



INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

Spring, 1998

Volume 5

Number 2

Chairman's Report

Chairman Gordon Miller has had a busy winter and spring traveling and meeting with organizations on IRF business. Since several of these meetings were with international conservation organizations, it might be useful to first provide some information on these organizations and their missions:

- IUCN, known as the World Conservation Union, is one of the world's oldest international conservation organizations. IUCN, established in 1948, is a union of scientists, experts, and representatives from the field and management levels of governments, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations, all dedicated to protect nature. Its mission statement declares that IUCN's goal is "to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature, and ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable." There are at present almost 900 member organizations. The headquarters is in Gland, Switzerland.
- The World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) is one of IUCN's six global commissions. Its objectives are to assist in the planning of protected areas and their integration into all sectors by providing strategic advice to policy makers; to strengthen capacity and effectiveness of protected area managers through the provision of guidance, tools and information, and as a vehicle for networking; and to increase investment in protected areas by persuading public and corporate donors, as well as governments, of their value. WCPA is the largest global network of protected area managers and specialists. It is centrally coordinated by a steering committee and supported by IUCN's Protected Areas Program (PPA).
- World Heritage (WH) is part of UNESCO and was created by the Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by UNESCO's general conference in 1972. World Heritage's primary mission is to define and conserve the world's heritage by drawing up a list of sites whose outstanding values should be preserved for all humanity and to ensure their protection through closer cooperation among nations. More than 150 state parties have signed the convention to date. By signing the convention, each country pledges to conserve the sites situated on its territory, some of which may be recognized as World Heritage Sites.

Gordon met with World Heritage Center (WHC) program specialists Mechtild Rossler and "Ish" Ishwaran in Paris on Friday February 13th. WHC was a primary supporter of the Second World Congress in Costa Rica, and has expressed an interest in supporting the Third World Congress in South Africa in 2000, particularly if there is an opportunity (as there was in Costa Rica) for World Heritage Site rangers to meet in a structured workshop to exchange expertise and discuss key issues pertaining to such sites. If this and other basic conditions can be met, WHC will likely provide as much funding (possibly more) for South Africa as for Costa Rica.

Other actions agreed to at the meeting included the following:

- WHC and IRF will investigate the possibility of joint training on management of World Heritage Sites and the development of a database of WH site managers.
- WHC and IRF would work jointly to fund participation of a Game Rangers Association of Africa (GRAA) ranger at an international wildlife training meeting which was held in India last month (a GRAA member attended, but particulars on funding his travel have not yet been worked out).
- WHC and IRF will work with WCPA to prepare requests for funding of projects of mutual concern, as joint efforts are more likely to receive funding than individual bids.
- WHC and IRF will exchange bulletins; WHC will list IRF events on their calendar, which is disseminated worldwide.

Gordon then traveled to South Africa to attend GRAA's annual meeting, which was held from March 10th to the 14th in Drakensburg. Also attending were Declain Keiley, chair of England's ranger organization, the Countryside Management Association (CMA), and Colin Dilcock, CMA's representative to IRF. One of the main topics of the meeting was, of course, the upcoming World Congress (see below for details). GRAA is confident about raising funds, which will be used to cover some of the Congress costs and at bringing African delegates to the meeting.

Gordon was booked to attend a big international parks meeting in France in April and had arranged to meet with a number of key players in the international parks community, but the host country canceled at the last moment. Since he'd already booked a flight, Gordon instead traveled to Gland and met with David Sheppard, head of the protected area program for WCPA, to talk about ways in which IRF and WCPA can work cooperatively. WCPA's Pedro Rosabal, who attended the congress at Zakopane, also attended. They came to an agreement on a number of issues:

- WCPA and IRF will work to develop contacts between opposite numbers in the two organizations, as IRF is establishing a regional representative system that parallels WCPA's.
- WCPA and IRF will pursue an IRF proposal to provide ranger expertise on WCPA task forces, such as those on training and tourism.
- WCPA and IRF will cooperate in an effort to develop a database showing the numbers and distribution of rangers worldwide.
- WCPA and IRF will work cooperatively on international training and standards for the ranger profession.
- WCPA and IRF will work together on seeking funds for scholarships for rangers who employ the planned IRF exchange bureau to exchange jobs (temporarily) with other rangers.
- WCPA will support IRF's proposed "International Ranger Day" by promoting it in their publications.
- IRF will make nominations for WCPA's Fred Packard award, which is given annually to a person who has committed a heroic deed in a protected area or contributed in a similar manner to protected area success.
- WCPA suggested that IRF draft resolutions at the World Congress in South Africa to present at IUCN's World Congress, which will be held in Africa in 2002.

