



INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

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IRF News

President's Report

There has been a great deal of activity as the Third World Congress in Kruger draws ever closer. This is the first occasion that we have had to have a reserve list of applicants due to the popularity of the Congress. This is very unfortunate for those without a confirmed place, but on the positive side reduces the number of nervous breakdowns amongst the organizers because it ensures a Congress within budget.

A bid for the 2003 Congress has been received from Australia and accepted by IRF's international executive council. The Congress will be held in the state of Victoria and will be organized by the Victoria Rangers Association and Parks Victoria with the support of the Australian Ranger Association. Details will be announced at Kruger and published in this newsletter.

I attended a UNESCO World Heritage task force on capacity building in Paris in April. Another World Heritage workshop, which will be held at the South African Wildlife College after the Congress at Kruger, will be considering practical ways of implementing some of the recommendations made in Paris.

Since April, I have addressed a meeting of rangers from around Norway in Dovrefjell National Park – this was the first such meeting and was used to start the development of a Norwegian Rangers Association. The meeting was hosted by the Norwegian Nature Agency, which has now given its support to the proposed association. This will likely bring together rangers from three agencies into one ranger association. The Slovak and Czech rangers association have signed a twinning agreement, which illustrates that ranger co-operation has no political boundaries. Congratulations to both associations on showing the way.

It is good to see closer ties developing between rangers in Argentina and Uruguay following the highly successful five nation ranger training conference held in Argentina. Juan Carlos Gambarotta and Vice President Rick Smith continue to work hard to extend IRF membership in South America. Elsewhere progress is slow, but I have every confidence that membership will increase over the next 12 months.

The Euroranger Project, funded by the Jacobs Foundation, is drawing to a close. The pilot youth/ranger program involved seven IRF member associations in Europe. It culminated in a highly successful camp in the Peak National Park in England in July which was attended by 23 young people and 18 ranger mentors. The emotional finale, when certificates were presented by Theo Brenner, the director of the Jacobs Foundation, and by Lord Davies, showed how successful the pilot project had been in using rangers to introduce young, often disadvantaged people to the environment. It is proposed that IRF produce information to enable ranger associations to use the scheme in the future.

Many of you are aware that I am standing down as President at Kruger. I have enjoyed the past eight years as your president and I am eternally grateful to all those who helped me during that time. I would like to thank all the members of the international executive council for their continuous support, and particularly Vice President Rick Smith and Treasurer Mike Marshall, who have given me the odd nudge when I was losing momentum.

The Federation has been very fortunate in having a very dedicated executive council and I know that some will be standing down this Congress. I would like to express thanks to them on your behalf and hope that they will continue to support the Federation. I would also like to urge you to use the newsletter to share information on what you are doing in your association and to share knowledge – we have a great editor in Bill Halainen and a very important networking medium.

Finally, I have received wonderful hospitality from rangers wherever I have been and been very privileged to visit some incredible places in company with the local experts – the rangers. To all I say a big thank you.

I will continue to offer my services to the Federation and new president in whatever capacity deemed appropriate. The Federation has an exciting future and I hope to remain part of it.

Gordon Miller
President

Vice President's Report

The Argentine Ranger Association recently held its first congress – a huge success. See Juan Carlos Gambarotta's report below for details. IRF co-sponsored the event, and Juan Carlos gave the following little speech from me on behalf of IRF:

“On behalf of the rangers who are members of the associations affiliated with the International Ranger Federation, I send you greetings from the state of New Mexico in the United States. I also congratulate you. The attendance at this, your first meeting, proves once again that rangers can be the catalysts for improving the protection and preservation of the resources contained within the parks and equivalent reserves of Argentina and surrounding countries.

“We should be very clear about the urgency of this preservation and protection. The modern world is rapidly closing in on our remaining wild places. Outside our protected areas, we have modified natural processes, harnessing them to meet human needs. It is only in our parks and reserves that the natural world exists as it once did. In that sense, our protected areas serve as a valuable contrast to our daily lives. It is not that our civilization is advancing too rapidly. It's just that if there weren't places like national parks, we would have nothing against which to measure the speed of the advance.

