is nearing completion. A study tour of national parks and other protected areas in England was successfully organised for personnel from protected areas in Russia. The annual Conference of the Countryside Management Association for England and Wales is currently being organised for September 2003, and IRFC will be responsible for the IRF 5th World Congress to be held in Scotland in 2006.

On behalf of IRF, IRFC personnel also worked with the Europarc Federation to establish the 2002 Junior Ranger programmes in six European countries — a programme which has been extended in 2003. Similarly IRFC personnel represent IRF in the TOPAS (Training of Protected Area Staff) project in partnership with more than 20 other organisations across Europe.

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WORKING WITH THE NEIGHBOURS

By SEAN PRENDERGAST, CHIEF RANGER, PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK, ENGLAND

ENGLISH National Parks are sometimes thought of as a contradiction in terms by rangers from other countries who work in state-owned, often pristine eco-systems.

English National Parks are not nationally owned. People live, work and play in them. Conservation often competes with pressures from agriculture, social need and recreation. Yet we have somehow managed to develop a system that, on the whole, works and works well.

Consider this statistic. Out of every 100 people on this planet, one of them lives in Great Britain. That makes for a very crowded island. This population is, however, concentrated in the industrialised areas of England.

The Peak District National Park is surrounded by huge conurbations and strategic transport links cut across it. Almost half the population of the country lives within two hours’ drive or, to put it another way, 0.5% of the world’s population is within striking distance if they want a day out. On some summer Sundays it feels like they do! Our annual visitor numbers total over 22 million day visits per year. Of these more than 90% come by car.

In spite of that 31% of the Park is Special Area of Conservation (SAC), 35% Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) and 32% Special Protection Area (SPA), the highest national and European nature conservation designations possible.

Although the southern part of the park possesses some of the most desirable agricultural areas in the UK we have managed to secure about 1,800 farm conservation agreements since 1988. We have also helped forge a link between agriculture and the environment through a range of national and local schemes. We have achieved this by involving and working with others: other agencies, statutory bodies, non-Government organisations, Government departments, but most of all, by working with people.

Our Mission statement is: “Working together, to care for a living landscape for all.” The last phrase “for all” is worthy of a little more examination. Aside from the bodies and agencies, the individual people we work with tend to fall into three distinct groupings:

- people who live within the park; farmers, local communities and local schools – helping them to care for the very essence of what makes their area special.
- visitors to the park, such as climbers, walkers, cyclists, and a whole host of others who use the park for recreation as well as the many naturalists, to whom the park is a wonderful resource, and quite literally in many cases, on their doorstep.
- those outside the park who would not normally visit – disadvantaged groups, whether by ethnicity, economic, social or other deprivation.

Taking the statement “National Parks are for all” at more than face value forces us to consider how we provide our service, both to the environment and to society as whole. It is not enough to go about our daily duties safe in the knowledge that we are doing a good job and being reassured of that by others who have similar backgrounds and aspirations.

How relevant is that to the person in the inner city? To the resident of the sink estate, or the single parent struggling by on state benefits? These people and their needs are just as important as those who have been luckier in life. The close proximity of large populations, as we have in the Peak District, means they are neighbours we ignore at our peril. If people and, more particularly our neighbours, do not understand the relevance and need for National Parks and Protected Areas, they will not support them. We will be seen as irrelevant and a luxury rather than an essential.

This then is the challenge we have to face – making the park relevant, and in doing so making everyone feel that they are stakeholders. First we must accept that we are not just building support for ourselves, we are also spreading a wider environmental message. We need to recognise that people can support something in a passive way and that it is dangerous to be judgemental about the personal values, aspirations and wants of others. People who choose not to visit National Parks may have perfectly valid reasons for not wanting to do so. It is not for us to judge whether that is right or wrong. Who is to say what is normal?
Instead we have to seek out barriers people are facing and remove them. In doing so we are ensuring that anyone who chooses not to come is making a genuine choice and not one that has been forced upon them by lack of knowledge or opportunity.

If we can get the National Park message across to all sectors of society then we increase support, whether that be passive, in the form of appreciation for what we do, or active, from people who have moved from the third group we identified into the second; recreationists, or naturalists.

Having justified the why we move onto the how. There are many techniques for interpretation practised around the world. Invariably, however, they rely upon the person to whom the area or place is being interpreted as being present in it. When the target group may not have even been to the National Park and has little or no idea of what we are trying to do the situation is slightly more complex. So we rangers have travelled into the inner cities to tell the people what we have to offer.

