

The Thin Green Line

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

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

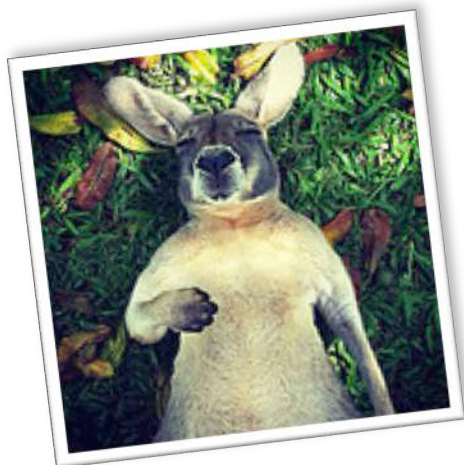


Volume 28, Jan 2015-Mar 2015

Calendar of Events

22-26 May
2016

8th World Ranger
Congress
Estes Park, Colorado,



From the President

Sean Willmore

President

International Ranger Federation

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Can you believe it's already April 2015, and The World Parks Congress is already 6 Months in our rear view mirrors! In that time I've had a good three months break and also got married to my wonderful wife Monika, whom I met in Europe through our ranger family! Life certainly has an interesting way of unfolding. Thanks to Wayne Lotter, our VP, and Tegan for taking the reins during my leave and the

Continued from the President....

rest of the executive (and volunteers such as our editor Nicola) on keeping projects moving in general and within their regions. Without these dedicated people serving on the IEC and all the rangers that serve in their ranger associations, there simply is no IRF. Thanks to all of those rangers who volunteer their time and supporters who make the IRF's work possible.

It's an exciting time for the International Ranger Federation and Rangers in general. The IUCN World Parks Congress showed us all that the world is acknowledging and wanting to support the critical work and role that Park Rangers play in the conservation and preservation of our planet and our wider natural world.

In our last bumper newsletter many covered the amazing presence and meetings that occurred at the IUCN World Parks Congress, and I really enjoyed reading everyone's thoughts and experiences. In this Presidents Report I will revert back to that monumental event for us as rangers, as there are some incredible people and groups I need to thank, and share some special stories. I'll also touch on some exciting projects going forward as we already have the The 8th World Ranger Congress in Colorado on our radar.

I believe The IUCN World Parks Congress held in Sydney last September to be a landmark moment for rangers across the world. We had over 240 rangers attend out of the 5000+ delegates, and the whole IRF IEC was able to be there. This was a major step up though as some elders of the IRF reminded me that 10 years ago in South Africa there was a delegation of 24, and 10 years before that there was one official ranger representative! In Sydney we were lucky to have our pop up International Ranger Station (supported by Parks Victoria and IUCN), which served as a meeting point, lecture theatre and beacon for

all in attendance screaming out "THE RANGERS ARE HERE!"

We had several stirring presentations from sponsored delegates - from Kenya to Brazil, Caribbean to Kazakhstan, and Brazil to Malawi. There were our amazing award winners and their speeches and presentations; Luigi, Max, Jobogo and Tiwonge. There was the Ranger event organised by PAWA, and what a moving event it became, solidifying all rangers present as Solthe from Gabon, pleaded to know who his family was. The answer came as all rangers present stood and gave him a rousing applause- a sign of the ranger spirit and family that runs deep. There were key note addresses (and a pleasure to share the stage with Luvoyo Mandela- Nelson's great grandson), numerous ranger presentations and who could forgot our emotive presence during the Closing Ceremony where our rangers, from every possible region, background and culture formed a guard of honour, as we paid respect to our fallen colleagues in front of 5000 delegates, and later presented and heard from our award winners. These were all amazing and touching moments, and for me one of the biggest signals that rangers are being heard, was when numerous delegates, heads of state, and the head of IUCN (Julia Marton Leferve) all paid respects and acknowledge the importance of supporting Rangers in the field and supporting their families. Our message has cut through and the World was talking about Rangers, often without our direct intervention on many occasions. Rangers were even a key feature of the congress declaration. All of this was possible because of hard work put in by so many since the IRF's inception in 1992, and the continuation of that hard work today.

Continued from the President....

One personal highlight was where I introduced Luigi Eybrecht, our award winning ranger from Bonaire to Luvoyo Mandela, who on hearing Luigi's story looked him square in the eyes and said, "Luigi you are the reason I'm here- it's a highlight of my congress just to meet you and hear your story!"

Everyone involved in making our presence felt during the congress should be heartily congratulated. Thanks to the our major supporter Parks Victoria and its leader Bill Jackson and his staff; to IUCN in particular Julia Marton Leferve, Pedro Rosanbal, Trevor Sandwith and Ernesto Enrich; PAWA and in particular Tegan Burton, Steve Woodall, Chris Pavlich, Michael Treanor and all PAWA reps who hosted us magnificently and shuffled us around, fed us and organised our housing; to our IRF executive and regional reps; to The Thin Green Line Foundation board for supporting \$60,000 towards rangers' attendance, awards and presence, and our incredible Ambassador and supporter Dr Dame Jane Goodall for opening doors and lending her good name to our important work.

But our work is far from done. Perhaps since the IRF's formation in 1992 we've collectively created a window of opportunity that now exists, here and now, we must now jump through this window, to ensure this good will translates into meaningful action on the ground that supports rangers across the globe in a way we have never seen before.

