



## **INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION NEWSLETTER**

**Winter, 1998**

Volume 5

Number 1

### **Note From The Editor**

It has been a busy winter, which is why this edition of the newsletter, scheduled for completion and release in January, is coming to you now in the early days of March. I hope and plan to get back on schedule with the spring issue, which will come out no later than May 15. Please keep this in mind and send reports on your association or reports on other IRF activities to me by that date.

I would also like to receive short notes on any upcoming meetings or training sessions which would be of interest to other member associations. Those will appear in the calendar section at the end of the newsletter. Be sure to include the dates, location, a short description of the meeting or training session, and the address of the person to contact for more information.

Thank you for your patience.

Bill Halainen, Editor

### **IRF News**

#### **IRF Activities**

Chairman Gordon Miller has been traveling a good deal since the congress in Costa Rica and has more trips planned.

Last November, he addressed the Luneburg Heath Nature Reserve Academy in Germany as spokesman for IRF and talked about rangers and their role in nature conservation around the world. He was to meet with representatives from the World Heritage Center in January, but had to cancel the trip due to a family emergency. That meeting, which is to focus on cooperation between IRF and WHC, will be rescheduled. This month, he will be meeting with rangers in the Netherlands and France, then continuing on to Drakensburg, South Africa, where he will attend the annual GRAA meeting to discuss the upcoming Third World Congress, the African training initiative, and other issues.

Treasurer Mike Marshall is also traveling on Federation business. Mike will be representing IRF at the annual conference of Bundesverband Naturwacht, the German Ranger Association, in March. That association is also paying to have Ronald Mora of the Costa Rican Ranger Association attend the meeting.

It should be noted that much of the cost of these travels is being financed by Miller and Marshall with other than IRF funds.

Meanwhile, rangers in several more nations have expressed interest in forming national associations and joining the IRF. The Saudis, who have actively participated in both world congresses, are working on an organization, and Nigerian rangers have also contacted IRF about getting started. Late last month, Gordon Miller also heard from the Vietnam Forest Protection Department regarding affiliation of Vietnam's 8,500 rangers with IRF.

### **Third World Congress**

The date for IRF's Third World Congress, which will be held in Kruger National Park in South Africa, has been provisionally set for September, 2000. The name and theme of the congress will likely be "World Ranger 2000: The Future Role of Rangers Beyond 2000." The lead association will be the Game Rangers Association of Africa; John Forrest and Arrie Shreiber of GRAA are heading the effort. The four goals of the congress will be:

- to enhance and support the role and status of rangers in the continent of Africa;
- to raise awareness of IRF, particularly in Africa;
- to encourage the sharing of expertise from all parts of the world to combat threats to wildlife; and
- to raise awareness of the problems of wildlife management and to improve the ability of rangers to provide solutions to these problems.

The congress will likely be six days in duration, and will include a full day field trip. There will also be early morning or evening trips each day.

Kruger NP is one of the premier parks in Africa. Its roughly 4.8 million acres stretch from Mozambique in to the north to Malelane in the south. According to travel guides, the park supports more species of wildlife than any other African game sanctuary - 137 species of mammals, 49 of fish, 112 of reptiles, and 493 of birds. The park also has the highest density of birds of prey in the world, including 15 species of eagles.

### **Second World Congress**

Little progress has been made on completion of the proceedings from the congress in Costa Rica due to lack of time. Bill Halainen, who has taken on the project, is actively looking for someone to take responsibility for the proceedings. The budget is in place and preparations have been made for printing it in the U.S. What is now needed is someone to collect those reports not yet received, arrange translation for some proceedings from either Spanish to English or English to Spanish, and preparation of the text for printing. Please contact Bill if you would like to help.

### **IRF Business**

Secretary Bob Reid is working on election ballots for the IRF council and should have those out to all shortly. The election is a priority, as the Federation has to date functioned through the efforts of a temporary working group.