The WCPA meeting concluded with a conference call with WCPA Chairman Adrian Phillips, who concurred with all of the above and suggested that a more formal declaration of understanding listing areas of cooperation be completed between our two organizations and ratified by their respective steering committees.

IRF News

Nominations to IRF Executive Council

A request for nominations to IRF's international executive council (IEC) has been mailed out by secretary Bob Reid. Any member association that has not yet received a copy should contact Bob or Gordon Miller immediately.

The IRF statutes list the following appointments that are to be made following the election of the IEC:

- Editor
- Exchange Bureau Coordinator
- Training Coordinator
- International Fund-Raiser
- Internet Coordinator
- Marketing/Public Relations Officer
- Hobby/Collector Coordinator

The IEC will be seeking suitable persons for these important roles; volunteers with relevant qualifications will be welcome. If you feel qualified or know suitable candidates, please advise Bob Reid or Gordon Miller as soon as possible so that the IEC can consider them.

Third World Congress

IRF's Third World Congress will be held between from September 10-16, 2000 at Berg en Dal Camp in Kruger National Park. The cost of the six-day congress will be between \$600 and \$700 U.S. (excluding travel) and will cover transfer to and from Johannesburg International Airport, shared accommodations, meals, congress materials, one early morning game drive, one evening game drive, and a full-day field trip.

The site can accommodate a maximum of 300 delegates; of these, 50 will be delegated to host GRAA members, who will be in a tented camp adjoining the main camp. The congress will be structured to allow maximum participation by interaction between delegates at plenary and breakaway sessions.

There will be a limited number of poster presentations and opportunities for short delegate presentations, as at Zakopane and San Jose. A call will go out for 20-minute presentations pertaining to several themes, which are likely to be the ranger and area integrity, the ranger and community, and the ranger and economics.

An initial leaflet will be mailed out this September. GRAA has signed a contract with Mpumalanga Promotions, operated by the wife of a GRAA member, to organize registration and congress details. The outline of a program has been prepared and will be shared with member associations shortly.

Second World Congress

Meg Weesner of the Association of National Park Rangers is coordinating the preparation of the proceedings of the Second World Congress. The target for publication and dissemination is this fall. If you gave a presentation or led a workshop in San Jose but have not yet sent in a summary of that session, please do so immediately. The deadline for sending the proceedings to the printer is June 15th.

You can send it by Internet to MWWeesner@aol.com, or mail it to Meg at 9352 East Trail Ridge Place, Tucson, AZ 85710.

Federation Directory

There have been some changes to the IRF Directory which was sent out with the winter newsletter. Please make these changes to the directory. A new edition will be sent out in the summer.

- Associazione Ligure Agenti Di Vigilanza Ambientale, the Italian ranger association, now has its own web page: <http://space.tin.it/io/ginapi>
- The new president of the California State Park Ranger Association is Jill Dampier, who can be reached by phone at 916-885-4527 and by e-mail at damp@psyber.com
- The Australian Ranger Association also has a web site: <http://ranger.hypermart.net>. The person who runs it is Geoff Winnett; he can be reached at gwinnet@tpgi.com.au
- The home page for the Game Rangers Association of Africa is: <http://www.wildnetafrica.com/gamerangers/home.html>
- The Internet address for Ida Marie Jensen, IRF representative for Naturvejlederforeningen I Danmark, has changed. She can now be reached at musbib@nathist.aau.dk
- The formal name for the Finnish ranger association is Suomen Luonnonsuojelualueiden Henkilö/Kunta. The chairman is Trygve Lofroth. His address: Finnish Forest and Park Service, Southcoast Park Area, 21 660 Nagu, Finland. Telephone(s): 358-2-4651697 (home) and 358-2-4651866 (work); telefax: 358-2-4651862; Internet: trygve.lofroth@metsa.fi
- The new Internet address for Vlado Vancura, chairman of the Slovak Ranger Association is aprojekt@isternet.sk

Please pass on any other changes to newsletter editor Bill Halainen, who can be reached at Bill.Halainen@nps.gov.

News About IRF Associations

Naturvejlederforeningen I Danmark (Denmark)

Naturvejlederforeningen's annual general meeting took place on March 4-6, 1998. The 125 members who participated took part in workshops and discussed nature interpretation, environmental interpretation, and the limits of ranger work. There are 240 rangers in Denmark. During the year, they attend courses on different subjects and meetings on the education of new rangers.

Naturvejlederforeningen's international committee met last month to talk about member activities. One ranger, Per Mikkelsen, is working for two years on a project to develop training for rangers working in the 30 to 35 national parks in Lithuania. Another, Peer Noergaard, is working with the coalition attempting to clean up the Baltic Sea, an effort which involves people in Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany and Denmark. Ranger Joergen Stubgaard is going to Kaliningrad in Russia to help educate rangers working in national parks in that country. Ranger Soeren Andersen has been in Thailand working on a project called "Nature Interpretation and Public Awareness for the Environment." He was teaching rangers and other environmental interpreters.