Well it looks like I've taken all my space revelling in the excitement of the World Parks Congress and what it means to us as a family of rangers around the world. Going forward I'm excited to be working with our IEC, associations and partners in helping new associations to join (of which there are many); supporting existing associations to become even more dynamic; supporting ranger projects in the field (stay tuned for a call for submissions for ranger

equipping and supply grants of \$5000-\$20,000), and working with the IEC and World Rangers Congress Organizing committee for WRC Colorado 2016. A big thank you to Nicola Paull who has been our sterling volunteer editor for this newsletter and tolerated our late submissions and in my case my awful rushed spelling! Thank you Nicola.

I'm also excited too that the IRF will be gaining a dedicated paid Executive Officer, via support from IRF's charity arm TTGLF and others set to also support. This will be big help in supporting new and ranger associations, the IEC, working with our partners and our work helping with the WRC in 2016. This will be advertised shortly.

On a final note I would just like to acknowledge that for many rangers the work is often thankless, tiring and often outright dangerous. To those that go that extra mile and also volunteer for the IRF, for your local associations, or for ranger support and advocacy in general, I thank you wholeheartedly. You are allowing the world ranger family to continue come together, to inspire each other, to support each other. And like most families we will have our ups and downs, but in times of doubt I would like you to remember our ranger brother from Gabon, Solthe, who asked, "Who do I turn to, where do I go for support?" He turned with tears in his eyes, as near 200 rangers present from across the globe applauded him and supported him, he said, "I think I can go back to Gabon and tell them we have found our family!"

Kindest Regards to you all, stay safe and more strength to your arms.



From the Vice President

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Thank you to everyone who kept participating in International Ranger Federation (IRF) matters, directly or indirectly, over the past few months and in the absence of President Sean Willmore during his long overdue and well deserved break. Welcome back Sean and sincere congratulations and wishes of a long and happy marriage to you and to Monika!

I have had the opportunity to travel internationally twice over the past few months, to Nepal in February and to the USA during March/April for two weeks. The former trip was to participate in the 'Towards Zero Poaching' Symposium arranged by WWF and the Nepalese government. I represented The Thin Green Line Foundation, PAMS Foundation, and the IUCN WCPA and flew the IRF flag while doing so, during general participation and with giving two formal presentations and co-hosting a workshop with my PAMS Foundation co-director, Krissie Clark. I also participated in a board meeting of the Ranger Federation of Asia (RFA) while there. The RFA is making some meaningful strides and is moving ahead very nicely on some fronts in particular, especially related to generating more support for the "Improving Ranger Welfare and Employment Conditions" project.

All the principle objectives of the different sessions I travelled to the meeting for were accomplished, but of course there is follow up needed to see them through to fruition. I would be happy to communicate directly with anyone who has a particular interest for more details. It was also a real pleasure to be able to meet some local rangers and military involved in wildlife protection on the ground, and to visit Royal Bardia National Park after the Symposium. They are doing a truly exemplary job in protecting Tigers, Rhino, Elephant and other wildlife and in involving communities extensively in the process!

My visit to the United States was for PAMS Foundation business, but of course included informally promoting both the The Thin Green Line and IRF brands wherever appropriate during some of the 24 meetings held in 13 days.

The latest issue of the IUCN Journal "PARKS" is available and includes several papers drawing directly from last year's World Parks Congress. It can be downloaded from the following link: parksjournal.com/parks-21-1-5/. As always, contributions from rangers for this Journal would be

Continued from the Vice President....

warmly welcomed.

Contributions are also needed for the International Game Warden (www.igwmagazine.com), but with more details of this request for contributions to this magazine included elsewhere in The Thin Green Line Newsletter.

Finally, on a personal note a thank you to each and every one who is able to cope with and rise above personal demands, stresses, responsibilities and the priorities of everyday life, to still find the time to do volunteer work. Conservation and the lives of rangers, who are at the forefront of maintaining the last line of defense to protect nature and wildlife, need all the help they can get!

International Game Warden Magazine is seeking game warden related articles for upcoming magazine issues IGW

International Game Warden is a 30-year-old quarterly magazine, produced for NAWEOA (North American Wildlife Enforcement Officer's Association). Every magazine issue profiles fish and wildlife cases from around the world, in an effort to educate game wardens, and the public, on anti-poaching efforts and the sacrifices game wardens make each and every day.

Unlike other magazines, IGW is written *by* game wardens *for* game wardens. In recent years IGW has had very little input from countries outside of North America, a trend we would like to reverse. Please take the time to submit articles and photos from your jurisdictions, regarding; anti-poaching techniques and tips, fish or wildlife investigations/cases, or any game warden related materials you feel would be of interest to your peers around the globe. To learn more about IGW, or to subscribe, log-on to: www.igwmagazine.com

Sincerely, Todd Vandivert-
Editor International Game Warden
Magazine editor@igwmagazine.com



From the Treasurer

Meg Weesner

Treasurer IRF & Member Association of National Park Rangers

treasurer@internationalrangers.org

IRF continues to receive regular donations through its website and its PayPal account link. We appreciate this support, which helps rangers around the world.

At the World Parks Congress last November, we sold IRF lapel pins and cloth patches/badges at the "Pop-Up" Ranger Station in the exhibit hall. The income from these items also added to the IRF accounts.

Other financial transactions include renewing our website domain name registrations and moving the registrations to the same company that hosts our website.

Finally, IRF recognized two exceptional young professionals with the Young Conservationist Award for 2014. The expenses for these awards

(and for travel of the recipients to the World Parks Congress in Sydney) were covered by a grant provided by Parks Victoria (Australia). This ends Parks Victoria's five-year support for this award. We would like to thank them for their generous support and announce that we are seeking a new sponsor for the Young Conservationist Award.



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



From the Editor

Nicola Paull
Outgoing Volunteer Editor

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

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

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

It has been a pleasure to serve the IRF as volunteer editor for the newsletter, but my time has drawn to a close. If there is anyone out there who would like to assume this ongoing volunteer position, please notify Lucas at webteam@internationalrangers.org.

