

# INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope all our members had a positive end to 2018 and are ready for a huge year ahead. This is the year of the World Ranger Congress 2019 (WRC) to be held 12-16 November in Chitwan, Nepal. The Congress themes reflect fundamental issues that Rangers face across the world: Welfare, Capacity, Technology, Communities, Female Rangers, Indigenous Rangers, and Ranger Associations. Thank you to Rohit and the other members of the WRC Organising Committee who are striving to make this the biggest and best ever World Ranger Congress. The Congress will very gratefully accept sponsorship and donations - please click on the link below for further details. Limited financial support is available for individual Rangers to attend the Congress. Applicants are urged to consider their needs carefully before applying. For details please go to: <https://rangercongress.org/sponsorship-donations/>

The new IRF Constitution has been put on hold until the Congress where it will be discussed. We hope to ensure a solid foundation for organisational governance for the future. Welcome to the new Ranger associations - please see below in this newsletter for the full list of new members. The growth in membership in the last 12 months truly enhances the international Ranger community.

Thank you to the Regional Representatives for their news and updates. Please see below for their individual reports. 2019 initiatives across the regions include seminars and training opportunities. Over the past few months Ranger congresses have been held in Africa, Europe and South America. Twinning Programs in Europe and Oceania include the anti-poaching Ranger Training Course being offered by Israeli Rangers and the European Ranger Federation in July.

All my best.  
Sean Willmore

President  
[International Ranger Federation](#)





# FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

## PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD CONGRESS - NEPAL, NOVEMBER 2019

While attending the WWF anti-poaching conference in Nepal with the support of Rohit Singh, IRF representative for Asia, I met with the head of the Nepalese Ranger Association to discuss preparations for the World Ranger congress in November. I also met with the Secretary of State at the Ministry of the Environment and representatives of the responsible Ministry to discuss details of the Congress. The organizational committee for the Congress includes delegates from the Ministry of Environment, Nepalese Ranger Association, National Trust Conservation Nepal, Nepal WWF, and IRF representative for Asia.

The committee coordinates all the actions for the Congress and approves all the organizational decisions. Beyond the main aspects of the location and dates, decisions have been made on registration fees, and pre and post Congress training. Transport will be provided for participants from Kathmandu Airport to the Congress site and return, and volunteers will be at all key points of the Congress, including Kathmandu Airport, hotels, and the congressional area. A tour of Chitwan Park is also being planned. From April 1 a full-time person will be working for the Congress organizational committee.

That person will be in touch with the IRF Executive Officer, and be supported by the Ranger Association, Nepal, and IRF Representative Asia. Accommodation rates for participants have been discussed with hotel representatives. Details including contact information will be published as soon as possible on the website to enable participants to make their own reservations directly.

Hotels offering special rates for people needing accommodation in Kathmandu before and after the Congress are being negotiated. Daily accommodation costs will be about \$25 - up to \$100, with breakfast included. The farthest hotel is 12-15 minute walk from the Congress venue. A detailed map of the hotels with all the points of interest for the participants is being developed. The Ministry is planning to waive visa and park entry fees for participants who register and send all necessary documents for processing by August 31, 2019. Details of the program are being considered, as well as the VIP guests, and the content of the working groups. Plans are also being made for translations of proceedings into English, Spanish and French. The Congress venue includes a large hall where 400 people can participate and another three halls for workshops, with the possibility of another two halls nearby. Plans are also being made for parking, celebrations, information desk, restaurant, and socialization spaces. In my opinion, the organizers are doing their job very well and are working towards a very successful Congress. Rohit and the Head of Ranger Association, Nepal have promised that everything will be addressed; if they need support they will ask and they will be communicating regularly with the IRF Board.