Ida Marie Jensen

California State Park Rangers Association (United States)

CSPRA held its annual meeting in March. An IRF information table was staffed for the whole conference, which generated lots of interest in the federation. The major IRF-related project was to raise funds for insignia for Tanzanian park rangers. Over \$1,000 U.S. was raised. CSPRA will be sending the insignia to Tanzania via IRF's contact in that country, chief park warden Lorivi Moses Ole Moirana, who was at the congress in Costa Rica. A session was also held at the conference to share the experience of the group that attended the congress. There was also a great deal of interest in the congress in South Africa.

Mike Lynch

Australian Ranger Association (Australia)

The association will hold its annual general meeting and first conference in September. Specific dates will be announced. Kristen Appel will be traveling to New Zealand in May to talk with rangers about starting an association there.

Kristen Appel

Scottish Countryside Ranger Association (Scotland)

SCRA has been working with the Icelandic Rangers Association to organize a visit to Scotland by some of their members this September. This is a follow-up to SCRA's visit to Iceland in 1996, during which the two associations signed a twinning agreement. This visit will give each group further opportunities to exchange ideas and generally get to know each others' cultures better. A two-month exchange has also been proposed for the summer of 1999, with one Scottish ranger going to Iceland to work for a month each in two of their national parks. This is still in the early stages of planning; more details will appear in future newsletters.

SCRA has also been getting more and more requests for information from rangers all around the world on topics ranging from information about Scottish history to people looking for work there. They have also employed IRF contacts to put Scottish rangers in touch with colleagues around the world in countries they either want to visit or need information about. If any of you are interested in this kind of information about Scotland, get in touch with Tony Wilson at nar@st-and.ac.uk, which is the main e-mail address for SCRA.

SCRA has set up a working group (the Special Areas Task Force) to look into the impact of the two proposed national parks, one in the Cairngorm mountains, the other at Loch Lomond. SCRA believes that it is vitally important that their association be included in the present consultation about these areas, since it is SCRA members who are likely to be the front-line staff once they are set up.

Finally, a date for your calendars. SCRA's 1998 conference will be held from November 4-6 at the Buchanan Arms Hotel in Drymen, near Loch Lomond (only eight miles from the pub in Balloch where the IRF was conceived). The topic will be "Rangers: The New Millennium," and will focus on the contribution of rangers to the future of Scotland's countryside. If you want more details, please contact Tony at SCRA's e-mail address.

Tony Wilson

Association of National Park Rangers (United States)

ANPR's international committee has launched a major effort to recruit additional Western Hemisphere nations as IRF affiliates. Committee members are contacting each country in the hemisphere, explaining the purposes of IRF and offering assistance in the establishment of national organizations. This is the first attempt to recruit new affiliated members in this hemisphere since ANPR's original effort shortly after the establishment of the Federation. The committee hopes to capitalize on the enthusiasm for the IRF that was generated in Costa Rica at the 2nd World Congress.

Rick Smith

Associacao Portuguesa de Guardas e Vigilantes da Natureza (Portugal)

The Associacao Portuguesa de Guardas e Vigilantes da Natureza was founded on March 14, 1990. It has two main objectives - to serve as a socio-professional organization and as an association of environmental defence. The association owns a farm in the middle of country. In March, they inaugurated it as the new Centre of Ambiental Education and Formation. The center will be used for courses, seminars, conferences, practical classes about nature, temporary and permanent expositions, and other initiatives. The center is also open to other federated associations who would like to hold activities there.

Francisco Jose Semedo Correia

Suomen Luonnonsuojelualueiden Henkil/Kunta (Finland)

The association is just getting started. They have held a few board meetings and passed on information to fellow rangers through the Finnish Forest and Park Service's newsletter. Trygve Lofroth is the chairman; Aarno Tervonen is vice chair, and Hely Juntunen is the secretary.

Trygve Lofroth

Naturvardarna (Sweden)

Naturvardarna will hold its annual meeting near Norway on November 11-15. Nothing else is happening in their association at present, as all are busy with spring work.

Thomas Hansson

Slovak Ranger Association (Slovakia)

The Slovak Ranger Association has held two ranger meetings since the Second World Congress - a meeting in Low Tatra National Park in the fall and another in Polana Protected Area in the spring.

Both were very successful. More than 70% of all Slovak rangers participated in the meetings. They had guest rangers from the Czech Republic at the fall meeting and guests from Poland in the spring.