I wish members of the IRF all the best in an increasingly challenging environment. Long may your work continue.

Regional Representative Reports

Africa

Chris Galliers

Africa Regional Representative & Member Game Rangers Association of Africa

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It was an exceptional opportunity to attend the World Parks Congress in Sydney Australia. The event which takes place under the auspices of the IUCN every 10 years saw close on 6000 conservation and environmental delegates from around the world (170 countries) come together from the 12-19th November 2014. The congress recognized that rebalancing the relationship between human society and nature is essential, and that ecosystems and their variety of life fully support our existence, cultural and spiritual identity, economies and well-being.

The Congress also took stock of not just what is challenging us, but how innovative leaders are finding and implementing protected area solutions to a wide range of challenges, from climate change to economic recessions.

It was also an honour to represent the GRAA and IRF at the event and to interact with not only a global community of conservation minded people but a global family of rangers.

Thanks too to the IRF (Sean Wilmore and the committee), The Thin Green Line staff and members of Australian Ranger Associations who helped set up the IRF stand as well as to Parks Victoria for hosting us at a 'barbeque' in the Lane Cove National Park. Also mention must go to Patagonia clothing who sponsored shirts for all the rangers attending the congress.

A very important part of the congress were the handing out of a number of important awards. The nominations for which were sent out to the

database of African rangers during the nominations window period. The three awards were presented at a celebratory event during the Congress and introduced by IUCN's **Director General Julia Marton-Lefèvre**. The prestigious international awards look to honour all the people who work on the frontline of conservation and remember with profound respect those that have lost their lives in fulfilling their duty.

1. Dr. Jane Goodall Hope and Inspiration Ranger Award

Luigi Eybrecht Bonaire who was selected as the winning candidate out of a few hundred rangers nominated worldwide.

"It was Luigi's determination, positive approach and energy that shone through when we picked him for this award," said Willmore, who handed the award to a proud Eybrecht in the absence of Dr Goodall. "It was a very strong field, but in the end we saw that you embody everything this award stands for and as such we could not think of a more deserving winner."

2. IRF Lifetime Achievement Award

Jobogo 'Jean Pierre' Mirindi who has risked his life and limbs as the chief park warden for the Democratic Republic of Congo's Virunga and Kundelungu national parks for many years.

3. Young Conservationist Award

There was a tie for this award which went to two inspiring African's working in conservation namely: Maximilian Jenes from Tanzania and Tiwonge Mzumara from Malawi.

There were exceptional opportunities to build on existing networks but also to develop new ones with particular focus on rangers in Africa. A number of presentations were attended with many of them being made accessible on the internet.

e-posters for the congress – to see the e-poster presentation, visit <http://wpc2014.digitalposter.com.au/posters-list/10382> (for more information on the outcomes and accessing of additional resources visit <http://worldparkscongress.org/index.html>)

African Rangers Meeting

A small meeting of rangers from Africa was called. At the meeting there was a call for increased communication, increased sharing of information and needs, so that other rangers who may be in positions to



The winners of the three awards on stage at the closing ceremony at the World Parks Congress. It was exciting to see that three of the winners were from Africa.

There was good GRAA representation at the WPC with a number of the members presenting in a range of different forums. This included presentation on *Ranger Guidelines* by members Wayne Lotter, Damien Mander, Ruben de Kock, Kurt Steiner and Keith Roberts.

I presented an e-poster presentation at the congress on the impacts associated with the militarization of a Rangers. It has been chosen as a representative presentation by the paperless company that managed all the

help, could do so. If we don't we can help or support.

Rangers present were from the following countries:

- Gabon
- Kenya
- Tanzania
- DRC
- South Africa

- Zambia
- Malawi

Additionally the following countries expressed interest in developing ranger Associations:

- Gabon
- Mauritius
- Madagascar
- Comores
- Malawi

New and existing relationships were strengthened with the following people where it gave an opportunity in some cases to share current issues and opportunities for rangers in

At the ranger break-away session which was held on 13 November, there were over 100 rangers present. The situation faced by African rangers dominated proceedings and it was a truly moving session, filled with emotion and support as a result of Louis Ndongobiang (ranger from Gabon) who stood up, and stated that he felt he was amongst family and it was this feeling of the supportive ranger community that he would take home to all the other courageous rangers fighting on the front line.

A very enlightening Congress and one which featured and raised the profile of the value and threats to rangers.



Members of the IRF committee at the Ranger stand at the World Parks Congress after attending an IRF committee meeting. (Right-Left: Chris Galliers (IRF Africa Representative), Wayne Lotter (IRF Vice-President), Sean Willmore (IRF President), Gordon Miller (Past IRF President), Peter Cleary (IRF Oceania Representative), Florin Halasauan (IRF European Representative), (Front) Meg Wesner (IRF Treasurer), Tegan Burton (IRF Secretary), Jeff Ohlfs (IRF North America Representative) and Daniel.

Africa.

International Ranger stand that was open for the entire time. GRAA branding and marketing items were on display. This included GRAA banner, stickers, Support a Ranger booklets and GRAA videos were played.



(Left) Chris Galliers with Fundisile Mketeni (SANParks CEO) and (right) with Jobogo 'Jean Pierre' Mirindi



Chris Galliers (GRAA Chairman and with Louis Ndongobiang a ranger from Gabon who was very interested to hear about the GRAA and to meet other African rangers. (4) The African Dialogue Session saw the coming together of high level country representatives to develop a shared African vision for the congress.