We are trying to invoke the feeling of being a stakeholder, the feeling that the National Park belongs to them just as much as anyone else. They have the same right to share the aims and philosophy of National Parks and to experience the special qualities that they have to offer.

With this in mind we need first to recognise our own shortcomings. In the Peak District Ranger Service we identified one of the first barriers to progress as understanding. It is hard to accept at first, but our own life experiences are somewhat narrow. How can we understand what people in inner city areas want unless we empathise through at least some shared experience? If we try to create opportunities without understanding the feelings, aspirations and relative values of the target groups, then at best we are being patronising and at worst engaging in social engineering.

To try to counter this we have a programme of work shadowing, where each area ranger develops a continuing working relationship with a disadvantaged group from an inner city area. The range of groups involved varies widely as do their relative needs, but what is as important is that the rangers gain a different perspective. Each ranger is obliged as part of their individual work programme to spend a minimum of five working days per year with the group, whether in the National Park or in the area they come from.

They often spend more time than this and while it is recognised that it isn't a huge amount of time it does expose rangers to other life experiences and values which in turn feeds into their work. This is not a one-off pilot or even something carried out
by a project officer. It is a genuine attempt to understand our neighbours, to see how they see us and to find out what we can do to make them feel part of what we are trying to achieve.

We also run a travelling roadshow, which regularly visits around 30 groups, such as play schemes, after school groups, youth schemes and even some schools, and heightens awareness not only of the National Park, but also the wider environment within their own areas. This is all in addition to the Area Ranger contacts and indeed the National Parks School Visits Service, which operates from Losehill Hall in the park.

We try to make sure our publicity is as widely spread as possible using a variety of media and awareness events, in partnership with the network of environmental organisations, which operate in the surrounding conurbations. We have also managed to tailor our everyday activities to ensure that they are naturally inclusive, a good example being our walks with a ranger programme.

One of the biggest challenges to enjoying the park is personal mobility. If you don’t have a car your choices become limited. To counter this we try to promote use of the public transport system to our walks and events. Happily this also ties in with our wider environmental objectives. We desperately wish to reduce the figure of 90% who visit by car. Increased use of public transport makes the routes themselves more economically viable. User confidence grows and better services result. The whole process builds upon its own success and the real winner is the environment itself as vehicle numbers and their accompanying emissions are reduced. Nearly all of our programme of walks is now accessible by public transport with the only exceptions tending to be the specialised ones that entail a “walk-in.”

I have tried to present an English perspective in this article. Inherent within it, however, are generic values which are common throughout the world. Many examples exist in the developing world where parks try to involve local communities as stakeholders. The barriers to be overcome are the same in Africa as they are in Latin America and even as they are in Sheffield or Manchester.

The reason why people can feel excluded has to be first recognised and then addressed. People who understand and feel an affinity with a protected area will themselves become protectors of it. Whether the aim is to combat illegal logging, counter poaching or even just generate political support, no group in society is so unimportant that they can be overlooked and their active participation not sought after!
USA

Rangers' bravery praised
TWO climbers injured when lightning struck their group while climbing the 4197m (13,770 ft) Exum Ridge in Grand Teton National Park later praised the bravery of rangers who mounted a dramatic airborne rescue.

The drama began when a lightning bolt hit and killed 25-year-old Erica Summers and caused injury to five other members of her 13-member party. Rodrigo Liberal was seriously injured and left dangling upside down in his harness while Reagan Lambke and Jacob Bancroft were blasted 60 feet off the rock face suffering numerous injuries.

Mobile phone calls by their companions sparked off a rescue operation involving eight rangers who used two helicopters to reach the injured before darkness fell.

After his release from hospital Jacob Bancroft said: "Without the rangers and their expertise, I probably wouldn't be here now. The people who do that job are true heroes."

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Armando Bermúdez National Park, Ramón María Espinal
"An aircraft crashed at 2800m (8400 ft) above sea level, near the Pico Duarte, and I was sent to search for it. I found it late in the afternoon, and receiving an order to stay there, I prepared myself for the coldest night of my life.

I did not have a jacket, so before losing all feeling in my fingers, I decided to lie under the corpses... Dead people saved my life."

AUSTRALIA

Watarrka National Park, Kristen Appel
During October and November 2002 we had a fire started by three lightning strikes. Fire is normally never a big problem for us because this is a desert, but unusually good rains had resulted in much denser grass growth and this fire was terrible.

