



INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

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Second World Congress – Costa Rica

The second world IRF Congress will be held at the Hotel Cariari in San Jose, Costa Rica, between Thursday, September 25, and Monday, September 29, 1997 - just nine months from now. Members of the Federation and several of its associations have accordingly been very busy. Here are some of the activities that have occurred:

- Arrangements in Costa Rica have largely been completed.
- The registration process has been established (see below).
- Brochures on the Congress in both English and Spanish have been developed, distributed to member associations and Zakopane delegates, and mailed to about 600 prospective park contacts worldwide.
- An orientation packet to the Congress, also in both English and Spanish, has been developed.
- The program has been developed and largely completed.
- Almost \$25,000 in pledges from several businesses and organizations have been received; several other very promising contacts have been made. The U.S. Association of National Park Rangers and the California State Park Rangers Association have raised more than \$5,000 for scholarships to the congress; other member associations are also in the process of raising funds.
- A representative from IRF attended the World Heritage Congress in Montreal in October and garnered support and assistance from members of the world parks community for both IRF and the Congress (see below). IRF is working with the Costa Rican government on an application to World Heritage for funding support for the Congress.
- IRF has received expressions of strong interest in the congress from Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Panama.

Rick Smith, the congress coordinator, has received a number of questions about the congress and has prepared the following list of commonly received questions and accompanying answers for your information:

- Q: How did we choose Costa Rica as the congress site?
- A: The member associations of IRF were polled by President Gordon Miller in late spring of 1996. The majority of the associations voted to ask Costa Rica to host the second IRF congress.

- Q: When and where will it take place?
- A: The congress will open on September 24, 1997, at the Hotel Cariari, San Jose, Costa Rica, with an informal reception, a traditional potlach, and a slide show recalling the IRF's first congress in Zakopane, Poland. The formal dates of the congress are September 25 to 29, 1997.
- Q: What kind of hotel is the Cariari?
- A: The Cariari is one of Costa Rica's four-star hotels. It is located a short 15-minute taxi ride from the international airport. It is not a high-rise hotel, as all the rooms are located on two floors. The hotel has an open, natural feeling to it. The hotel staff is excited that rangers from around the world will be coming to the Cariari. They asked to make sure that some of you bring your uniforms. They saw the photographs of the different uniforms that we took in Zakopane and were struck by the variety.
- Q: Won't staying at a four-star hotel be expensive?
- A: The congress organizing staff has negotiated very favorable rates for congress delegates. The hotel is charging \$485.15 (U.S.) for double occupancy during the congress. This price includes all maid and bellboy service, and all meal costs for five days (including the informal reception on the night of the 24th). As a part of this package, the hotel has also agreed to assist the IRF in the congress set-up and other preparations. Once other congress costs are factored in - such as mailings, publicity, speaker travel, and phone and fax charges - we believe that the cost per delegate will be \$600. This price may be reduced, depending on the success of efforts to find a sponsor to underwrite the cost of the congress. If these efforts are successful, the congress will refund an appropriate amount to delegates who have already registered.
- Q: Speaking of registration, how do I register?
- A: Congress registration and information are available at the congress office, which is being staffed by Lyn Rothgeb. You can reach Lyn by mail at 730 E. Main Street, Luray, VA 22835, U.S.A., or by fax at 540-743-1775, or by e-mail (rothgeb@aol.com). Arrangements have been made whereby the Shenandoah National Park (U.S.) cooperating association will process credit card registrations. There will be a processing fee of about three percent. Contact the congress registrar for details.
- Q: When should I register?
- A: We encourage you to register as early as you can. Early registration provides the congress organizers with a bit of capital with which to work.
- Q: The brochure mentions scholarships. Who is eligible for financial assistance?
- A: The congress office will be accepting applications for financial assistance. The money for scholarships is being raised from donations by member associations and other interested parties. Potential applicants should be aware, however, that this money is extremely limited and that the congress organizers will select recipients who demonstrate the absolute impossibility of participation without aid. Those applicants who can demonstrate what they have done to raise part of the registration fee will be given preference.
- Q: Who can attend the congress?
- A: The congress is open to anyone with a professional interest in international conservation. We are expecting about 200 participants.
- Q: What is the theme of the congress?
- A: Based on information taken from the group workshops on training and professional development held at the first congress in Poland, the theme of this year's congress is "The ranger's role in sustainable development." "Sustainable development" is a phrase that appears often in conservation literature. As the principal implementers of conservation policies, rangers should recognize what sustainable development is and what its potential promises and problems are. The congress participants will examine various components of sustainable development.