SOME PLEDGES FROM THE WPC 2015

The **Global Environment Facility**, as the financial mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the largest funder of protected area systems, commits, through its biodiversity strategy as well as its long term GEF 2020 strategy, and taking account of the innovative approaches identified in Sydney, to support country-driven actions to help conserve and sustainably use biodiversity through effectively-managed protected area systems that are integrated into sustainable landscape and seascape mosaics in 146 developing countries and countries with economies in transition. "

The **United Nations Development Programme** committed to mobilize at least US\$100 million in support of the diversity and quality of governance of protected areas, including through the appropriate recognition and protection of indigenous and community conserved territories and areas (ICCAs), in at least 50 countries.



Gabon announced its decision to create a network of new marine protected areas equivalent to 23% of its marine waters. The 18,000 square mile (46,000 km²) area includes a range of ecosystems and bans commercial fishing.

Madagascar announced plans to triple its marine protected areas and reported the achievement of commitments made ten years ago to triple its overall network of protected areas. Madagascar also announced a 'zero tolerance' approach in tackling illegal wildlife trade and called for international support to achieve this.

South Africa, host of the IUCN World Parks Congress 2003, pledged to triple ocean protection in the next 10 years.

NOTE: *Above African countries were the only ones to date that have made pledges*

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR RHINO CONSERVATION HEROES

Nominations have now opened for the Rhino Conservation Awards 2015. Nominations are invited from all African rhino range states, in categories including; Best Field Ranger, Best Conservation Practitioner, Best Political and Judicial Support, Best Science Research and Technology, and Best Awareness, Education or Funding. The additional Special Youths category honours youngsters that have taken action against poaching.

The Awards have been held annually since 2012 and serve to recognise those incredible individuals and organisations that have made an effort to protect Africa's rhino population. Every action, no matter how small or large, contributes to the overall conservation of these majestic animals.

The sponsors, Carl Zeiss Sports Optics GmbH of the ZEISS Group and Ms Xiaoyang Yu, Founder Partner of China New Enterprise Investment (CNEI), are looking forward to receiving nominations from across Africa. Dr Larry Hansen, founder of the Awards, opened the nominations by stating that; "We want to celebrate the individuals and organisations that are assisting us in highlighting the plight of the rhino, increasing the capture and prosecution of poachers, reducing the demand for rhino horn and protecting a species from extinction."

The Awards ceremony will take place on the 27th of July and will be held in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Affairs of South Africa and the Game Rangers' Association of Africa (GRAA) - a non-profit organisation with a membership of over 1 500 across Africa, many of whom are rangers active in anti-poaching activities.

His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco serves as the Patron of the Rhino Conservation Initiative and the Rhino Conservation Awards, being committed to the protection of species dangerously close to extinction, through the support of his Foundation to various preservation projects. HSH Prince Albert will be attending the 2015 Awards ceremony and will deliver the keynote address.

Nominations can be made by and/or on behalf of any person or organisation that has played a part in rhino conservation, on any scale. Nomination forms can be requested from Janyce Dalziel at janyce@currintevents.co.za, or downloaded from www.gameranger.org. The www.rhinoawards.org website will go live shortly, where nomination forms will also be available. Once nominations are closed on the 1st of June 2015, an executive committee will review all nominations and draw up a short-list for the winners to be chosen from. A panel of adjudicators will then identify the winners and runners up in each category.

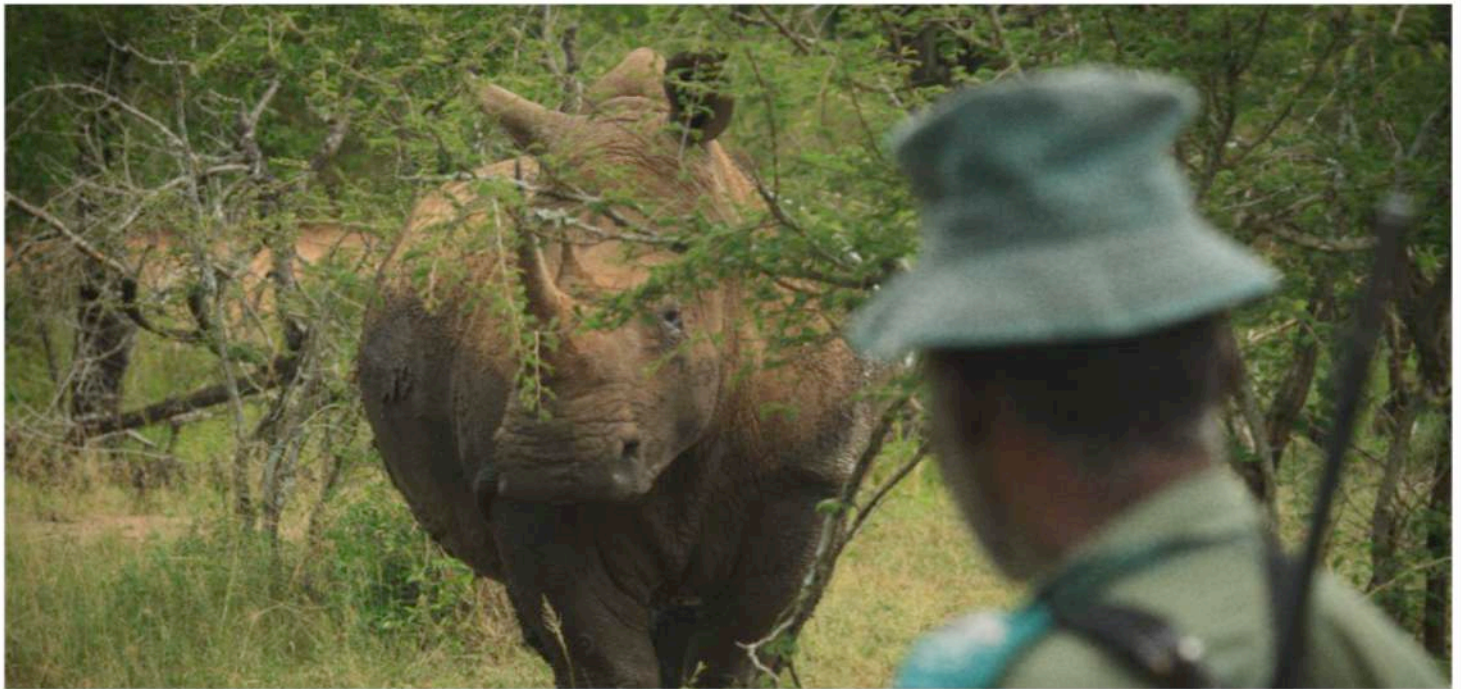
"Nature conservation is a global issue and it is about the protection of species and their local habitats. Nature conservation is run and organised by dedicated, dynamic people," says Dr Winfried Scherle, Chief Executive Officer of Carl Zeiss Sports Optics. It is essential that these conservation heroes are recognised for their efforts, their sacrifices and their dedication to protecting the rhino.