A proposal to have Gordon Miller work full time for IRF for six months has been sent to all member associations. The proposal was advanced at the congress in Costa Rica, and the chief ranger at Gordon's park has approved the arrangement - if \$30,000 (U.S.) in funds can be raised to cover his salary. The amount is considerable and it is not certain that it can be raised. But IRF is very much in need of full time attention at present. There is much work to be done - internal organization, liaison with other international conservation organizations, assistance to new ranger organizations, and fund raising, to name a few. More on this in the next newsletter.

Treasurer Mike Marshall has asked that all member associations fill out a standard form providing annual report and accounting information. That form is ATTACHED. Those of you receiving this newsletter through the Internet may want to just use it as a model. Reports should be sent to IRF secretary Bob Reid at the Federation address: International Ranger Federation, PO Box 37, Stirling, FX8 25L, Scotland.

## **Federation Directory**

A new and current directory of principal contacts in IRF is enclosed with this newsletter. There are many changes, so it should replace all previous lists. Please note that even addresses which have appeared before may have minor changes in them. A line has also been added for Web sites, as the Canadian National Park Wardens Association now has its own site - the first for any member association.

Please send any corrections or additions to Bill Halainen, editor of this newsletter. A corrected version will be sent out with the spring newsletter.

## **African Game Protection Initiative**

Delegates to the congress in Costa Rica unanimously approved a resolution calling for the establishment of a United Nations wildlife protection unit to deal with "the increasing and indiscriminate destruction of wildlife (including endangered species) in many countries on the African continent." Although such destruction of wildlife is occurring in many countries, one of the hardest hit has been Garamba NP in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Considerable effort has been made since the congress on advancing this resolution in general, on dealing with the problems of protecting wildlife in Africa, and on providing needed support and training for African rangers. Not surprisingly, the political realities associated with all these issues are complex. Some headway has been made, though. John Forrest of GRAA has provided the following update, written on February 28th. It begins with some background on the issue:

"Much of the problem stems from the civil war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Soldiers or rebels from one side or the other have periodically occupied the park, taken all equipment and supplies, and chased away the conservation staff. Heavily-armed, well-equipped, military-trained poachers from Sudan and elsewhere have also moved en masse into the park and are shooting everything that is of use to them. Garamba is the home of the last approximately twenty northern white rhino, plus 10,000 elephant, 20,000 buffalo, and countless thousands of other game. These will not now last very long, unless something is done very soon indeed.

"The World Wildlife Federation (WWF) approached GRAA to facilitate and monitor the training of rangers in Garamba to a level where they can effectively deal with the poaching. They will nevertheless probably still need the assistance of a few outside advisors. Permission to enter the country and to do this has been long in coming from President Kabila, and the situation now requires consideration of first sending in a team of people who are capable of dealing with the several thousand anti-DRC and Ugandan rebels as well as the numerous professional poachers who are now in the park. There will undoubtedly be casualties on both sides, so this can only be done by a team with the right bush warfare background. It will also cost a great deal of money, which non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are unlikely to provide due to the political sensitivity of such an operation, especially the possibility of casualties. However, we do have a team on standby that can do the job, and permission has now come through to commence training to a very high level, which GRAA will monitor and which it appears that either WWF or the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) or both will fund. So at least the training might soon start.

"Matters are moving rapidly. If the GRAA can find sponsors who can supply equipment for rangers in Africa of whatever nature, we are prepared to set up a warehouse to store and administer this equipment and to then distribute it to those rangers needing it throughout Africa. And, most importantly, we will make sure that it gets to where it should get and that it is utilized properly. Any ideas and assistance regarding this will be greatly appreciated.

"I am not exaggerating when I say that there are rangers in Africa who do not even have boots, never mind uniforms and other equipment that they desperately need. Nor will they likely ever have them unless those of us who can do something about it assist them on a more or less permanent basis."