- Q: What about language at the congress?
- A: The two official languages of the congress will be Spanish and English. During all plenary sessions and during the IRF business meeting, we will provide simultaneous translation. In an attempt to reduce congress registration costs, we will be asking volunteers fluent in both languages to help translate in the small group workshops. Please notify the congress office if you would like to help.
- Q: How will the congress be organized?
- A: The congress organizers have invited speakers of international prominence to help us set the stage for our examination of the components of sustainable development. The real work of the congress, however, will be in small groups, where we will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and points of view and share our failures and successes. We will be asking delegates to volunteer to lead or facilitate these small group workshops. We want delegates to participate in the congress and we want our fellow rangers to lead these workshop groups. We believe that this organizing principle will promote the greatest amount of information sharing and learning during the congress. Please notify the congress office if you wish to serve as a workshop facilitator. On two of the evenings, there will be the opportunity for eight delegates (four each evening, each presentation to last no more than a half hour) to present slide shows on their parks or country systems. If you wish to present such a program, please notify the congress office. The fifth day of the congress will be devoted to IRF business. We have much to do as an organization and we need to make some basic decisions about our leadership, our finances, and our decision-making process.
- Q: Will we just be sitting in the hotel for five days?
- A: The third day of the congress is devoted to field trips. We will be visiting some of Costa Rica's most famous protected areas. Costa Rican rangers will meet us at the sites and be our guides for the day, sharing not only their areas with us, but also their management strategies and their major challenges. This field trip day will certainly be one of the highlights of the congress.
- Q: Will this be all that I will get to see of Costa Rica?
- A: The IRF has entered into an agreement with two of Costa Rica's most environmentally sensitive tourist agencies, Horizontes and Tikal Tours. Horizontes even maintains a fund to assist Costa Rican rangers with family emergencies and other problems. Both these agencies can help delegates plan pre- or post-congress tours to Costa Rica's national parks and equivalent reserves. You can contact them by mail, by phone or fax, or by e-mail. This information will be available in your registration packets. The congress organizers urge you to use these agencies, as they are environmentally and socially responsible operators.
- Q: What is Costa Rica like?
- A: Some would argue that Costa Rica is like nowhere else in the world. It is small - a little smaller than the state of West Virginia in the United States - but contains an estimated five percent of the world's biodiversity! From the highest point in Costa Rica, more than 12,000 feet (3,600 meters), to the beaches on the Caribbean and Pacific coasts, the nation is cut by a series of river valleys and volcanic ridges that have nurtured a variety of flora and fauna that is (in the best tropical sense of the word) exuberant. Beginning in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the country began to create a protected area system that is one of the finest and most famous in the world. Today, more than 22 percent of the national territory is protected. Costa Ricans are friendly and warm to visitors. The country's literacy rate is an astonishing 98 percent, partially because the constitution of 1947 eliminated the country's armed forces. Military spending represents less than one percent of Costa Rica's annual budget. Many visitors go away thinking that Costa Rica would be a good second choice to their native land if they had to live somewhere else.
- Q: What will the weather be like when we are there?
- A: September is one of the months of Costa Rica's rainy season. You can expect that it will rain for several hours every day. Please bring appropriate rain gear for the field trip and for pre- and post-congress trips. Since Costa Rica is a tropical country, be prepared for hot, humid weather.

Q: Who are the congress organizers?

A: The congress is being organized with the cooperation of several groups. President Gordon Miller is, of course, guiding the organizational efforts. He has asked the two Costa Rican affiliates of the IRF - ACORENA and AGUA - to cooperate with the U.S. Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR) in the organization of the congress. The Costa Rican Ministry of the Environment and Energy, under the leadership of Minister Rene Castro Salazar, has also played a leading role.