It must be ensured that the true heroes in the fight against rhino poaching are nominated and subsequently honoured for their contribution to Africa's war on rhino poaching. The debt owed to these dedicated and brave conservationists and their families can never be repaid.



Jeanine Grobbelaar

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



The Game Rangers' Association of Africa (GRAA) mourns the loss of our beloved Patron, Dr. Ian Player. He passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his loving family on the 30th November 2014 aged 87.

Dr. Ian Player is one of the most recognisable game rangers in the world today, who began working for the Natal Parks Board back in 1952. His fight to save the White Rhino from extinction is well documented along with the incredible work he did wilderness areas. No Player's standing justice. influence, immeasurable, rangers of Africa have lost the most special member not lost the will to carry responsibility has been down.



His legacy is infinite, his his example, unparalleled. The a mentor, a father figure and of our ranger family. We have on his amazing work. The handed over; we will not let you

We pay tribute to Ann

through every step of his incredible journey on the river of life. Our thoughts are with Ann and Amyas, daughter Jessica, and their families during this time. Further thoughts are with the family as a result of the recent passing of their son Kenneth, last month.

Player, who stood by Ian's side

Whilst Ian is no longer with us in body, he will always remain with us in spirit. It is his example that motivates us to never give up in our quest to ensure that the roar of the African lion be heard by the children of our children's children and forever. This is echoed in his words where he stated, "It is incumbent on every South African to ensure that we stand firm against the terrible evil forces that are arraigned against us, and that we protect and nurture; our rhino, wildlife, parks, private game reserves and game ranches. We will incur the wrath of our children, grandchildren and the world, if we fail in this God-given task."

Hamba Kahle Madolo.

Europe

Florin Halastauan

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200 Swiss Rangers together on board

The General Assembly of the Swiss Rangers took place on 27 March 2015 at the Lake of Hallwil. It turned out that these Professional Association for Swiss Rangers, park guards and protected area managers has grown significantly in recent years.

The Swiss Rangers Association was founded seven years ago with 18 people, the first graduates of the new training to become a Ranger. Now there are exactly 200 members from all four parts of the country on the day of this year's General Assembly. In Switzerland there is only one National Park (founded 100 years ago) at the moment. Swiss government is working to establish a second NP in the next years.

The general meeting was held with the attendance of 60 people at and on the lake Hallwilersee. The local Ranger service, which

is responsible for information and supervision in the protected area is now in the fifth season. The actual meeting and the subsequent reception were carried out on the MS Seetal by shipping company Lake Hallwil. Also from Germany there was a delegation under the leadership of Frank Grütz, Chairman of the German Ranger Association.

Successful Junior Ranger Program

Since 2011 the Association builds up a environmental education program. Today already 130 children and young people in six regions attend regular Junior Ranger offers year round. A project with big sustainable success, which impresses, makes sense and will be further expanded.

At the meeting Swiss Rangers President Thomas Herren pointed out the challenges, which the Association has to affront in the next years. So it's planned to create an Office, which relieves the Swiss Rangers Management who is working as volunteers. Also, the recognition by swiss state of the profession Rangers is a big goal for the next few years.

Already, an organizing Committee is in the preparations for the first big World Ranger day in Switzerland to be hold on July 31, 2016 in the environmental arena in Spreitenbach near Zurich. This will be a great day celebrating all Rangers worldwide and to comemorate all our fallen in duty colleagues. IRF president Sean Wilmore opened this great idea in our minds at European Ranger Seminar in Croatia last year. Together we are stronger!

Continued...

On the second day of the meeting, the Rangers walked along the protected area of the Lake, visited the Schloss Hallwyl and Boniswil stone age workshop.

***Congress of the German
Rangerservices from March
18 – 20, 2015 in the National
Parc "Harz"***



Topic: The comeback of lynx and wolf – a new challenge for nature protection

More than 140 rangers from Germany, Switzerland, Austria and the Czech Republic met for three days at their annual congress in the National Parc Harz. They renewed relationships, talked about the rising challenges and the reputation of rangers in the Parcs and in society anyway.

One major point of the discussion was the new bachelor degree course offered by the College of Sustainability in Eberswalde. From now on each year about 15 students can start this bachelor degree with the focus on becoming a "Ranger".