Our main concern was a rare and endangered population of rufous hare-wallaby maintained in a 1km square (247 acres) enclosure. Suddenly the fire entered the enclosure. Fire and smoke were everywhere... We thought all was lost!

But when the fire passed we saw the miracle: of the nearly 200 hare-wallabies almost all were alive. We only found four carcasses.

SCOTLAND, Laura Black
Well, it seemed like a good idea at the time. Easy, we thought. Raise money for those good ol' rangers in Slovakia, Bolivia and Nigeria, by cycling west to east from Kirkintilloch to Ratho, 40 miles, a piece of cake... But there were two flat tyres, 21 missed calls for help and a mile-long pitch black tunnel.

For the last ten miles happy talk had been reduced to grunting, especially when the rain started.

But it was a brilliant day, and money was raised!

ANTARCTICA

Orcadas Base, Argentina, Salvador Vellido
Thanks to an idea suggested by rangers in 1992, there is an agreement between the National Parks Administration and the National Antarctic Directorate of Argentina, that every year one, two or three rangers stay up to one year in two bases: Orcadas and Esperanza.

Here we do monitoring and environmental education with the staff of the bases.

We are very proud of helping in this way on the White Continent.

MOZAMBIQUE

Gorongosa National Park, Roberto Zolho,
Last week a lion was seen between the road and the Park Headquarters. We have impala, waterbuck, plenty of warthog, and even some elephant, kudu and hippo's left.

Some years from now this park will be back to what it was before 15 years of war. Did you know that 16 years ago nobody left Gorongosa without seeing lions?

RUSSIA

Ust-Lenski Sapovednik, Peter Prokosch
Valeri Michaelovich spent many days in his small boat guiding a team of western Europeans and Russians over the largest protected area in the Russian Arctic.

So was undertaken the first comprehensive inventory of the Lena Delta's birdlife, which found millions of nesting waders, ducks, swans and geese.

NEW ZEALAND

Chatham Islands, Steve Sawyer
I like diving with sharks very much, but on one occasion I landed on the back of a great white shark when it unexpectedly swam out under my boat as I was diving into the water.

I now know what walking on water is like. You can do it when you need to.

CANADA

Riding Mountain National Park, Mark Kochems
There is a routine following the seasonal variations. April brings showers and antler poachers. May and June heralds the return of seasonal staff and training sessions. In July and August the campground is full. September brings the poaching season and highway and backcountry patrols are common place. October is the month for the prescribed burn program. In November we continue horse patrols of ten to twelve hours on horseback. In December it is the elk and moose hunting season and in January and February we deal mainly with meat hunters, and also do mammal monitoring. March is a training month for most of us.

Somewhere in South America:
"What is this tree useful for?" asked an interested visitor.
"And what are YOU useful for?" replied the ranger.

Then an interpretive talk began to show visitors we are not the centre of the universe.
RANGER COMPETENCIES

AS AGREED AT THIRD WORLD RANGER CONGRESS
IN KRUGER NATIONAL PARK 2000

BACKGROUND:
The International Ranger Federation (IRF) and all its affiliates have become extremely concerned about the inadequate capacity of rangers in many countries to provide appropriate protection of the heritage resources of their countries. Even some World Heritage sites will cease to exist as conservation areas unless immediate and effective action is taken.

In addition to the many other problems that exist in many of the world's protected areas (PAs), the insufficient competence of rangers ranks as a major reason that conserving these critical resources is not keeping pace with the necessity to do so.

The International Planning Committee (IPC) of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has planned the programme for the 5th World Protected Areas Congress to be held in Durban, South Africa in 2003. The theme of this Congress is “Benefits Beyond Boundaries.”

The IPC has identified several sub-theme topics, including “New Skills for a New Century – Capacity Building.” It describes this sub-theme as:

Improving capacity at every level to deliver better-planned and managed PAs. This issue will examine the skills, attributes and support systems needed for the PA decision-makers and practitioners of tomorrow.

Possible workshop topics: defining skill needs for the 21st century; cross-sector skills and experience; institutional capacity and flexibility; PA manager training; management support systems which lift capacity; managing change; capacity building for managing partners; leadership development; capacity building for marine PA managers.