Florin Halastauan

IRF Vice President





## REGIONAL REPORTS

### AFRICA

2019 sees another World Ranger Congress which will be taking place in Nepal in November. This is an important event on any Ranger's calendar. African Rangers often battle to source the support to attend such events but their presence as part of this global community of practice is essential. Leading on from the first ever African Ranger congress in 2018 it is important for Africa's Rangers to take those outcomes to the World Congress. The details of the Congress (website and booking platform) as well as a number of funding applications to attend the WRC have been shared with African Rangers.

At the same time we hope to access more support in order to get good continental representation. The African Rangers' story is an important one to be shared with the rest of the world.

A valued part of the WRC is the generosity of other Rangers who bring equipment for other Rangers in need. This year is no different and an application process has been shared within the African Ranger network to apply for donated equipment.

Chris Galliers

IRF Africa Regional Representative



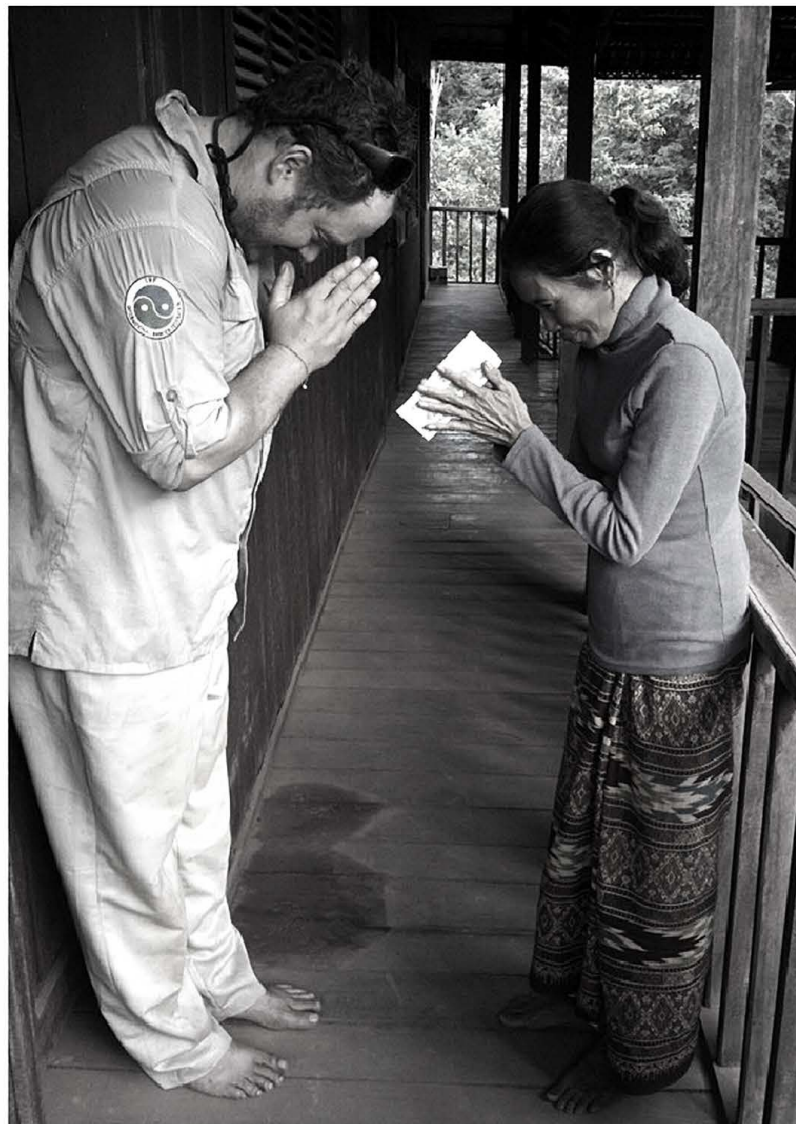
## ASIA

The IRF, with support from WildCan has launched the 9th World Ranger Congress website. The Congress will be held in Chitwan, Nepal from 12-16 November. On behalf of the Asian Rangers we would like to invite the world Ranger community to join us in Nepal. Please register yourself before August 31<sup>st</sup> to get the visa gratis. The Congress is also hosting six pre and post congress training sessions. Please visit the Congress website for more details [www.rangercongress.org](http://www.rangercongress.org).