On the second day some presentations focusing on the "Comeback of lynx and wolf" and the new challenges were central subjects. Some people are afraid of these by European standards big predators. The shepherds are in fear for their sheep and not every hunter will welcome especially wolves warmly. Nevertheless the wolves are spreading widely in Germany and they are conquering new areas in Germany, particularly former military training areas. Of course now and then you can find wolves that had been poached. Up to now

the comeback of lynx is only successful in protected areas like the National Park of Harz. Outside the park borders they get killed although this is against the law. After these absorbing presentations a highlight of every Ranger congress took place: The dinner with gastronomic specialties of all the regions where the rangers come from. The plates were a veritable feast for both the eyes and the palate.

On the third and last day the rangers of the National Parc Harz had organized 3 fieldtrips: One to ancient beech forests, one to the legendary mountain "Brocken" and another to the lynxes. After all, the Harz rangers did an excellent job! And now we're looking forward to 2016 with the 22. Congress taking place in the fairly young National Parc Black Forest. But there's one wish: We very much would like to welcome rangers from France, Poland, Denmark... All over Europe and all over the world we're working in different cultures but for the same objective: the preservation of the marvelous biodiversity.

Roland Schulz & Marina Delzer



In March at the invitation and with the support of the National Park Service office internationale- relations officer Linda Bennt. Florin Halastauan Park Ranger – AR Romania attended a training program in Grand Canyon National Park in the Division of Interpretation and communication with rangers team has conducted various activities and specific trainings.



North America

Jeff Ohlfs

North America Regional Representative & Member PLEA, ANPR, CSPRA, and PRAC
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Congratulations to Sean Willmore on his recent marriage. In March, I attended the California Parks Conference which is the professional meeting of PRAC and CSPRA. It was held in San Diego and had over 100 rangers from about 30 agencies in California, Hawaii, and Oregon. It was a wonderful event with one dinner at Cabrillo National Monument's Point Loma Lighthouse overlooking San Diego's Bay. The banquet's speaker was wildlife advocate Joan Embery who brought along a half dozen of her favorite creatures.

A reminder again, elections will be at the next WRC. I will tenure out. So, all North American members need to consider someone from their association stepping up to take the North American Regional Representative on the IRF board. If anyone has interest or questions on the position, please contact me.

Stay safe this summer!



Cabrillo Statue Night



CSPRA

Oceania

Peter Cleary

Oceania Regional Representative & Member Victorian Rangers Association

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Hiya'll.....

It has been summer lately in Oceania and for most it is our high season with many visitors in our parks and animals in their breeding cycles. The momentum from the IUCN World Parks Congress in November being maintained has been a high priority. Reports from sponsored colleagues have started to flow in and been distributed. The pairing of new associations with effectively operating Associations will be the ongoing challenge to provide support and expertise where required.

Many steps are being taken to ensure contacts are strengthened and plans are in place for future initiatives. Skype calls with the New Zealand Recreation Association and a series of

those involved. An outstanding candidate and the outcomes he forecasts in his role back on his country after this program will be of great value.

The IRF Oceania meeting will take place on Phillip Island on the **30th July**. This will be combined with some leadership workshops, expert research presentations and site visits in one of Australia's premier ecotourism destinations. This will conclude with the Thin Green Line Fundraiser on World Ranger Day with many rangers from across the region attending. This show of connection and support will add kudos to what the IRF is trying to achieve across the globe.

IRF Oceania is hoping to remain active and produce worthwhile outcomes.

Hoping to catch you in a protected area somewhere.....

Pete



emails with rangers in Papua New Guinea and Cambodia are some activities recently undertaken. Plans are also afoot for a TGLF fundraiser at a restaurant in Sydney to generate some more interest in the region.

A professional development and mentoring programs took place with indigenous ranger travelling from one side of the country to the other. Grant Stewart had been identified as a capable young leader and he embraced the opportunity presented to him impressing all



Member Association & Other Reports

Update on World Ranger Congress 2016

Bob Krumenaker
World Ranger Congress Chair
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The World Ranger Congress Organizing Group (WRCOG) of the Association of (US) National Park Rangers (ANPR) is delighted to announce that the World Ranger Congress (WRC) website is up and running and we are hoping to open early online registration in May. You can reach the WRC online at www.worldrangercongressusa.com or through a link on the ANPR website (www.anpr.org) or the IRF website (www.internationalrangers.org/world-ranger-congress).

WRCOG is seeking web content from past and potential future delegates to WRCs. Would you like to share any great pictures or inspirational stories from previous WRCs? What information would you like



to see online about the upcoming WRC? Please send your suggestions to webmaster Jamie Richards at jamie.wrc8@gmail.com. Keep in mind that the program and speakers are not yet set, nor are the pre-and post-WRC trips. But check back regularly as this information is

coming!

Fundraising

Funding for the World Ranger Congress — the biggest event ANPR has ever done — is an important focus of WRCOG's efforts. The WRC Fundraising Plan is complete and we have begun implementing it.

In order to be strategic and targeted in our fundraising, WRCOG has outlined the most effective strategies for approaching potential funders. Our goal is to concentrate on contacts that are the most likely to generate results while avoiding duplicate requests to the same potential funders.

As you may know, effective fundraising is based on relationships, and we need your help to establish and strengthen relationships with people and organizations that could support WRC. Please consider developing a list of the people you know. Note those on the list who are passionate about rangers, conservation

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and/or national parks. Who (if any) among them is able to make a substantial financial contribution to WRC? It could be that they have not yet been asked for support. While most fundraising will occur in the US, you may know of sources in YOUR nation that would be passionate about supporting rangers -- and in particular, helping rangers from developing countries attend the WRC.

In addition, it is highly likely that you and other rangers members know about businesses, foundations and other funders that could support WRC. We are also looking for information about these organizations — particularly those with whom you have a direct connection.