Over the last few months, Vlado has finished an international display project - places where boundaries are not boundaries, where the skills, enthusiasm and finances of four unique trans-boundary parks are joined together: Tatra National Park in Slovakia and Poland, and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park in the U.S. and Kluane National Park in Canada. The display appeared for the first time in Slovakia and presently is in Poland; it will then go to the U.S. and Canada. A simple folder guide to the display was printed in Slovakia, and two workshops were held for local land users.

Vlado is presently working on another project - a nature trail that should be opened in June.

Vlado Vancura

Game Rangers Association of Africa (South Africa) - John Forrest

GRAA continues to make slow progress on the initiative endorsed at the World Congress in Costa Rica.

GRAA has communicated with a number of conservation organizations and political entities on the proposal. The consensus to date is that IRF should go through two organizations - South African Developing Countries (SADC) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) - to try to create an all-African support force that could perhaps set an example of what could be done.

Many political problems will still have to be overcome, however. GRAA has also received a positive response from South Africa's Department of the Environment: "Your proposal regarding the establishment of an international 'Conservation Support Force' to assist developing countries certainly has merit. I shall discuss with colleagues from the Department of Foreign Affairs possible ways to introduce your ideas to SADC countries."

John Forrest

Course Offering

Mexico's Natural Resources Law Enforcement Agency, PROFEPA, in coordination with the IRF, is offering the "First Training Course for Latinamerican Park Rangers in Natural Protected Areas". The course will be held in the Valle del Bravo, about 3 1/2 hours outside of Mexico City near the state of Michoacan. The particulars of the course are:

- Site: Valle del Bravo
- Course length: 6 days
- Number of participants: 25
- Official language: Spanish
- Requirements: Minimum level - technical; good physical condition; active park ranger; bring uniform
- Costs: Members of the IRF - \$500; non-members - \$650. Includes meals, lodging, course materials, field trips, and diploma

For more information, contact: Lucía Peñuñuri Jiménez, PROFEPA, Periférico Sur 5000, 2 Piso, Col. Insurgentes Cuicuilco, C.P. 04530 México D.F. Tel: 52-5-665-5583; fax: 52-5-665-0741; e.mail: angulo@correo.profepa.gob.mx

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La Procurduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA) de México, en coordinación y con el patrocinio de la Federación Internacional de Guardaparques (FIG), organiza el Primer Curso Latinoamericano de Entrenamiento para Guardaparques en Areas Naturales Protegidas, que se llevará a cabo en Valle de Bravo, Estado de Michoacán, situado a 170 km. de Distrito Federal (3 1/2 horas).

- Sede: Valle del Bravo, Estado de México
- Fecha: 26-31 de Octubre, 1998
- Duración: 6 Días
- Cupo: 25 Personas
- Idioma Oficial: Español
- Requisitos: Nivel Mínimo - técnico; gozar de buena condición física; ser guardaparque en activo; traer uniforme
- Cuota: Miembros de la FIG - \$500; no miembros - \$650. Incluye hospedaje, alimentación, material, practicas de campo y de gabinete, diploma de acreditación

Informes: PROFEPA, Dirección de Inspección y Vigilancia en Areas Naturales Protegidas, Atn: Lucía Peñuñuri Jiménez, Periférico Sur 5000, 2 Piso, Col. Insurgentes Cuicuilco, C.P. 04530 México D.F. Tel: 52-5-665-5583; fax: 52-5-665-0741; e.mail: angulo@correo.profepa.gob.mx

Reserve con anticipación. Cupo limitado. Fecha límite de inscripción: 1 Octubre de 1998. Modulos de Capacitación: Introducción, metodologías de protección de los recursos naturales, oranzación de acciones operativas, procesos de análisis e interpretación espacial.

News About Rangers

Brazil

Chairman Gordon Miller spotted the following in a newspaper in late April: "Brazil promised yesterday to conserve 62 million acres of rain forest in the biggest forest protection scheme ever announced. The World Bank and WWF will jointly police the scheme. Rangers and light planes will be provided to patrol the areas against illegal logging..." The article goes on to specify the areas and states that scheme is the first part of a plan by World Bank and WWF to save 125 million acres of the world's forests. The G8 countries will be asked at the Birmingham (UK) summit next month to help fund the deal.

Gordon is attempting to find out a bit more about how the rangers are going to be recruited and trained, as IRF could have a role to play.

Upcoming Events

November 4-6, 1998	Annual Conference, Scottish Countryside Ranger Association, Buchanan Arms Hotel, Drymen, Scotland.
November 11-15, 1998	Annual Meeting, Naturvardarna, Sweden.
December 8-12, 1998	22nd Ranger Rendezvous, U.S. Association of National Park Rangers, Tucson, Arizona, USA.
September 10-16, 2000	IRF Third World Congress, Kruger NP, Republic of South Africa.

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