Last year, rangers in the Scottish Countryside Ranger Association raised money to provide equipment to rangers in Africa. Now's the time for you to consider ways in which you can help as well. If you have some ideas, please contact John as soon as possible. He now is on Internet, so he can be reached a number of ways:

Address: P.O. Box 131, Umkomaas 4170, Republic of South Africa  
Telephone: 0323-30374  
Telefax: 0323-30374  
Internet: [gra@sco.eastcoast.co.za](mailto:gra@sco.eastcoast.co.za)

## **News About IRF Associations**

### **ALAVA (Italy) - Augusto Atturo**

On September 24, 1997, the official gazette of the Italian republic published a new governmental decree stating who in the State Forestry Corp will be assigned to the areas where new national parks have been created. Fourteen new district coordinating units were created to enforce environmental laws and park regulations in addition to regular duties, with special staffs of forest guards. About 1,000 forest agents and officials will work in the 14 national parks, providing enforcement and park management. The same decree for the first time established standards for the courses and training of forestry personnel assigned to national park areas.

### **Countryside Management Association (England) - Declan Keiley**

At its annual general meeting in November, CMA paved the way for a new membership category - professional member. A working group was set up two years ago to look into the development of formal entry in the association via qualifications and a demonstration of experience. The group is near to finalizing the format for professional memberships, which will be offered to present full members of CMA through the summer of 1998. Once a person becomes a professional member of CMA, he or she will need to demonstrate a continued commitment to self-improvement and professional development. This will be monitored by the association in partnership with training providers and academic institutions. Members and potential members who don't have the requested qualifications will have leave to apply via a review panel. This is most important, as experience is the vital component in good countryside managers. Along with the raising of status for members of the association, we hope to produce a professional journal to complement our magazine, RANGER, with articles looking at new initiatives and best practices.

### **Scottish Countryside Ranger Association (Scotland) - Tony Wilson**

SCRA's annual general meeting took place on the week of February 20th and was preceded by a workshop on working with youth groups. Several of the council members stood down, but most remain. A year-long exchange has been set up between vice chair Mags Ramsey and Amanda Bowden, a ranger from Long Bay regional park near Auckland in New Zealand. This will probably take place some time in the autumn. We hope that it will be the first of many such exchanges with colleagues from all over the world. At present, we are waiting to see how the new government's policy changes (i.e., creating national parks in Scotland) will affect our profession. Our magazine, SCRAMBLE, is produced quarterly. If you would like to subscribe to it, please contact me for details.

### **Slovak Ranger Association (Slovakia) - Vlado Vancura**

The Slovak Ranger Association (SRA) held two meetings in 1997 - one in March and one in November. Between 22 and 24 members from almost all Slovakian protected areas attended the meetings, which were held in different protected areas. It is our goal to get familiar with other protected areas in Slovakia and to contact new rangers - and potential members. Directors from some Slovak national parks and John Earnst, a member of the U.S. Peace Corps in Slovakia and a former superintendent in the U.S. National Park Service, attended both meetings. At the November meeting, we were joined by rangers from the Czech Republic, our partners from national parks and protected areas. They are now establishing a Czech ranger association, and our meeting was a very useful platform for exchanging and sharing information and experiences. A very important issue discussed at both meetings was the ranger training program, which is organized by the Slovak Ministry of Environment, the British "Know How" Fund, and Loosehill Hall Training Center in Peak National Park in the United Kingdom. At the November meeting, we decided to set a small membership fee for members of SRA. Zdeno Pochop and Vlado Vancura made presentations on their experiences at the Second World Congress in Costa Rica, and all members very much appreciated the opportunity for representatives of SRA to present our experiences at the congress. Elections were also held. The executive committee was enlarged with new persons, and Vlado Vancura was reelected as chairman.

### **Naturvardarna (Sweden) - Thomas Hansson**

Last year was Naturvardarna's first year, and we had our first general assembly in November. A board with four members was elected, and 19 of the total of 71 paying members participated in the seminar, which focused on the question of overuse and degradation in Swedish protected areas. We determined that overuse is not a big problem in the parks and reserves, but that in some spots there is reason to take the problem seriously. We made plans for 1998. We hope to have more members (120) and representatives in every county (15). There will be a new national park. We will help the people working there to get reasonable working conditions because no money comes with new protected areas. There is a new book on the Swedish national parks which is in English. If you are interested, I can send it to you for \$40 U.S.