If you know people who might be able to help fund WRC, including someone at a business or organization, please contact Finance Section Chief Bruce McKeeman at bruce.wrc8@gmail.com to help us determine the best way to reach out to these potential funders. By providing your contacts to Bruce, you will enable WRCOG to coordinate fundraising and track who is being contacted by whom.

Next, we want to work with you to determine the best way to reach your contacts. For example, WRCOG can: 1) provide you with background material about WRC and funding options, 2) have our fundraiser work with you on a joint approach, or 3) have you call the contact and introduce them to our fundraiser, who can take it from there.

Crowdsourcing

The WRC Fundraising Campaign also includes a crowdsourcing component designed to help rangers from developing countries attend WRC. The campaign on

causes.com allows anyone to sponsor a WRC delegate. To help spread the word about the crowdsourcing campaign, we are asking all rangers to share the link www.causes.com/campaigns/84845 on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other social media. Please let your social networks know that the WRC campaign is up and running and ask your social friends to donate to it. And if you've attended WRC in the past, use the causes.com web address to post testimonials about your experience.

Your Support

Another avenue for you to support WRC is to send a donation directly to the WRCOG. We suggest that after you support the annual giving campaign for your ranger association's operations, you also donate to the WRCOG. This is an arm of ANPR and any donation would be considered as potentially tax deductible (at least in the US). Checks should be made out to ANPR-WRC in US funds and sent to Bruce McKeeman at 2359 Desert Willow Drive, Prescott, AZ 86301 USA.

Frequent Flyer Miles

Looking for more options to support WRC? You can also donate frequent flyer miles to support the travel of delegates from developing countries. Please notify Bruce McKeeman that you are willing to donate miles, and provide the number of miles and the name of the airline(s). WRCOG will work with you to coordinate timing of your donation.

Friends Groups

WRCOG also has made a presentation to the US Friends Alliance requesting that park Friends groups consider sponsoring WRC delegates from sister parks. We encourage all

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rangers to ask your Friends groups and other partners to sponsor delegates from your park or their sister park(s). Many Friends groups only consider donations to projects that the park requests; if you influence your park's request to its Friends group, please consider adding WRC to the list of requests.

The WRCOG can provide information for you to make the case for WRC-delegate support, if you need it. We estimate that it will cost \$3,000 to \$4,000 US for each international delegate to attend WRC. This would cover visas, airfare, round-trip transportation from the Denver International Airport to the venue at Estes Park Colorado, WRC registration, meals and lodging.

Thank you for your help in advance. We look forward to a great WRC and need your support to make it a success.

UK

Roger Cole
Countryside Management
Association UK.



Rangers at Langdon Hills Country Park recently raised around £400 in support of the world ranger cause.

The money was raised by a number of initiatives from sponsored "mud-runs" to "Glow-in-the-dark" evening walks and making/selling wood carvings.

On left Ranger Tom Heenan and Senior Ranger Nick Stanley making the hand-over to me (Roger Cole - I have the cap and IRF badge).

They are both with the Thurrock Council Ranger Service (Langdon Hills Country Park in Essex).

(The other guy in-shot is Gareth Winn of Lee Valley Regional Park). Roger Cole



Special Thanks

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

Miliany Campos
Osvaldo Barassi Gajargo
Rebecca Mencos

Member Association & Other Reports

Portugal

18th National Rangers Meeting – 12nd Environmental Monitoring of Species and Habitats Technical Conferences



Rangers: 40 years in the service of Nature Conservation

All delegates actively participated in “Technical Conferences”, which opened new expectations and possibilities and propitiated a critical, creative and constructive dialogue on the topics covered.

It was evident there is a great interest in the topics covered and highlighted the dangers of pollution and environmental degradation for Conservation of Nature.

There is a widespread understanding of the need to protect natural elements, resources of invaluable importance for the preservation of life on earth.

It was concluded that the climate and hydrologic



diversity in Portugal determines the existence of ecosystems with unique physical, chemical and geological conditions and important flora and fauna components.

The increase in environmental pressures caused

by numerous sources such as climate change, soil contamination, spread of invasive species, loss and fragmentation of habitats and pollution of our water resources are reaching alarming levels.

Environmental monitoring of species and habitats is a result of a periodic and organized data collection and a systematic analysis of the gathered information. This information allows us to obtain more knowledge on biodiversity through fauna and flora inventories, which could provide the definition of priority areas for nature conservation and the establishment of new protected areas and habitat corridors.

In these past 40 years much has changed about nature conservation in Portugal. The national network of protected areas and competencies and tasks of the entities responsible for the Conservation of Nature have changed much since 1975.

Responsibilities and commitments have been modified, as well as the world in which we live. It has changed the awareness of the importance and commitments facing society regarding the Conservation of Nature.

Environmental area related entities grew, won territories and more assignments.

In 1999 there were 188 Rangers working for the NCI (Nature Conservation Institute). Today there are only 120

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Rangers to oversee 21.7% of the country's area, while the rest of the country is supervised by 56 Rangers that work for CRDC (Coordination and Regional Development Committees) and PEA (Portuguese Environment Agency).

Conservation of Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Landscape guarantee preservation of an essential part of our national identity.

Protected Areas like National Parks, Natural Parks, Nature Reserves and Natural Heritages are part of our collective heritage, and the shortage of Rangers is one of the greatest threats we face.

Despite the difficulties that Rangers are always facing, we believe there are reasons to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the profession.

Rangers have the mission of preserving Natural Areas and protecting the environment.

These professionals are the key defence for the protection of nature due to their knowledge of the areas and habitats. The recognition of their work by the population is a route to solving many of the problems affecting the environment.