The IRF believes that in addition to efforts focused on improvements of capacity for protected area managers, that substantial enhancement of ranger competence to safeguard protected area resources is crucial to providing benefits, both within and beyond protected area boundaries. Accordingly, it is the intent of the IRF to present this resolution to the World Parks Congress for its consideration.

ASSUMPTIONS:
Because of the potentially huge scope of the issue of competence of Rangers worldwide, the IRF has chosen to consider that there are three primary levels of rangers, in terms of competence:

- Entry or novice level.
- Full performance (sometimes referred to as “professional” or “journeyman”) level.
- Master level.

The IRF believes that the most significant current deficiency is the “full performance” level of Ranger competence. Accordingly, this resolution will be directed exclusively to that need.

The IRF recognises that there exists considerable diversity in the environments, complexities, and institutional requirements and constraints among the protected areas of the world; therefore, any attempt to identify universal ranger competence needs must be open for adjustment to meet these differences.

The IRF assumes in proposing the knowledge, skills/abilities that follow, that infrastructure and equipment relevant to the needs of professional rangers either exists or that its acquisition is being pursued through other avenues.

The IRF assumes that some of the listed knowledge and skills/abilities are “transferable” in that they may have application to more than the category in which they might be listed.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the International Ranger Federation (IRF) recognises that the capacity of rangers in many protected areas in the world is inadequate to effectively prevent the decline of heritage resources because the competence of rangers in these areas is deficient; and, WHEREAS, the IUCN has scheduled a sub-theme pertaining to “capacity building” as part of the 5th World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa, September 16-25, 2002; Be it therefore RESOLVED: That the IRF prevails on the organizers of, and delegates to the 5th World Parks Congress, in addition to their other intents and purposes, to undertake whatever means and methods might be available to them to increase the capacity of professional rangers in the “full performance” or “journeyman” level to acquire “essential universal competence” consisting of the knowledge and skills/abilities identified in the attached addendum.
ADDENDUM

The International Ranger Federation has identified the following knowledge and skills/abilities as “universal essential competence” for rangers at the fully professional or journeyman level to effectively safeguard protected area resources and to provide fundamental information and education to visitors and the public.

1. Basic Ecology and Conservation:
   • Knowledge of:
     - The principles, functions and processes of natural and cultural landscapes, to include and recognise humans and their role in influencing landscapes.
     - What is natural
     - Methods and mechanisms of self-discovery.
   Basic monitoring and measuring techniques.
   • Skill/ability to:
     - Observe and detect changes in the landscape and take appropriate conservation action, including recording, reporting and, as appropriate, managing.

2. Ensuring Ecosystem Integrity (Resource Protection, Legislative Purpose/Framework and Relationship of Protected Area to other Relevant Resources):
   • Knowledge of:
     - Relevant and applicable international, national, state, cultural, strategies, treaties, laws, conventions and policies.
   • Skill/ability to:
     - Enforce existing legislation appropriately; while exercising personal safety and protection of others.
     - Exercise legislative and administrative procedures and processes, including collection of information and preparation for court, etc.

3. Interpretation, Education and Information:
   • Knowledge of:
     - Philosophy of interpretation and education as to their importance and their roles in safeguarding protected area resources.
     - Methods and techniques of interpretation and education.
   • Skill/ability to:
     - Communicate effectively using a wide range of methods, and at a professional and global level.

4. Relationships with all Relevant Communities, and Other Stakeholders:
   • Knowledge of:
     - Who the neighbours and those living in the protected areas are and what knowledge and expectations they have (their culture).
     - Local political agendas, and “key players” in the communities.
   • Skill/ability to:
     - Demonstrate political, social and cultural sensitivity and tolerance.
     - Involve and integrate the communities in issues of managing the protected area.
     - Listen effectively and engage in facilitation, conflict resolution and problem solving.

5. Technology and Infrastructure Maintenance:
   • Knowledge of:
     - How it works, what it does and how it should be maintained.
   • Skill/ability to:
     - Manage, maintain and safely operate a range of infrastructure and equipment.

6. Emergency Responses:
   • Knowledge of:
     - How to care for oneself and safely travel in wild or undeveloped areas characteristic of the protected area.
     - Emergency procedures pertaining to people, flora and fauna, etc.
     - Interagency responsibilities.
     - Agency responsibilities and limits of one’s responsibilities.
     - The leadership/management structure and hierarchy relevant to a particular emergency.
   • Skill/ability to:
     - Respond appropriately to emergencies and incidents characteristic of one’s protected area, including such things as search, rescue, fire suppression, first aid, and environmental and natural disasters.