For any queries regarding the 9th WRC please contact  
[worldrangercongress2019@gmail.com](mailto:worldrangercongress2019@gmail.com)

We are saddened that four Rangers have lost their lives in the line of duty in the last three months and one was seriously injured. We would like to thank the Thin Green Line Foundation (TGLF) for supporting the families of the deceased Rangers.

Rohit Singh  
IRF Asia Regional Representative



## CENTRAL AMERICA

The provisional affiliation of the Association of Rangers of El Salvador was established and they are in the process of legal constitution.

Regular communications have been maintained with IRF's South American representative and the President of the Ecuador Rangers Association to stay up-to-date on agreements and reports of the Latin Congress in Ecuador; Rangers attended from 12 countries. Two WhatsApp groups established to support ongoing communications have a combined total of 60 members.

In other news, through management with Jeff Ohlfs and the USA Ranger Foundation, two delegates have been approved for total support to attend the WRC in Nepal: a representative from Costa Rica and the President of the Panama Ranger Association.

Leonel Delgado  
IRF Central America Regional  
Representative



## NORTH AMERICA

Newsletters from current members, California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA) and the Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC), include an update in Ranger programs there. Two new programs are being established but one position has been replaced with private security.

2019 PRAC Conference will be held in March. Courses include:

- Initial Response to Missing Persons in Park Settings
- Homeless Liaison - Legal Update in Park Environments
- Hazmat Awareness
- Ventura Fire Overview - Lessons Learned
- Surviving Storm Season
- The Impacts of Encampments on Park Operations
- Tips and Techniques to Building Sustainable Trails
- Oakland Trails Program
- The Ecology of the Santa Monica Mountain Lions
- Roving Interpretation
- Connecting Trail Maintenance to Interpretation

Additional all-day certified courses are available as well as a special Channel Islands boat trip. <https://www.calranger.org/confreg.html>

Bill Westerfield

North America IRF

Regional Representative



## EUROPE

The 2018 Ranger Meeting in Croatia has achieved an important objective, opening up an opportunity for cooperation between the European Ranger Federation (ERF) and a key EU working group.

A Ranger Association in Georgia has been created but unfortunately, Ivane Kupradze, a very active Georgian Ranger, lost his life fighting a forest fire in August.

The ERF, together with Michael Grossmann, Head Ranger of the hosting NP Bavarian Forest in Germany, are planning and organizing the 5th European Ranger Congress, May 2020.

The ERF has again encouraged Twinning Partners to start or continue their work, developing cooperative projects and personal exchanges. There will be a kick-off meeting in Denmark. A Train-the-Trainer seminar offered by Israel on anti-poaching in July 2019 is being organized, with an overwhelming response at this stage. The Swiss Rangers are also offering an Interpretation Seminar in April 2019.

Frank Gruetz

IRF Europe Regional Representative





## OCEANIA

Jolene McLellan (Queensland Rangers Association) and Tim Schneider (Martu Country) embarked on a trip to Papua New Guinea (PNC) to engage with Rangers and conservation leaders especially about the Kokoda Track. PNC Rangers are looking to re-establish a relationship with IRF. Rangers of Aotearoa New Zealand (ROANZ) have been very active on their Facebook page, especially regarding ecotourism impacts.

Fundraising has begun to support Rangers to attend the 2019 World Ranger Congress. South Australian Rangers Association is gearing up for the World of Music Adelaide (WOMAD) festival, and many Rangers are already preparing to dye their hair green for World Ranger Day!