Q: Will I have fun and learn something if I attend the congress?

A: Yes.

Congress coordinator Rick Smith can be reached at 2 Roadrunner Trail, Placitas, NM, 87043, U.S.A. (telephone: 505-867-0047; telefax: 505-867-4175; Internet: rsmith0921@aol.com)

IRF News

Publicizing IRF

President Gordon Miller and John Forrest of the African Game Rangers' Association appeared on British Satellite News in November to talk about rangers internationally and about IRF. Gordon was also able to promote the upcoming congress in Costa Rica during the broadcast.

Board member and newsletter editor Bill Halainen was asked to represent IRF at the World Heritage Congress in Montreal, Canada, last October. The appearance came through an invitation from Rob Milne of the World Heritage Center, a strong supporter of IRF. The congress was attended by over 2,500 delegates from the many organizations worldwide involved in protecting national parks and protected areas. Bill was asked to speak during a workshop on the World Heritage Convention, and gave a short presentation on the federation and the second world congress in Costa Rica. At the close of the day's session, Dr. Bernd von Droste, director of the World Heritage Center, endorsed IRF and its efforts. During the World Heritage Congress, IRF also received direct or indirect support and offers of assistance from representatives from several other international organizations.

Gordon Miller and Uwe Nehring of the U.S. Association of National Park Rangers will be speaking on ranger duties and traditions at the Third Federal Naturewatch Conference in Germany in March (see "Upcoming Events" below). They will also be speaking about IRF.

Newsletter

The newsletter is mailed to the principal contacts for each national, state or territorial ranger association that is a member of IRF. It is then to be reproduced in the member association's own internal publication. Copies are also available to interested parties via electronic mail. If you'd like to receive the newsletter in that manner, send your Internet address to the editor. NEXT ISSUE: A questionnaire by Juan Carlos Gambarotta of Uruguay, asking questions about ranger work worldwide for presentation at the congress; the program and further details on the congress; updates on activities in other member ranger associations. DEADLINE: February 15.

Federation Directory

In order to reduce mailing costs, we will be mailing the complete directory of member nations and their presidents or chairs and their IRF representatives only once or twice a year. In the interim, we will provide you with changes to the listing through the newsletter:

- Gordon Miller's Internet address has changed. He can be reached at: GMillerEco@compuserve.com
- The representative for the Iceland Wardens Association is Steinunn Asmundsdottir, Egilsstadir 1, P.O. Box 85, 700 Egilsstadir, Iceland (telephone: 581-3651).
- The information for Mark Halley, representative from the National Park Warden Association, has been further updated. Address: RR #3, Highway #3 East, Leamington, Ontario, Canada (home telephone: 519-322-5988; work phone: 519-322-0484; Internet: Mark_Halley@pch.gc.ca).

News About IRF Associations

Canada - Clint Toews

In April of 1994, a small group of Canadian national park wardens banded together to discuss the formation of the National Park Warden Association; in 1995, the organization became a reality. Over the last two years, the association has grown to 189 members, comprising 40% of Canadian national park wardens. The NPWA's goals are to:

- foster camaraderie within the warden service, scattered through 37 national parks;
- provide wardens with a unified voice; and
- promote professionalism within the ranks of the national park warden service.

A questionnaire was circulated to all wardens last winter to determine their expectations of the association. Almost half of the wardens responded. Among other things, they endorsed affiliation with other organizations, including the U.S. Association of National Park Rangers and IRF (NPWA and ANPR are exploring a joint meeting, possibly in 1999). Elections are planned for this spring.

The association also publishes a newsletter featuring different parks across the country and updates from each region, and carries a line of warden association products and collectibles to raise funds for NPW. A copy can be obtained from Bob Reside at Pukaskwa National Park, Highway 627, Hattie Cove, P.O. Box 39, Heron Bay, Ontario, POT 1R0, or via Internet at: Bob_Reside@pch.gc.ca

Chile - Sergio Herrera Encina

Sergio Herrera, currently on the staff of CONAF (Corporacion Nacional Forestal), Chile's forestry service, has written IRF regarding membership for the Chilean ranger association. CONAF has a unit called Patrimonio Silvestre, or Wild Heritage Unit, which is in charge of managing and protecting parks, reserve natural monuments and wildlife. The association's application will be forwarded to the U.S. Association of National Park Rangers for endorsement and action. Sergio will be attending the congress in Costa Rica.