7. Office, Project and Financial Management and Operational Planning:
   • Knowledge of:
     - Basic business principles.
     - Basic office skills such as filing, correspondence, etc.
     - Applicable and appropriate reporting procedures.
     - Relevant administrative procedures.
   • Skill/ability to:
     - Write effectively.
     - Management of budgets and projects, including preparation, monitoring, evaluating and reviewing.
     - Demonstrate how, where and what to plan, implement, evaluate and update or revise.

8. Workplace Communication and Relations:
   • Knowledge of:
     - Tenets of human resource management.
     - Team participation.
   • Skill/ability to:
     - Operate effectively as a member of a team.
THE terms “sustainable development” and “heritage interpretation” are two of the newest being used in conservation. For that reason there’s no one set definition so let’s start with two definitions of each. Sustainable development or sustainability is defined as:

1. Improving the quality of life while living within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems. (World Conservation Strategy, IUCN, 1980)
2. Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (Our Common Future, Oxford University Press, 1987).

The profession of heritage interpretation is growing throughout the world. The heritage part means interpreters are working in protected areas that care for both natural and cultural heritage resources. Interpretation is defined as:

3. A communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the inherent meanings in the resource. (National Association for Interpretation [USA] web site: http://www.interpmet.net.org).
4. A means of communicating ideas and feelings which help people understand more about themselves and their environment. (Interpretation Australia web site: http://www.interpretationaustralia.asn.au)

Many working in conservation see sustainable development as key to meeting our needs in this generation while also protecting limited resources for the future. Heritage interpreters have a special responsibility to provide their audiences with opportunities to learn and to carry out sustainable development practices.

To increase understanding and implementation of sustainable development practices, a professional interpreter applies the following eleven principles. The first principles apply to all interpretation, while the second set refers to specific focus on the impact interpreters can have with sustainable development.

Practices the fundamentals of high quality interpretation:

1. Develops an in-depth knowledge of the natural or cultural protected area that is being interpreted and applies that knowledge to build a range of relevant messages/compelling stories.
2. Develops an in-depth knowledge of the audience. Recognises the perceptions, experience and knowledge of the audience members and develops the interpretive project with respect for a diversity of audiences, including those with cultural, age and gender differences.
3. Applies effective communication techniques: develops clear objectives, organises each program or product around a central relevant idea or ideas, plans for all aspects of the project and evaluates the success of the interpretive work.
4. Provides the audience members with multiple opportunities to find their own connections between the interpretive messages/interpretive experiences and their daily lives and motivations, thus providing the stimulation to reflect on their lifestyle.
5. Recognises that it is inspiration, passion and emotion that often drive action.
6. Uses specific local sites, applies practical hands-on and active methods and involves multiple senses.

Encourages and models sustainable development practices:

7. Incorporates sustainability principles throughout interpretive programs/projects and develops with audience members ideas for actions that are practical and realistic locally while considering broader or global impacts.
8. Plans all aspects of interpretative events in a way that demonstrate sustainable development principles.
9. Uses materials from suppliers who exhibit responsible actions that support sustainable development.
10. Strengthens the capacity of people to be involved in the decision making process about lifestyle and development.
11. Demonstrates an honest, ethical and clear approach to sustainability.

Prepared as a proposal for an international conference about sustainable development and heritage interpretation by the Danish Nature Interpretation Service in co-operation with the IRF, IUCN and Heritage Interpretation International. Discussed, adapted and accepted at the IRF’s 4th World Congress in Australia, March 2003. These “Shared Principles for Heritage Interpreters promoting sustainable development” will be followed by a handbook, with examples of “best practice”.

SHARED PRINCIPLES: HERITAGE INTERPRETERS PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION
ZAKOPANE DECLARATION, MAY 1995

WE, the delegates here assembled in Zakopane, Poland, at the first International Ranger Federation Congress, representing rangers from 35 nations on six continents, do hereby declare our commitment to the following principles:

- That, as principal guardians of the world's premier natural and cultural protected areas, we are uniquely positioned and qualified to monitor their health, assess their problems and extrapolate current trends into probable futures;
- That, unless circumstances change, these natural and cultural areas under our charge will in many cases continue to slowly but inexorably decline;
- That the rangers charged with protecting these areas play a distinctive role in identifying problems associated with this decline and proposing practical solutions to them;
- That these rangers also have a fundamental role in explaining the importance of natural and cultural resources to the public, thereby awakening in them the essential desire and interest in conserving them for future generations;
- That these rangers are involved in complex and highly important tasks in preservation of natural and cultural resources, but lack recognition of the importance of these tasks from the governments which employ them;
- That the majority of these rangers live in very difficult conditions, lack adequate institutional support and resources, receive meagre salaries and take significant personal and professional risks to protect these invaluable sites, which constitute core elements of the world's natural and cultural heritage;
- That they all too often sacrifice their lives in their commitment to protection of this heritage;
- And that, for all these reasons, we are firmly committed to seeking greater recognition and attention to their work, to their well-being and to the critical status of the heritage that they protect and defend, and will exert ourselves in a concerted effort to resolve these problems, enlisting in this the support of the people and governments of this Earth.

INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION
SAN JOSÉ DECLARATION, SEPT. 1997

WE, the delegates here assembled in San José, Costa Rica, at the Second International Ranger Federation Congress, representing rangers from 41 nations on six continents, do hereby declare our commitment to the following principles regarding the practice and application of sustainable development in the world's parks and protected areas:

- That the world's parks and protected areas represent the last vestiges of our common natural and cultural heritage, and, as such, are unique, invaluable and irreplaceable;
- That, as principal guardians of these areas, we are uniquely positioned and qualified to implement, evaluate and advise on the effectiveness of sustainable development;
- That sustainable development — that is, the practice of satisfying the needs of the present without compromising the legacy of the future — can be an effective tool, if properly utilised, for simultaneously protecting the world's natural and cultural heritage and accommodating the needs of indigenous and other peoples living in and around parks and protected areas;
- That sustainable development also provides an effective tool for increasing public support for parks and protected areas, critical to the future protection of these often fragile areas;
- That it is nonetheless of paramount importance to assure that the integrity of parks and protected areas are not compromised by improper application of sustainable practices, as these areas represent a tiny and diminishing fraction of the world's natural and cultural heritage;
- That the practice of sustainable development should not negatively affect biodiversity and ecological integrity of parks and protected areas, nor be applied to wilderness or highly protected areas, nor compromise the mission and purpose of any park or protected area or portion thereof;
- That the practice of sustainable development should not be employed as a subterfuge to open parks and protected areas to special interests, private or public, which seek to capitalise on their resources for financial, political or other
advantages not in the public interest;

- That the practice of sustainable development should not be employed as a means for replacing rangers and other park professionals, who have the requisite conservation ethic and work in the public interest to protect the public's heritage, with private entities, who lack a similar ethic and mandate;

- That there should be no further loss of protected lands, whether through the improper application of sustainable practices or other causes, as they represent the barest minimum appropriate to the preservation of the world's imperiled natural and cultural diversity, and:

- That, rather, a concerted effort should be made to expand the number, size and variety of parks and protected lands, to strengthen and expand the ranger profession, to protect natural and cultural resources, and to foster a conservation ethic worldwide.

INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION
KRUGER NATIONAL PARK STATEMENT,
SOUTH AFRICA, SEPTEMBER 2000

1. CONTEXT
Rangers are increasingly required to adapt to fast-changing and new conditions in the conservation of protected areas. This change ranges from political uncertainty, to diminishing financial and other resources, increasing pressures on protected areas from people, and global climate change.

The IRF Congress of 2000, comprising delegates from 58 countries, deliberated on these challenges. It reflected on the roles of the ranger and of the IRF in general, and specifically on issues of area integrity, communities, as well as ecotourism and business.

With respect to the issue of area integrity, it was noted that rangers play a critical role in the pursuit of area integrity, which is essential for the ongoing function and success of protected areas. A range of institutional challenges, which threaten area integrity, are faced by rangers around the world, including a lack of political will, the absence of relevant governmental policy and legislation, limited legal recognition of rangers, and difficulties in involving communities in protected area management.

A conducive institutional environment based on partnerships involving government, business and communities can contribute significantly to area integrity. Rangers are also confronted by a need for training, mentoring and knowledge to support their efforts to protect area integrity. Inadequate resources, including limited finances and shortage of other resources such as skilled personnel, bedevil efforts at ensuring area integrity. Threats to biodiversity pose a further distinct challenge to area integrity. These include global warming, the effects of alien invasive species, fire, and a wide array of human activities and impacts.