Peter Cleary, IRF Oceania  
Regional Representative



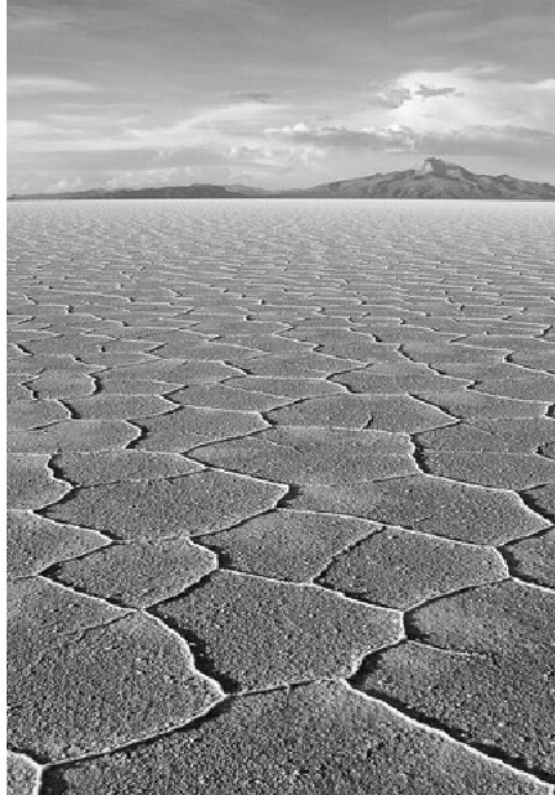


Photo credit -Tom Broadhurst

## SOUTH AMERICA

The Ecuadorian Ranger Association and the IRF held the first Latin American Ranger Congress in Ecuador. This event was a great success with the participation of the Environment Vice-Minister of Ecuador and a total number of 40 Rangers from Latin America. There has also been a meeting which took place in Piura, Peru that hosted representatives and institutions coordinating the rural communities of the region. The representatives that attended the meeting are mainly focused on the protection of international nature and culture and the defending of rural communities and the protection of the rainforest.

In other news, a successful Twinning Program was implemented by IRF and TTCLF between Ranger Association Peru and the Ranger Association Venezuela which provided support for the work of the Venezuelan Rangers. An upcoming congress with an emphasis on welfare and natural solutions for sustainable development will be held by the UICN, which will take place in Lima from 17<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> March. More than 3,000 people from 19 different countries will meet representatives of protected natural areas worldwide.

Werhner Montoya  
IRF South America Regional  
Representative





# NEW MEMBERS

Photo credit - Tom Broadhurst

## IRF IS VERY PROUD TO WELCOME 12 NEW MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

These new members from four global regions represent a significant increase to the family of member associations.

- Cameroon Ranger Association, Cameroon – Provisional
- Association Indigenous Center for Sustainable Development (CINDES), Peru – Associate
- Freeland Foundation – Associate
- HAKA/FKL. Indonesia – Associate
- Forest for Children. Indonesia – Associate
- Society of Bhutanese Foresters (SBF), Bhutan – Provisional
- Fundacion Moises Bertoni. Paraguay – Associate
- Asociacion Centro Indigena para el Desarrollo Sostenible (CINDES)(Association Indigenous Center for Sustainable Development), Peru - Associate
- Asociacion Del Sistema Nacional De Areas Silvestres Protegidas Del Paraguay (Association of Paraguay Rangers) Paraguay - Regular
- New Zealand Ranger Association, New Zealand – Provisional
- Association de Guardaparques del NOA, Argentina – Provisional
- Georgian Ranger Association, Georgia - Provisional



## FALLEN RANGER STORY

### SALMAN PANURI

Salman Panuri was a Wildlife Protection Team Ranger for 12 years at the Leuser Conservation Forum (FKL) in Sumatra, Indonesia. His main duties included carrying out sweeps to dismantle poachers' snares and traps intercepting poachers reporting on forest and wildlife crime and recording signs of key wildlife. On May 10<sup>th</sup> 2018, Salman tragically lost his life during a routine patrol when he drowned crossing the Bengkung River in heavy rain. He leaves behind his wife and three young daughters. Salman's death highlights the dangers faced by so many Rangers working in remote wilderness regions across the world.