“As guardians, then, of these important places, rangers play an important role in maintaining a healthy human population. We protect the places where people come to get away from the urgent meetings, the important phone calls, the answer-right-now emails, and the one thousand other things that create stress in our modern lives. We preserve the places where people can take off their watches, turn off their radios, shut down their cell phones and computers, and live life according to biological rhythms, not the pace of human commerce.

“One other service that park rangers provide to their fellow citizens is also very important. It is abundantly clear that if the world is going to survive, its inhabitants must develop an ethic that features respect for the environment in which we exist. Rangers are key people in the web of educators who are helping the world see that humans are not the only passengers on the space ship we call the earth. We share it with countless other creatures which make up the ecology of our planet. Someone has to speak for the wolves and the amoebae of the world. I am proud that it is the rangers who are the speakers.

“I hope your congress is productive and challenging. I wish you all the best of luck in your careers. Good luck and God bless you for the work you do.”

Rick Smith
Vice President

European Ranger Project

This project has now come to the end of its two year program. The recent international youth camp at Edale in the Peak District National Park in England in July, followed by the final meeting of the international steering group, marked the end of a successful project. Rangers and young people from Austria, England, Germany, Portugal, Scotland, Slovakia, Sweden and Wales worked together and enjoyed the recreational opportunities of the park before formally presenting their thoughts and ideas on the youth/ranger pilot scheme, which has been tried and tested in each of these countries this summer. Losehill Hall, the National Park Study Centre, was the appropriate setting for the presentations and for the Steering Group meeting.

A summary of the achievements and opportunities created by the project will be published in the form of a report later in the autumn. Briefly, the questionnaire survey of ranger services and training across Europe provided the first available information on this important topic and produced a database which will be expanded and used not only by IRF but also by our partner organizations, particularly if the joint bid for European Leonardo II funding for Training of Protected Area Staff [TOPAS] is successful in December. IRF will be a partner in this new project, a follow-up to the European Ranger Project. The ERP steering group decided at its final meeting that IRF should continue with the work undertaken during the last two years and should put forward a proposal which will attract financial support from a variety of sources. This proposal will be reported to member associations when more detail is available. The project web site at www.euroranger.com will be continued and has recently been updated.

ERP has provided IRF with a superb opportunity to do some serious research work in Europe and to establish contact with a wide range of potential partner organizations. Our thanks go especially to our partners in the Peak District National Park Study Centre at Losehill Hall, to the ranger associations in England and Wales, Scotland, Sweden, Austria, Slovakia, Portugal and Germany, and to Slovak National Parks, Naturhistorisches Museum Wien and the Alfred Toepfer Academy for Nature Conservation. The main project was sponsored by the Jacobs Foundation and the youth camp by the foundation and the British Council. A final report on the project should be available in early September and will be available from me at my email address: marshall.i.r.f@btinternet.com.

Mike Marshall
IRF Treasurer

New Ranger Association

The three major ranger groups in Norway elected an interim board for the new Norwegian Ranger Association on March 17th. The interim board will suggest the organization and framework for a ranger association, to be established in November or December. President Gordon Miller met with them in June to help in this effort. Four rangers from Norway will be going to the congress in Kruger in September.

Federation Directory

Please make the following changes to your IRF member directory:

- There is a new web page for Uruguay's Asociacion De Guardaparques y Guias de Naturaleza: http://geocities.com/custodios_uy. It is in Spanish and English.
- Bob Reid, chair of the Scottish Countryside Ranger Association, has an email address. You can reach him at: reidbob@talk21.com.
- The new addresses for Czech Ranger Association representative Michal Skalka is mskalka@volny.cz, or vkuhnova@volny.cz.
- The address for Danish Ranger Association representative Peer Noergaard is Lyderslev Bygade 34, DK-4660, Store Heddinge, Denmark. His home phone is 45-56-52-91-23, work phone is 45-56-50-22-34; mobile phone is 45-40-29-07-10; fax (manual) is 45-56-50-33-34. As previously noted, you can reach him via email at peer@post2.tele.dk. His home page is <http://home2.inet.tele.dk/peer>.
- Brendan O'Shea of the Ranger Association of Ireland is now on email. You can reach him at o_shea_brendan@hotmail.com.
- Carl Norberg of the new Norwegian Ranger Association can be contacted at carl.norberg@c2i.net.
- Hugh McCann of the Northern Ireland Countryside Staff Association has a new email address: Hugh.McCann@doeni.gov.uk.
- Vlado Vancura of the Slovak Ranger Association has new phone numbers: 421-844-5221-214 (office), 421-844-522-3436 (home), and 421-844-5221-214 (fax).
IRF secretary Susan Clark's new email address: clarks@waitrose.com
- The web site for the Australian Ranger Association has changed. You can now find it at www.ranger.org.au.

News About IRF Associations

Asociace Strazcu Prirody CR (Czech Republic) – Michal Skalka

The agreement between the Czech and Slovak Ranger Associations was signed in the High Tatras of Slovakia in June. The purpose of the agreement is to provide each other support and strengthen relationships through member and board meetings, exchanges of information, and other means. We also hope to establish exchange programs between the associations.

This document was signed by IRF Treasurer Mike Marshall, Slovak Ranger Association Vice President Zdeno Pochop, and Czech Ranger Association Chairman Petr Grendziok and is valid for 100 years.

Other activities include:

- Development of a catalogue for the exchange program has been prepared and will be used in collaboration with the Slovak Ranger Association.
- Preparation, together with the Slovak Ranger Association, of a single poster for the Third World Congress.
- Preparation of presentations for Czech rangers for the Congress.
- Preparation of a leaflet about the Czech Ranger Service and a handbook for rangers.
- Preparation and distribution of patches with the Czech Ranger Association logo for association members (by Vice Chairman Karel Kovarik).
- Efforts to provide scholarships to some members.
- Fundraising work in Beskysy PLA and Krkonose NP.
- Participation by IRF representative Michal Skalka in a volunteer meeting, which was run by Regione Lombardia and Europarc in May in Morbegno, Italy. He gave a short speech about the Czech Ranger Service.

National Park Wardens Association (Canada) – Jeanine Elliott

Its summer time in Canada and our national park wardens are in the midst of another busy, beautiful season. If any of you have ever dreamed of working alongside them in the fjords of Newfoundland, the open water of the Georgian Bay or the mountains of Banff, this year could be a dream come true.

NPWA will be working on an official exchange and volunteer program to share and promote our national treasures. It will be a grassroots organization that will try to hook-up like-minded participants from Canada and overseas, providing funding opportunities, contacts, accommodation and area preferences. If interested, please contact me at National Park Warden Association, Box 145, Leamington, ON, Canada N8H 3W1.

The NPWA has been representing Canada's Park Wardens for five years now and enjoys a membership of around 150 people. We send out a biannual newsletter to members; we have a great website, NPWA merchandise for sale, an active executive and a strong voice in representing park warden's concerns and issues at national levels. There will be several wardens from Canada at the IRF Third World Congress in South Africa – Barb Bertch, Reg Bunyan and Rhonda Markel. Please feel free to assail these people with all your questions about Canada's parks, the Warden Service and the National Park Warden's Association.

On April 1, 1999, Parks Canada became an agency with the federal government in the Department of Canadian Heritage. The biggest thing to come out under this new organization is the report of the Panel on the Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks. In response to this report, the minister announced an action plan to guide Parks Canada's activities in making ecological integrity a top priority. The CEO of Parks Canada has said that he wishes "to underscore that ecological integrity has been reconfirmed as the first consideration in our decision making with respect to national parks, and this is to be evident in all our work."