Denmark - Ida Marie Jensen

In August, the Danish Nature and Forest Agency arranged a Nordic-Baltic Seminar on Nature School with a workshop on environmental interpretation. There are about 200 nature schools in the Nordic and Baltic countries. Nature schools have evolved gradually over the past 25 years and their message is quite clear: The children should be removed from artificial classroom surroundings and placed in outdoor, natural environments.

The seminar in Denmark brought the whole of this development into focus. There were 70 participants from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Germany and Denmark.

In March, Naturvejlederforeningen, the Danish ranger association, will arrange a seminar for environmental interpretation in Denmark. The seminar will provide the opportunity for rangers to meet other rangers, exchange experiences, and inspire each other. The program for the upcoming seminar will also include workshops on international cooperation.

If you are interested in attending the session, which will be held from March 7 to March 9, please contact Ida Marie Jensen, Naturhistorisk Museum, Universitetsparken, 8000 Aarhus C, Denmark (telephone: 45-86-129777; telefax: 45-86-130882).

Finland - Aarno Tervonen

The Finnish Forest and Park Service held an annual meeting in November. During that meeting, Aarno Tervonen and Trygve Lofroth, who attended the first world congress in Zakopane, renewed their efforts to establish a Finnish ranger organization. President Gordon Miller assisted by sending along organizational documents used by other associations.

Sweden - Thomas Hansson

The new Swedish ranger association will be holding its first meeting during a nature conservation and ecotourism workshop being held in Stockholm between January 22 and 24. About 100 potential members have been contacted, and most have expressed an interest in joining the association.

Upcoming Events

February, 1997	Annual General Meeting (AGM), Game Rangers Association of Africa, Pilanesberg NP, RSA. Dates and final arrangements are pending.
March 3-9, 1997	"Ranger As Communicator," training course, Losehill Hall, Peak National Park, U.K. An international conference aimed at rangers and other field-based staff, particularly from protected landscapes, who recognize the increasingly important role of communication in their work. The course will explore each of the wide-ranging elements of communication in a ranger's work under five themes - education, media, communities, interpretation, and working with others. The course language will be English. Financial assistance is available to some delegates from Central and Eastern Europe. Call Losehill Hall at 44-1433-620373, or fax to 44-1433-620346, or Internet to: training@losehill.u-net.com
March 7-9, 1997	Seminar for Environmental Interpretation, Denmark. Sponsored by Naturvejlederforeningen, the Danish ranger association. Contact: Marie Jensen, Naturhistorisk Museum, Universitetsparken, 8000 Aarhus C, Denmark (telephone: 45-86-129777; telefax: 45-86-130882).
March 19-21, 1997	"Ranger, ein Beruf mit Zukunft (Ranger, Future Careers)," Third Federal Naturewatch Conference, Muritz Nationalpark, Germany.
May, 1997	Annual Meeting, Australian Ranger Association. Date and location to be announced. For more information, contact Kristen Appel, PO Box 1046, Alice Springs, Northern Territory 0871, Australia (telephone: 61-89-569770; telefax: 61-89-569819)
September 25-29, 1997	Second World IRF Congress, Hotel Cariari, San Jose, Costa Rica. Contact Lyn Rothgeb, Congress registrar, via telefax in the United States at 540-743-1775, or via e-mail at: rothgeb@aol.com
October 14-16, 1997	21st Ranger Rendezvous, Association of National Park Rangers, Sheraton Harbor Place Hotel, Fort Myers, Florida, U.S.A.