The money his family received from The Thin Green Line Foundation's Fallen Ranger Fund will go towards educating his daughters. We honour his service and the service of all the other brave Rangers who have lost their lives fighting for protected areas all around the world. Over the past 12 months TGLF has provided over US\$150.000 to the families who have had loved ones lose their lives working as Rangers. We continually strive to support as many families as possible. If you require an application form, please email Sam Armstrong, Executive Officer at the IRF - [executiveofficer@internationalrangers.com](mailto:executiveofficer@internationalrangers.com)



## IN THE NEWS

### - IRF INITIATIVES



Photo credit -Tom Broadhurst



## MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN RANGERS

IRF with the association of Rangers of Ecuador hosted the first Latin American meeting of Rangers. Rangers from 12 countries met with the aim of developing a document with potential solutions to the problems facing Latin American Rangers, to present at the 2019 World Ranger Congress. The meeting also strengthened exchanges of work and identified common experiences of Latin American Rangers.

<https://www.facebook.com/EcGuardaparques/>



## INSIGHTS TO THE CHALLENGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF RANGERS

A major survey of Rangers across 17 countries released late last year provides many insights to the challenges they face as well as what is needed to improve working conditions and better recognise the profession. Among its findings, 'Life on the Frontline 2018' reveals that:

- over one third of rangers said the training they first received was inadequate for the realities of their job.
- only 19 per cent of respondents received any first aid training in the previous year.
- one quarter had contracted malaria within the prior 12 months; 22 per cent contracted another disease or infection requiring treatment.
- only 33 per cent and 51 per cent of those surveyed 'often' or 'always' respectively had access to mosquito nets and clean drinking water.
- slightly over half the respondents believed their most basic equipment (uniform and boots) is insufficient for the job.
- 36 per cent never have access to communication devices during patrol.

This study gives a strong voice to Rangers and shares many of their most pressing challenges and concerns. The report highlights the responsibilities of governments and supporters to answer the call.

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/publications/life-on-the-frontline-2018>





## NEW ZEALAND RANGER HONOURED

Family, friends and colleagues were shocked when two Rangers and their pilot died in a helicopter crash in New Zealand in October 2018. The family of one of the Rangers, Scott Theobald, a pioneering Biodiversity Ranger, accepted an award a few weeks later from the Prime Minister of New Zealand. The award, which had been made just prior to the tragic accident, recognised Scott's excellence to the frontline and in particular his work developing the Conservation Dogs Programme. Senior Ranger Paul Hondelink and pilot Nick Wallis also lost their lives in the crash.

[https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=12155357](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12155357)



## GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION AIMS TO BETTER PROTECT RANGERS IN PARAGUAY AND SPAIN

With numerous assaults and several fatal attacks highlighting the extreme dangers faced by Rangers, legislators in Paraguay and Spain are moving to address the safety of conservation professionals. In Paraguay, the amendment of the protected wild areas law is expected to provide Rangers with much improved support for their daily tasks in response to known threats. Accompanying this process is an awareness campaign called #SoyGuardaparque promoted by the Moises Bertoni Foundation.

The campaign advocates the need for a law supporting officials of protected areas. Following the murder of two rural agents from Catalonia by a hunter in January 2017, and about 10 major assaults on conservation personnel each year since late 2015, the Spanish Senate has unblocked the processing of a state law, which could help improve and unify the legal framework, as well as improve Rangers' safety at work, committing the Spanish Congress to address this.







## PORTUGUESE NATIONAL MEETING OF PARK RANGERS 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY - 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2019, TERCEIRA - AÇORES

The XXII Portuguese National Meeting of Park Rangers and the XVI Technical Conference hosted Rangers from 10 countries, together with environment, conservation, and sustainable development professionals, on Terceira Island, Azores.