The NPWA's work continues with regards to the officer safety issue. As many of you are aware, Parks Canada has denied park wardens engaged in law enforcement duties the ability to carry standard issue side arms and gone against what four independent reports/committees have been stating for years. It is the standard in North American for natural resources officers to be issued with side arms. The support we have received from the media and other association and agencies is impressive! Recent polls of park wardens in eastern Canada have shown a high percentage in favor of our initiative.

The new Canada National Parks Act is currently in Parliament. It contains increased jail terms of up to five years and fines as high as \$150 000. Park wardens engaged in law enforcement duties routinely encounter people under the influence of drugs and alcohol with criminal records that include violent acts. As poaching increases in our protected areas, we are facing real dangers. We once again ask all rangers around the world for their continuing support on this issue. If you want to help, please send an email to our minister and CEO, letting them know of your support for the NPWA on this issue. They can be reached through the Parks Canada website at <http://parkscanada.pch.gc.ca>.

Please visit our website at <http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/npwa> to find out more about the National Park Warden's Association. If you are interested in the Warden Service in general, try this site: <http://parkscanada.pch.gc.ca/employment/warden> .

Scottish Countryside Ranger Association (Scotland) – Tony Wilson

SCRA's second exchange with Iceland took place in June. Gloey Finnsdottir and Duncan Priddie exchanged places and learned how the two ranger services differ. There are already volunteers for next year's exchange. This seems to be a program which will benefit both associations' members for years to come.

SCRA members recently attended a forum held by the Department for Overseas Development, a government department which deals with aid to less developed countries. This opened up several possible sources of funding which SCRA may be able to channel through IRF to colleagues in other countries. Two youth schemes have been set up as part of the European Ranger Project, one in Fife and the other in Strathclyde. These pilots will hopefully result in a long-term commitment to a worthwhile project.

Association of National Park Rangers (U.S.) – Rick Smith

ANPR's international committee has been active for the last year getting ready for the Third World Congress. Two years ago, the association's board of directors gave the international committee permission to launch a fund-raising campaign to seek donations to provide funding for Latin American delegates who would not be able to attend the Congress without some support.

Committee members contacted NGO's and foundations with special interest in international conservation. The committee was able to raise \$15,000. ANPR members had already contributed approximately \$3,000 for the same purpose.

With this \$18,000, ANPR will be able to finance the travel and congress costs for the following delegates:

- Ronald Mora, Costa Rica, IRF representative for the area of Central America
- Juan Carlos Gambarotta, Uruguay, IRF representative for South America
- Pedro Prieto, Argentina, official representative of the newly established Argentine Ranger Association
- Rafael Gutiérrez, Costa Rica, President of the Costa Rican Ranger Association
- Eliecer Cruz, Ecuador, official representative of the Galapagos Islands Ranger Association
- Marcelo Segalerba, Uruguay, member of the Uruguayan Ranger Association.

The international committee has also coordinated the selection of delegates from Latin America who will receive funding from the World Heritage Center in Paris.

These delegates, who must have some connection to a World Heritage Site, are:

- Alejandro Caparrós, Argentina, park ranger in Los Glaciares National Park, a World Heritage Site
- Desirée Cruz, Public Information Officer, Galapagos National Park, Ecuador, a World Heritage Site
- Lucía Peñuñuri, official in PROFEPA, Mexico's Natural Resources Law Enforcement Agency
- Sergio Rusak, Argentina, Fire Management Officer for Argentine Protected Area System

These representatives will carry back to their countries the enthusiasm that all of us have felt who have been fortunate enough to attend one or both of the previous congresses. They will also assist ANPR in stimulating additional country affiliations in the Western Hemisphere.

We presently are negotiating with Cuba, Venezuela, and Chile as potential new affiliations with IRF. Yvette Ruan, IRF's representative for North America and an ANPR member, is dealing with the rangers in the Mexican state of Chiapas as potential affiliated members.

International committee member Jeff Ohlfs took the initiative and designed and had produced a very attractive shoulder patch for the International Ranger Federation. The patches will be a sales item at the congress in Kruger.