### **California State Park Rangers Association (United States) - Mike Lynch**

The association's California Parks Conference will be held from March 9 to March 12 in San Luis Obispo, California. Included in the program is a session on IRF and the recent world congress in Costa Rica, which was attended by ten California rangers. Based on a contact made at the congress, CSPRA has taken on a project to raise money to buy uniform patches for rangers in the Tanzanian national parks.

### **Association of National Park Rangers (United States) - Bill Halainen**

ANPR has established an international committee, which is being chaired by Rick Smith. The committee is working on five projects:

- Attempting to reestablish contact with countries in the Western Hemisphere that have gone through the official affiliation process with IRF but have not been heard from in some time.
- Raising money for scholarships for Western Hemisphere rangers to attend the Third World Congress in South Africa in 2000.
- Managing the affiliation process for national associations in the Western Hemisphere that want to join IRF.
- Inviting protected area managers from Mexico to participate in the association's annual meeting in December in Tucson, Arizona, which is on the border with Mexico.
- Looking at the possibility of preparing a "how to" manual for new park managers that could be translated into other languages.

## **National Park Wardens Association (Canada) - Mark Halley**

NPWA currently has over 200 members from parks across the country. The first-ever election is now over and we have an executive board made up of members from all over Canada. We have divided the country into seven regions, each with its own representative on the board. Individual park representatives have also been appointed to assist regional representatives and to ensure a direct line of contact from members to the executive, and a committee has been established to obtain comments from members on important issues. There will be a number of such issues associated with the establishment of Parks Canada as a special agency. Although it will still be part of the government and report to the Minister of Canadian Heritage, agency status will permit it to function more like a business. Many of the issues that need to be addressed have been around for a long time. With a "Canadian Parks Agency" now being created and support growing for the association, we believe this is the time to present our concerns and work with our employer to achieve our goals.

The NPWA Newsletter, FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS, is again being published. If you would like a copy for your association, please send your association's name and address and the name of the contact person to Box 145, Leamington, Ontario, N8H 3W1.

I would like to thank everyone who has shown support for us over the last three years. We are proud and honored to be affiliated with IRF, and, as we grow in the future, I hope we can contribute even more to the Federation.

### **News About Rangers**

#### **Argentina**

Rangers in Argentina have been following up on the sustainable development theme of the congress in Costa Rica. Alejandro Caparros and Nancy Ruiz have already done one training session on sustainable development for Argentine rangers and have another planned for April. We hope to have details for the next newsletter.

#### **Nigeria**

IRF has received another note from Tim Adkin in Nigeria regarding the support IRF member associations have given Nigerian rangers. He reports that the situation is looking much better there. "All of the rangers have been working desperately hard, spending two-three weeks camping in the bush, and at last we are turning the tide and denying the poaching gangs room to operate. In fact, they now run as soon as they see our patrols, in some cases dropping their guns. Our guys are really excited and can't wait to get out on patrol!" More from his letter in the next newsletter.

### **Upcoming Events**

March 9-12, 1998	California Parks Conference, California State Park Rangers Association, San Luis Obispo, California.
April 2-4, 1998	Fourth Slovak Ranger Meeting, Polana Protected Area, Slovakia.
December 8-12, 1998	22nd Ranger Rendezvous, Association of National Park Rangers, Tucson, Arizona, USA.
September, 2000	IRF Third World Congress, Kruger NP, Republic of South Africa.

--- ### ---

## **Annual Report And Accounts**

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Name of association \_\_\_\_\_

Number of association members \_\_\_\_\_

Total income from membership subscriptions per year \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of total income allocated to IRF \_\_\_\_\_

How was the IRF allocation spent? \_\_\_\_\_

Current association chairman/president \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/telefax/e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Current association treasurer \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/telefax/e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Current association secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/telefax/e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Current association IRF representative \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/telefax/e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name of your association publication \_\_\_\_\_

Editor of your association publication \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/telefax/e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a copy of your association's most recent annual report or summary of financial accounts and send to Secretary Bob Reid, International Ranger Federation, PO Box 37, Stirling, FX8 25L, Scotland.