In its deliberations on the role of rangers with respect to communities, it was noted that parks do not exist as "islands in a sea of humanity". Rangers recognise the need to work with local communities and other stakeholders in planning and managing protected areas to ensure their long-term success. A participatory management approach needs to be put in place to reconcile conflicting activities and to ensure that the benefits from protected areas are shared on a sustainable equitable basis. Ongoing financial support, training and other resources are required to ensure that both rangers and communities can work together effectively. Central to this task is building partnerships that are based on trust, mutual respect and a common understanding of the role and benefits of protected areas.

In discussion of protected areas, ecotourism and business, it was noted that there are diminishing financial resources available to protected areas. There are, however, opportunities which exist in creating income from ecotourism, as well as the potential for increasing efficiency through outsourcing non-core functions. Rangers recognise their general lack of capacity in business management. They are also concerned that the primary role of biodiversity conservation may be negatively affected by business interests.

The overall consideration is the integration of ecotourism and business into conservation management in a way which protects the resources on which these economic benefits can be attained. Key issues which need to be addressed include: business planning skills, conservation development spatial planning, operational visitor servicing and management, ensuring community benefits, managing partnerships in the involvement of the private sector and communities, and marketing.
2. RESOLUTIONS

Having noted its changing context, the IRF recognised the critical role of rangers in protected area management. It reaffirmed its mission to empower rangers to deal with new and significant challenges. It reaffirmed that as a federation it needed to continue to play four key roles, namely:

**Leadership:** The IRF must continue to play a leadership role in setting a vision for rangers, providing specific direction through communicating best practice and in building the confidence of rangers to deal with current-day and future challenges. More specifically it resolved to:
- Promote the status and profile of rangers globally;
- Promote the development of national ranger associations.

**Lobbying:** The IRF must continue to lobby key international and country-based decision-makers to promote the role of the ranger, as well as secure the future and improve the overall status and management of protected areas. More specifically it resolved to:
- Make use of international forums which promote protected areas, including the IUCN World Parks Conference in 2002, and the World Commission for Protected Areas;
- Lobby, where appropriate, national governments to legally recognise rangers and their professional status, as well as accord them appropriate powers in law and decision making at the highest level;
- Lobby for political support for the work of rangers;
- Promote linkages between national governmental authorities and rangers;
- Initiate a diversified communications strategy, including a media liaison strategy and the development of an IRF website.

**Training:** The IRF must continue to facilitate the skills development of rangers to enable them to implement best practice. More specifically it resolved to:
- Establish a set of international standards for ranger training;
- Co-ordinate programmes for the training of rangers, and provide information on training resources;
- Seek to extend the European Ranger Training Project globally;
- Pursue the establishment of mentoring programmes for rangers.

**Networking:** The IRF must continue to act as a catalyst for continual improvement in protected area management by expanding its current networking function. More specifically it resolved to:
- Promote linkages with other international organisations engaged in related activities;
- Exchange information and knowledge about their work;
- Promote and facilitate ranger exchange programmes.

**Area Integrity:** In an effort to promote and ensure area integrity, the IRF resolved to:
- Endorse and promote international agreements aimed at the protection of biodiversity;
- Encourage the monitoring of key indicators of biodiversity;
- Facilitate a study to establish the economic value of protected areas;
- Promote policies which seek to retain, at source, fees earned within protected areas;
- Promote the adoption of international, national and local agreements aimed at preventing habitat loss;
- Actively support the promotion of trans-boundary protected areas;
- Establish guidelines for the preparation of management plans for protected areas;
- Continue to pursue the establishment of a United Nations Green Helmet initiative.

**Communities and the Ranger:** In an effort to promote and ensure that an effective partnership is developed between rangers and local communities and other stakeholders, the IRF resolved to:
- Channel donor funds to park-community projects which are sustainable;
- Establish a global fund to finance alternatives to conflicting uses;
- Develop and implement a training programme which promotes ranger-community partnerships, with a specific focus on cultural sensitivity and community needs and interests;
- Develop and disseminate standards and guidelines for community involvement;
- Facilitate the exchange of best practice on community involvement;
- Establish an inter-cultural relations support committee.