Ranger Association of Ireland – Brendan O'Shea

The association held its annual general meeting in June in Killarney National Park. The agenda consisted of a 12-mile hike on Saturday morning around the lakes of Killarney, lunch at Brandons Cottage, then a two-mile hike through native oak woods to Kenmare, then a trip back to Muckcross House for the meeting and dinner at a nearby hotel.

Naturvejleder Foreningen i Danmark (Denmark) – Peer Noergaard

Peer has taken over as IRF representative for Ida Maria Jensen, who has decided to concentrate on her work and family. Peer is a 51-year-old ranger who was educated as a teacher and works mostly with interpretation about geology and nature at the Cliff of Stevns, about 65 kilometers south of Copenhagen. He has more than 15 years of experience with international NGO work in the Coalition Clean Baltic and UNESCO's Baltic Sea project. He's also a member of the board of the Danish Ranger Association.

In Denmark, rangers are working hard to develop ranger education and reorganize their ranger system. The new educational offering, coordinated by Denmark's State Agency for Nature and Forests, consists of five weeks of intensive courses over two years, with supervision and problem-related project work between courses. Other courses are also offered in a wide range of special topics, including nature school leadership and development of environmental thinking in daily work. One group of 20 to 22 rangers is educated each year.

In order to improve active cooperation, regional networks are being established and coordinated that consist of a full-time coordinator and five regional consultants (one for each day of the week). About 280 rangers (naturvejledere) have also been offered a computer-based electronic net that permits the transfer, discussion and sharing of information in open or closed groups. (As part of his work, Peer spends two days a week working on this net and courses on how to use it).

In Denmark, there are several organizations responsible for taking care of rangers. The ranger system has been developed and is coordinated by the State Agency for Nature and Forests and education is arranged by the Danish Forest School, where two rangers work full time. A number of active rangers are employed under the state forest system. Others are employed by NGO's, institutions, counties, or municipalities; some work free lance. About 50 rangers are partly paid by money raised from state football pools, administered by the Danish Open Air Council, an umbrella organization linking about 90 groups interested in outdoor activities. And there's the Danish Ranger Association, about 250 members working for influence and involvement in matters of interest to Danish rangers. The association organizes meetings and workshops, sends out a magazine four times a year, and takes care of the association's home page (www.natur-vejleder.dk – Danish only). There is very close cooperation between the ranger system and the ranger organization.

There are differences between Danish rangers and rangers elsewhere. In Denmark:

- There are no national parks, only nature reserves – and only a few rangers are connected with the nature reserves.
- Only a small number of rangers are directly connected with the state forest system.
- Most rangers have no forest education at all, but are educated as teachers in biology or academics.
- Many rangers build up their own work, so there is a great variation in work and working conditions.
- Working tools are more “computers and telephones” than “guns and horses.”

Peer looks forward to meeting rangers from around the world in South Africa and in working on international cooperation.

Argentine Ranger Association – Salvador Vellido/Juan Carlos Gambarotta

After only a year and a half of life, AGA, the Argentine Ranger Association held its first national congress of rangers. The location was the beautiful city of Bariloche, the Argentinean equivalent of Zakopane in Poland or Aspen in the United States and surrounded by Nahuel Huapi National Park (670,000 hectares) – a place where you see a postcard landscape everywhere you look.

There were 175 people attending, most of them national or provincial rangers, but there were also people from NGO's and rangers from Bolivia, Chile and Uruguay.

The speakers at the opening ceremony were Salvador Vellido, president of AGA, J.C. Gambarotta, representing IRF, and the national secretary of tourism because that ministry oversees national parks. The press was present, and the event appeared on TV and radio and in newspapers.

The congress consisted of several conferences and workshops concerning topics such as the women ranger, data collection, the role of ICO (the Argentine ranger's school), and indigenous people in parks (this one with the presence of Mapuche Indians, who explained their severe problems). Gambarotta explained the aims of IRF and answered questions about the next Congress.

One of the most exciting parts of the congress was learning about the job being done in Bolivia, the poorest country in South America, where they are evidently managing parks in interaction with Indians with success.