With its theme of "Technology and Nature Conservation", the event included a series of presentations and sessions to discuss advances in new technologies for nature conservation. It also included field visits to some of the most emblematic sites of the Island.

## TGLF FUNDED PROJECTS

LEAD Ranger is not only empowering people to have the vital knowledge, skills and confidence to tackle the poaching crisis, it's also making sure they're trained to then go on and train others. LEAD Ranger is a proper game changer. LEAD Rangers are literally building an ever-expanding network of highly proficient anti-poaching experts. This is done in partnership with The Thin Green Line Foundation, IAPF - International Anti-Poaching Foundation - [www.iapf.org](http://www.iapf.org) and Ranger Campus Foundation.

Photo courtesy of Jeremy Goss- Big LifeFoundation





## THE SUMATRAN RANGER PROJECT

The Thin Green Line Foundation and Sumatran Ranger Project are delighted to announce that they have secured funding for the project 'Community Ranger Conservation in the Leuser Ecosystem'. The project has been awarded an Australian Aid: Friendship Grant by the Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The \$50,000 AUD grant will support a team of Community Rangers to reduce degradation and protect keystone species in the forests of the Leuser Ecosystem in Indonesia - the last place on Earth where the Sumatran orangutan, tiger, elephant and rhinoceros co-exist. This is a wonderful example of the work The Thin Green Line does to ensure Rangers are supported to carry out their work.





# SPEND A WEEK ON THE FRONTLINE OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



Photo courtesy of JeremyGoss- Big Life Foundation

You will go on game drives and foot patrols with the Rangers working in the area between Amboseli, Chyulu Hills and Kilimanjaro national parks. You'll also spend time at the Ranger training academy learning what it takes to become a Ranger and hear the true stories of what it takes to protect wildlife in this part of the world. For all the trip details go to:

<http://www.intrepidtravel.com/au/kenya/kenya-wildlife-rangers-expedition>

## CONSTITUTION VOTE

The IRF Executive Committee has been working hard behind the scenes to further develop the capability of the IRF to support Rangers worldwide. A revised constitution document will be discussed and voted on by all voting members at the upcoming World Ranger Congress 2019 in Nepal.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 5th - 7th March - California Parks Training & Conference – Ventura, USA
- 9th - 14th April - Heritage Interpretation Workshop. Zurich, Switzerland
- 31st July - World Ranger Day 2019
- 28th July - 3rd August - Anti-poaching Management & Enforcement Training Techniques - Israel
- 11th - 17th November - IRF World Ranger Congress, Chitwan, Nepal

## DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS?

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the creation of the newsletter. If you have any events, stories of interest or feedback please contact the IRF Executive Officer, Sam Armstrong via email:

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

If you need to contact a member of the IRF Executive Team, please see their details below or visit the IRF website

(<http://www.internationalrangers.org/contact>).

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# THANKS TO

Sean Willmore

President

president@internationalrangers.org

Florin Halastauan

Vice-President

vicepresident@internationalrangers.org

Jewel Johnson

Secretary

secretary@internationalrangers.org

Sam Armstrong

Executive Officer

executiveofficer@internationalrangers.org

Meg Weesner Treasurer

treasurer@internationalrangers.org

Chris Galliers

Africa Regional Representative chrisga11i  
ers@gameranger.co.za

Rohit Singh

Asia Regional Representative

rsingh@wwfnet.org

Leonel Delgado

Central America Regional Representative

centralamerica@internationalrangers.org

Frank Gruetz

Europe Regional Representative

europe@internationalrangers.org

Bill Westerfield

North America Regional Representative

northamerica@internationalrangers.org

Peter Cleary

Oceania Regional Representative

oceania@internationalrangers.org

Werhner Atoche Montoya

South America Regional Representative

werhner2016@gmail.com