IRF Directory

The directory contains the names, addresses and phone and fax numbers for principals in the federation. Phone numbers generally do not contain international prefixes; some are also listed as they appear within a country and may not work exactly as printed internationally (for numbers in the United Kingdom, for instance, the "0" at the beginning of the number is used within the UK, but deleted when calling internationally). We hope to sort the latter out in the future. Additional information to fill in omissions - particularly phone and fax numbers and Internet addresses - would be much appreciated.

IRF Council

Chair	Gordon Miller, Countryside Management Association.
Address	Fold Head Cottage, Grindsbrook Booth, Edale via Sheffield, S30 2ZD, England
Phone	01433-670210 (home), 01433-670216 (work)
Fax	Same
Internet	GMillerEco@compuserve.com
Secretary	Bob Reid, Scottish Countryside Ranger Association
Address	6 Riverside Road, Larkhall, Lanarkshire, ML9 1NH, Scotland
Phone	01698-884083 (home), 01698-266155 x 131 (work)
Fax	01698-252925 (work)
Internet	--
Treasurer	Mike Marshall, Countryside Management Association
Address	8 Burrells Cottages, Knodishall, Saxmundham, Suffolk, IP17 1UK, England
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Fax	01728-831230 (work)
Internet	--
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Internet	Bill_Halainen@nps.gov

Member Associations

England/Wales

Countryside Management Association

Chairperson	Declan Kelley
Address	82 Grove Road, Beccles, Suffolk, England.
Phone	0502-716614 (home), 0603-610734 (work).
Fax	--
Internet	--
IRF Rep	Colin Dilcock
Address	86 Littledale, Pickering, North Yorkshire, YO18 8PS, England
Phone	01751-473712 (home), 01439-770657 (work)
Fax	01439-770691
Internet	--

Scotland**Scottish Countryside Rangers Association**

Chairperson Richard Smith
Address 4 Linsey MacDonald Court, Dunfermline, KY 12 7 TS, Scotland.
Phone 0383-735193 (home), 0383-725596 (work)
Fax 0383-703406
Internet --

IRF Rep Bob Reid (see above)

United States**Association of National Park Rangers**

President Deanne Adams
Address 3009 13th Avenue West, Seattle, Washington 98119-2021, USA.
Phone 206-285-8342 (home), 206-220-4251 (work)
Fax 206-220-4251 (work)
Internet anpradams@aol.com

IRF Rep Barbara Goodman (see below)

United States**California State Park Rangers Association.**

President David Nelson
Address Delta Sector Headquarters, 17645 State Highway 60, Rio Vista, California, 94571, USA
Phone 916-777-7701 (work), 916-777-6800 (home)
Fax 916-777-7703
Internet deltaparks@telis.org

IRF Rep Mike Lynch
Address PO Box 292010, Sacramento, California 95829-2010, USA.
Phone 916-558-3734 (home)
Fax 916-387-1179
Internet lynch@psyber.com

Northern Ireland**Northern Ireland Countryside Staff Association**

Chairperson Hugh McCann, Drumadravey, Irvinestown, County Formanagh, BT94 1LQ, Northern Ireland.
Phone 03656-21066 (home), 03656-21588 (work).

Africa**Game Rangers Association of Africa**

Chairperson John Forrest, P.O. Box 131, Umkomaas 4170, Republic of South Africa,
Phone and fax 0323-30374.

Vice Chairperson Mike Landman, Private Bag x402, Skukuza 1350, Republic of South Africa.
Phone 01311-65611
Fax 01311-65605

Ireland (Eire)**Irish National Park Rangers Association.**

Chairperson Brendan O'Shea, Killarney National Park, County Kerry, Ireland.
Phone 064-31440 (work)
Fax 064-33926