The congress hall was full of posters showing the work being done all around Argentina, and there was very good material as well from Bolivia and Chile.

One of the most important results of the congress was the recommendation of maintaining the ranger's training school where it is now in Tucuman. Another recommendation was to put Indians and directors from the Administration of National Parks face to face at a table to begin a new way of work.

At the end of the congress, Argentinean rangers had a general assembly and decided to reelect the same authorities.

I believe this congress was a result of IRF, because the federation propelled the creation of AGA. The creation of a Chilean ranger association appears to be imminent, and one of the Bolivian rangers present promised to begin working to create an association of rangers in Santa Cruz province (100 rangers there are already organized in some way).

Con apenas un año y medio de vida, la AGA organizó su primer congreso nacional. El marco fué la bellissima ciudad de Bariloche, situada dentro del Parque Nacional Nahuel Huapi de 670 mil has. Asistieron 175 personas, en su mayoría guardaparques nacionales y provinciales, así como dos de Bolivia, 4 de Chile y dos de Uruguay y representantes de ong, relativas a áreas silvestres protegidas.

En el acto inaugural hicieron uso de la palabra el presidente de la AGA, el representante de America del Sur en la Federación Internacional de Guardaparques y el Secretario de Turismo de la Argentina, organismo que ha intervenido a la Administración de Parques Nacionales. La intervención del representante de la FIG incluyó un emotivo discurso enviado por el Vice-presidente Richard Smith. La prensa estuvo presente, habiendo aparecido notas en televisión, radio y diarios.

Antes del inicio del congreso se dictaron dos cursos, uno sobre ecología y manejo del fuego y otro sobresistemas de información geográfica, a los que asistieron guardaparques de toda la Argentina y dos de Uruguay.

El congreso contó con conferencias de especialistas en diversas materias y hubieron varios talleres, entre ellos uno de base de datos, otro sobre la mujer guardaparque, los indígenas en las áreas protegidas (este contó con la presencia y argumentos de los Mapuches del P.N. Lanín) y capacitación entre otros.

J.C. Gambarotta explicó los objetivos y funcionamiento de la FIG y contestó preguntas sobre el próximo congreso en Sudáfrica. El trabajo de los bolivianos fué aleccionante ya que siendo el país más pobre de America del Sur, con su trabajo con los indios han podido mantener áreas protegidas en muy buen estado.

Los pasillos del congreso contenían abundante material sobre el trabajo realizado en toda Argentina y había excelente folletería y posters de Bolivia y Chile.

Entre los resultados más destacables del congreso está la recomendación de dejar al Instituto Chlaes Olrog (escuela de Guardaparques) donde se encuentra, en Tucumán, así como la formación de una mesa de trabajo con los indígenas y la Administración de parques Nacionales.

En la asamblea General de la AGA que siguió al congreso fué reelegida la 'Comisión Directiva', lo que fue un reconocimiento masivo a los logros alcanzados en tan poco tiempo. El dinero recaudado con la venta de recuerdos, el pago de cuotas y excedentes del congreso fué mayoritariamente destinado a ofrecer a los socios becas para capacitación.

Fuó hermoso asistir a una asamblea donde había tanta gente reunida y donde imperaba un aire de entendimiento y solidaridad. Creo que el propio congreso fué también un resultado de la FIG, porque fué esta quien impulsó la creación de la AGA, la que de otra forma podría haber demorado más tiempo en formarse.

Se realizaron importantes contactos con colegas de países que no pueden demorar mas en entrar a la FIG . Aparentemente se estaría formando la Asociación de Guardaparques de Chile,(contacto:Luis Santibañez, PN Puyehue) y se incentivó la formación de una asociación en Bolivia (contacto:Javier Zeballos, PN Noel Kempf Mercado).

Game Rangers Association of Africa – Arrie Schreiber

GRAA held its annual general meeting at The Haven in Eastern Cape Province. It was well attended. GRAA now has more than 600 members.