The National Ranger Day is a day of recognition of the hard work and that these professionals are completely dedicated, supporting the inclemency of time and nature and facing with

courage their mission to safeguard the environment.

The National Ranger Day is a day of hope regarding a better future for the profession and for the preservation of nature!

Event chronology:

The opening ceremony of the 18th National Rangers Meeting – 12nd Environmental Monitoring of Species and Habitats Technical Conferences started with the Welcome speech by the President of APGVN (Portuguese Rangers Association), Francisco Correa and Dr. Nano Grade, Head of the Operational Management and Oversight Division (OMOD), Nature and Forest Conservation Department of Algarve.



The President of APGVN read the message of greetings sent by the National Directorate of the National Federation of Unions of Workers in Public and Social Functions.

The talks were initiated!

The first presentation was held by the Rangers Paulo Cabrita - "Monitoring *Plantago almogravensis* in PNSACV (Southwest Alentejo and Costa Vicentina Natural Park)", Pedro Alverca "Monitoring Peregrine Falcon - *Falco Peregrinus* -in PNSACV" and Vitor Casalinho "Red-Billed Chough".

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The Ranger João Correia presented the lecture "The Sea Partridge in the Tagus Estuary".

"Monitoring performed in PNVG - Guadiana Valley Natural Park" was the presentation made by the Rangers Celia Medeiros and Eunice Pereira.

The Ranger António Frazão presented the topic "Monitoring the Red Partridge in Serra de Aire and Candeeiros Natural Park".

Dr. Ana Cordeiro exposed the theme "Monitoring wind farm impacts on birds and implementation of a plan of mitigation and compensation".

Dr. John Castro, University of Évora, presented the topic "Study of the notice and the marine areas of the Southwest Alentejo and Costa Vicentina Natural Park".

Dr. José Lino Costa, from the Faculty of Science, University of Lisbon, made a presentation entitled "Fish in the Mira Estuary".

Dr. Rita Alcazar, from the LNP - League for Nature Protection, presented the "Mediterranean Temporary Ponds".

The Ranger António João Severo was honored for his dedication to the profession and the Conservation of Nature. We are proud that we have this professional as a colleague. He has great commitment and devotion to his mission of protector of nature. Our thanks for being a Ranger!

After dinner the participants of the 18th National Rangers Meeting were treated to the magnificent performance of the Vila Nova de Mil Fontes Coral Group, that raised the Cante Alentejano to its maximum expression. The Ranger David Carvalho delighted all those present with the demonstration of his skills to perform Cante Alentejano.

On 2nd February, there was a Commemorative Session for the National Ranger Day and World Wetlands Day, with the opening ceremony being held by the Engineer Paula Sarmento, President of NFCI - Nature and Forests Conservation Institute, followed by the President of APGVN - Portuguese Ranger Association and finally the speech of Dr. Jose Alberto Guerrero, President of the Odemira Town Council.

The president of APGVN did a retrospective about the 40 years of Ranger profession in Portugal.

João Carlos Farinha, Chief of the Protected Areas Valuation Division (PAVD) of NFCI, made a brief reference to the World Wetlands Day and made the presentation of the project "Natural.pt".

The Commemorative Session ended with the presentation of Professor Helena Adam, University of Évora, about "Mira Estuary".

Afterward, there was a lunch to celebrate the National Ranger Day and then a field trip to a Mediterranean pond, accompanied by Scientists from the University of Évora. The event ended with a visit to Cape Sardão.

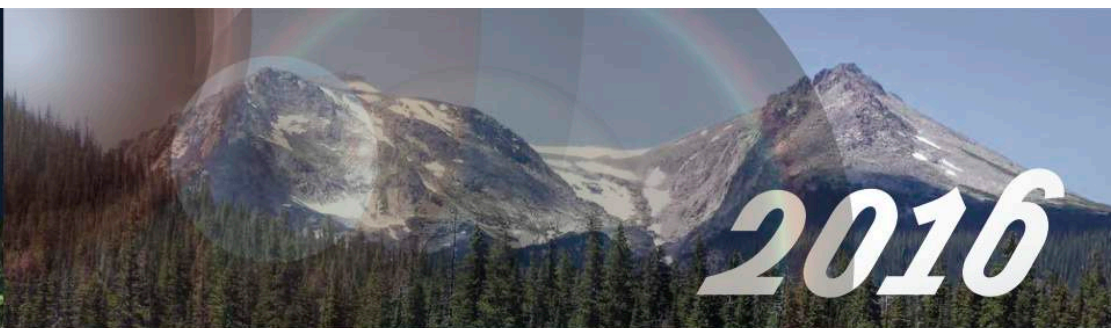
APGVN



Share Your Stories and Photos

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

For information Contact
Bob Krumenaker
 Chair, World Ranger Congress
 Organizing Committee
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World Ranger Congress

ESTES PARK, COLORADO • MAY 21 – MAY 27

Connecting Parks, Rangers, and Communities

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

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

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

-7th WRC Organizing Committee

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

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

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



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

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



**INTERNATIONAL
 RANGER
 FEDERATION**



INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION DIRECTORY

The following is for quick reference only and does not include the names of individual ranger associations.

For a full list of member associations please see www.internationalrangers.org/members.

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

OFFICERS

President Sean Willmore **Australia** president@internationalrangers.org

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South America Vacant Please apply if interested

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Rangers without Borders Jay Wells **United States** jaywells@methownet.com

Youth Development Michal Skalka **Czech Republic** skalka.michal@seznam.cz

YOUNG CONSERVATIONIST AWARD RECIPIENTS

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

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

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

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

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