Italy	Associazione Ligure Agenti Di Vigilanza Ambientale.
Chairperson	Augusto Atturo, Associazione Ligure Agenti di Vigilanza Ambientale, Via Martiri della Liberta 32/14, 16156 Genova GE, Italy.
Fax	10-661758
Denmark	Naturvejleder Foreningen i Danmark.
IRF Rep	Ida Marie Jensen, Naturhistorisk Museum, Universitetsparken, 8000 Arhus C, Denmark.
Phone	45-86-12-97-77
Fax	45-86-13-08
Paraguay	Asociacion de Guardeparques del Paraguay.
Chairperson	Alejandro Cantero, Casilla de Correo 3303, Asuncion, Paraguay
Honduras	Fed-Ambiente de Honduras.
IRF Rep	Nasry Javier Ictech, Apartado Postal 3844, Tegucigalpa, M.D.C. Honduras.
Costa Rica	Acorena C.R.
IRF Rep	Franklin Carmiol Umana, P.O. Box 8-4330, 1000 San Jose, Costa Rica.
Dominican Repub.	Confunto del Guardaparques de la Republic Dominica.
IRF Rep	Ingeniera Gabriel Valdez (address not available).
Australia	National Park Rangers Association of Western Australia.
President	Rory Neal. Secretary - Gordon Thomson, 61 Thomas St., Subiaco, 6008 Western Australia (PO Box 414, Subiaco, 6008).
Phone	09-3885400
Fax	09-3823986
Australia	Individual, forming national ranger association.
IRF Rep	Kristen Appel, PO Box 1046, Alice Springs, Northern Territory 0871, Australia.
Phone	61-89-569770
Fax	61-89-569819
Romania	Romanian Rangers Association.
Chairman	Calin Georgescu, 27 Academiei, Suite II, Sect. 1, 70108 Bucharest, Romania.
Phone	40-(0)-1-312-66-39
Fax	40-(0)-1-312-42-63
Portugal	Associacao Portuguesa de Guardas e Vigilantes da Natureza.
Secretary	Francisco Jose Semedo Correira, c/o Parques Natural de Sintra-Cascais, Rua General Alves Rocardas 10 2 Esq, 2710 Sintra, Portugal.

Iceland	Iceland Wardens Association.
IRF Rep Phone	Steinunn Asmundsdottir, Egilsstadir 1, P.O. Box 85, 700 Egilsstadir, Iceland 581-3651
Nepal	Rangers Association of Nepal.
Secretary Phone Fax	Ashok Khand, Royal Chitwan National Park, Kashara, Chitwan, Nepal. 977-56-21932 977-1-229380
Canada	National Park Wardens Association.
President Phone	Mark Halley, RR #3, Highway 3 East #550, Leamington, Ontario, Canada. 519-322-5988
Germany	German Rangers Association.
Chair	Alfred Heilmann, Schlossweg 4, Spreewiese, D-02694, Germany
Kenya	Individual forming national ranger association.
IRF Rep	Daniel O. Onsembe, District Warden Office, Post Office Box 879, Kakamega, Kenya, East Africa.
Finland	Individual forming national ranger association.
IRF Rep	Trygve Lofroth, Finnish Forest and Park Service, Archipelago District, 21 710, Finland.
Sweden	Individual forming national ranger association.
IRF Rep Phone and fax	Thomas Hansson, Stenhuvuds National Park, S-27735 Kivik, Sweden. 46-414-70677
France	Individual forming national ranger association.
IRF Rep Phone	Jean Marie Cevasco, Parc National du Mercantour, 10 place Guillaume Tell, 06380 Sospel, France. 33-9304-1332
Malta	Individual forming national ranger association.
IRF Rep Phone Fax	Alexander L. Borg, Malta Planning Authority, Sultana Building/3, Mediatrix Place, Zabbar ZBR OZ, Malta. 356691978 356464804

Slovakia**Individual forming national ranger association.**

IRF Rep	Vladivoj Vancura, Slovakia Tatra National Park, Tatranska Lomnica, 05960, Slovak Republic.
Phone	42-969-967951
Fax	42-969-967958.

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The International Ranger Federation Newsletter is produced four times per year and distributed to the IRF representatives for each member association. The newsletter is edited by Bill Halainen of the U.S. Association of National Park Rangers. He can be reached in any of the following ways. The preferred means for fax communications is the work number.

- Mail – 4032 Conashaugh Lakes, Milford, Pennsylvania 18337, USA
- Phone – 717-686-3828 (home), 717-588-2430 (work)
- Fax – 717-686-3828 (home), 717-588-9652 (work)
- Electronic mail - Bill_Halainen@nps.gov