GRAA has been approached by Mozambican Conservation to assist in the training and retraining of all junior level conservation staff. Over 700 staff members need training. A plan is being drawn up and fund-raising will begin in the near future.

Since 1994, GRAA has experienced a growing demand for its expertise and participated in the training of field rangers in South Africa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Mozambique. It's also participated in a board of inquiry on the future management of conservation in South Africa. It's now become vital for GRAA to establish a full-time office in order to coordinate projects and make available the considerable expertise within its membership. This requires funding, though, not all of which can be expected to come from donors or sponsors.

A commercial company called Game Rangers Specialist Services (GRSS) has therefore been established and registered as an off-the-shelf property limited company. It's envisaged that all profits from GRSS ventures will be channeled into GRAA for conservation purposes. This might be something for other countries or associations to consider.

GRSS will operate in four divisions – protected area management, training projects, eco-tourism, and resource utilization. The basic idea is that the CEO of GRSS should find, identify, and initiate projects. The next step will be to advertise internally within GRAA to see if a member is interested in becoming CEO; if not, GRAA will seek elsewhere.

Costa Rican Ranger Association – Ronald Mora

Ronald recently visited El Salvador to work with rangers in El Imposible, El Salvador's largest and most famous park. He reports that both the rangers at the park and SalvaNatura, the NGO that works with the park, are very interested in an exchange program with Costa Rican rangers. The rangers are also interested in learning more about forming a ranger association and affiliating with the IRF. Ronald will follow-up with our El Salvador colleagues. Ronald is also actively working with Panama's rangers to determine their interest in forming an association.

Asociacion De Guardaparques y Guías de Naturaleza (Uruguay) – Juan Carlos Gambarotta

Uruguayan rangers are making good contacts in Chile and Brazil, but it appears that progress will be easier in the former. Brazil is very big, but there are only a few scattered rangers who lack professionalism and motivation. Some of them are heroes, and we must continue to search for them.

The renowned. 780,000-hectare (about 2 million acre) Defensores del Chaco National Park in Paraguay may lose a big portion of its land. The government has finally made land demarcations, and rangers say the park is losing a large section to ranchers and developers. The park protects some of the biggest jaguars and the giant, 40-kilogram armadillo. If you want to help, send a letter to defensores@hotmail.com and they will explain the issues.

A new act creating a system of protected areas was approved this year, and the next step is creation of a national corps of rangers. Uruguayan rangers worked on a draft version of the act this spring. A final version will be given to IRF for advice before it is sent to the government.

Uruguayan rangers are also working on a web site, but it's not yet ready. The ranger who is creating it is Marcelo Segalerga from San Miguel National Park.

News About Rangers

Australia

Three New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service rangers and field officers were killed and four others injured in an accident on a fire at Ku-ring-gai Chase NP in mid-June. They were members of crews mopping up a prescribed fuel reduction fire that had been conducted the previous day. They were caught in the middle of a steep slope in an unexpected flare-up. The three killed were Claire Deane, George Fitzsimmons and Eric Furtan; injured were Mark Cupit, Luke McSweeny, Nataile Saville and Jamie Shaw. IRF expresses its deepest condolences to their families, friends and co-workers.

Uruguay

On the evening of June 1st, at least 11 shots were fired at park ranger Marcelo Segalerba and at a volunteer in the park while they were in the ranger housing unit at San Miguel National Park in the northern part of Uruguay near the Brazilian border. The rangers suspect that the shots were fired by poachers who had almost free access to good hunting (poaching) in the park before the arrival of rangers some months ago. The Uruguayan Ranger Association is pressing for an investigation and for authority for rangers to train as law enforcement agents, carry weapons, and investigate crimes. Marcelo will be at the Congress in South Africa.

Upcoming Events

September 10-16, 2000	IRF Third World Congress. Kruger National Park, Republic of South Africa.
November 15-17, 2000	Annual General Assembly and Seminar, Naturvardana (Swedish Ranger Association), Faernebofjaerden National Park.