**Business and Ecotourism:** In an effort to promote and ensure that ecotourism and business in protected areas meets the objective of sustainable development, the IRF resolved to:
- Communicate the internationally accepted definition of sustainable ecotourism;
- Promote park-community-business partnerships;
- Encourage the private sector to invest in ecotourism;
- Encourage proper planning and evaluation of ecotourism activities.
MEMORANDUM FOR A CONTINENTAL AFRICA UNDERSTANDING WITHIN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE GAME RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA AND THE INTERNATIONAL RANGERS FEDERATION ACCORD AND STATUTES PROTOCOL

We, the Rangers of Africa present at the 3rd World Congress IRF 2000, at Berg en Dal, Kruger National Park, South Africa, on this day, 16 September 2000, hereby agree as follows:

1. INTRODUCTION

Given that the Game Rangers Association of Africa is the representative body for rangers in Africa on the International Ranger Federation and that, during the International Ranger Federation 2000 Congress held from 11-17 September 2000, the Game Rangers Association of Africa members agreed to the following protocol:

1.1 That continental Africa could be divided into five regions, these being North Africa, Central Africa, East Africa, West Africa and Southern Africa.

1.2 That within these regions national associations are formed as chapters within the regions, under the umbrella of the Game Rangers Association of Africa.

2. OBJECTIVE

The spirit of the Protocol is to formulate a positive element of collaboration and increased co-operation for the sustainable long term conservation of Africa's unique and diverse natural and cultural heritage, participating within the Constitution of the Game Rangers Association of Africa and that the level of commitment assumes logistical capabilities and the will of the parties. Where required the Game Rangers Association of Africa may assist in developing the necessary capacity within its means.

Within this Protocol

2.1 A structure of National and Regional Associations will be formed which would be affiliated to the Game Rangers Association of Africa.

2.2 Communication with the International Ranger Federation, IUCN, WCPA and other key role players will be through the Game Rangers Association of Africa.

2.3 It is recognised that a resource base may need to be developed, and that the Game Rangers Association of Africa may be requested to assist in sourcing the required resources within its means, in so far as:

2.3.1 Funding

2.3.2 Technical advice

2.3.3 Co-operation and collaboration

2.3.4 Training

2.3.5 Database and information exchange, including data on protected areas in Africa

2.3.6 Constitutional and legal establishment of associations.

3. TIME FRAME

This Protocol would hold for the duration of establishment of properly constituted national associations. During this period regular assessment would be appropriate.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN IUCN WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS AND THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION.

Regarding co-operation between the above parties in respect of their work relating to protected areas around the world:

Whereas IUCN has assigned to its World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) the task of promoting the establishment and effective management of protected areas, and that the WCPA is organised on a regional basis worldwide;

Whereas the International Ranger Federation (IRF) is the organisation representing rangers worldwide through a network of national ranger associations and governed by an International Executive Committee (IEC) representing each of the continents:

The two parties to this memorandum are agreed to co-operate as follows:

1. To develop links between the WCPA Regions, Themes and Task Forces and the continental representatives (IEC members) of the Federation in respect of initiatives that directly affect the work of rangers in the respective continents.

2. To investigate the means by which we can jointly raise professional standards of rangers involved with protected area management.

3. That they will invite each other to their respective World Conferences and provide for representation from each organisation at them and at any other meetings as mutually agreed.

In order to ensure effective co-operation, WCPA and IRF will:

• meet annually to review progress in the implementation of this memorandum;

• explore joint activities of mutual benefit and participate in joint initiatives.

The basis of the co-operation between the two parties will be the joint use of their complementary networks, knowledge, approaches and skills to help develop and support protected areas around the world, while respecting each other's separate identity, distinctive character and individual programme.
THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PERSONS AND ORGANISATIONS FOR CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS THE IRF PRESENCE AT THE WORLD PARKS CONGRESS:

The following organizations for funding Rangers to attend WPC:
• Turner Foundation Website: www.turnerfoundation.org
• World Conservation Union (IUCN) Website: www.iucn.org
• UNEP/Great Ape Survival Project (GRASP) Website: www.unep.org/grasp
• International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) Website: www.ifaw.org
• UNESCO World Heritage Centre Website: www.unesco.org/whc
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• XON Systems, Mpumalanga - for computers and peripherals during WPC. Contact: nico@xonmpu.co.za Website: www.xonmpu.co.za
• SoftNet Internet services - for internet service provision during WPC. Contact: david@soft.co.za Website: www.soft.co.za

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*The Bulletin’s editorial team have been happy to assist the International Ranger Federation with the production of this special edition of The Thin Green Line.
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