



## **GUARDAPARQUE**

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**Guardaparque** is a publication prepared monthly (when possible) and issued by the International Ranger Federation (IRF), an organization of non-governmental and governmental ranger organizations from around the world. If you have a submission for **Guardaparque**, please send it to Editor Bill Halainen ([Bill\\_Halainen@contractor.nps.gov](mailto:Bill_Halainen@contractor.nps.gov)).

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### **Law Enforcement And Emergency Services**

#### **United States – Mount Rainier National Park Ranger Murdered By Assailant**

Ranger Margaret Anderson, 34, was shot and killed at Mount Rainier National Park on New Year's Day morning. She was attempting to stop a car driven by Benjamin Barnes, who had failed to stop at a checkpoint rangers had set up to assure that all vehicles going into the park had chains on their tires, a safety precaution. Barnes, who was armed with many weapons and had just shot and wounded four other people, killed her when she tried to set up a roadblock. He also shot at another ranger, who was able to get away. Hundreds of rangers and police officers were involved in the search for Barnes, who abandoned his car and headed up the mountain. They found his body partly submerged in a river, where he'd died of hypothermia. During the search for Barnes, scores of visitors had to be evacuated from the park. None was hurt.

A memorial service held on Tuesday, January 10th, was attended by family and friends and by thousands of rangers, officers, and emergency responders from the United States and Canada. She is survived by her husband, Eric, also a ranger at the park, and by two young children.

Two funds have been established for contributions that will be used to help Eric raise their two girls. Donations may be sent to KeyBank, P.O. Box 159, Eatonville, WA 98328, USA. Checks should be made out to the Margaret Anderson Donation Account. The National Park Foundation, the official charity of the National Park Service, has also established a memorial fund, which can be found at <https://myaccount.nationalparks.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=567&srctid=1&erid=10104961&trid=26fd6d7c-8acb-46b7-85ea-6cbd55646cf8>.

## **Dominican Republic – Sierra de Bahoruco National Park Park Ranger Murdered By Illegal Charcoal Makers**

A ranger who worked for the Ministry of Environment was murdered early in January by people who are illegally making charcoal and farming within the protected area. The murdered ranger was Eligio Eloy Vargas Medrano (Melanio), 43. His body was found on the morning of January 8th. He'd suffered from cuts caused by a bladed weapon, presumably a machete, and from various contusions, probably from being hit by pieces of wood. His Winchester rifle and knapsack were missing.

It appears that the ranger encountered a group of Haitian nationals who had areas of land inside the park where they had constructed furnaces for making charcoal, an activity that is illegal within the national park. According to nearby residents, the Haitian nationals have been cutting large areas of the forest within the Sierra de Bahoruco National Park, due to the lack of sufficient park personnel to patrol the area. They are demanding a response to this atrocity and that the Army and the Ministry of the Environment take stronger control over the traffic of charcoal and other illegal activities that take place in the park.

## **Peru – Manu National Park Ranger Shot With Arrow**

Authorities in Peru have recently made contact with an isolated Amazon tribe, but are warning people not to approach them after a ranger was shot with an arrow. Such tribes have been coming under increasing pressure as gas and oil exploration is taking place in Amazonia. During this encounter, members of the tribe were seen wielding bows and arrows whilst running alongside the river where scientists and anthropologists were passing in a motorized canoe. The park ranger, whose job includes trying to protect the tribe from unwelcome attention from loggers and other outsiders, was hit in the back by the arrow. However he escaped injury because the missile did not have a tip, which suggests that it may have been intended as a warning shot.

More information: <http://www.financenews.co.uk/fnews/amazon-tribe-warning-after-arrow-attack/>

## **India – Boramdeo Wildlife Sanctuary Forest Guard Kills Tigress**

In early December, 48-year-old Veer Singh, who was employed as a forest guard in the Boramdeo Wildlife Sanctuary in northern India, killed a full grown tigress to extricate certain body parts which he believed would help him increase his sexual power. The carcass of the tigress was found with its claws and other body parts missing. Initially it was suspected to be the work of poachers, but Singh confessed to the crime and said he'd used poison to kill the animal.

More information: [http://zeenews.india.com/news/eco-news/forest-guard-killed-tigress-for-sexual-power\\_745412.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/eco-news/forest-guard-killed-tigress-for-sexual-power_745412.html)

## **China - Hoh Xil Protected Area Poachers Who Killed Wildlife Guard Surrender**

Six men who shot and killed a well-known wildlife protection activist 17 years ago in Hoh Xil, a vast nature reserve in northwest Qinghai Province, have surrendered themselves to police. The guard who was killed was a volunteer who patrolled the remote region to protect endangered Tibet antelopes from poachers. He was killed in a gun battle with poachers in 1994. The guard and his four team members caught 20 poachers and confiscated seven pickup trucks loaded with more than 1,800 pieces of antelope hide on January 18, 1994. But he was later ambushed by 18 poachers and was shot dead. When people found his body, it was already frozen stiff but still in a shooting posture. Police never stopped searching for his killers and talked to the suspects' families many times to persuade them to surrender. Six suspects turned themselves in recently; another three remain in hiding. Despite its harsh climate, Hoh Xil is a wildlife paradise and home to more than 230 animal species.

Published on ShanghaiDaily.com (<http://www.shanghaidaily.com/>)

## **Species Management**

### **India – Kaziranga National Park Ranger Killed By Elephant, Two Others Injured By Rhinos**

Barely ten days after two forest guards were injured in a rhino attack in Kaziranga National Park, another forest guard was killed by a wild elephant in the park's Bagori forest range. Bakul Nath, a forest guard of the park, died at the scene of the attack in mid-December. The guard was on duty along with two other foresters when he fell prey to the charging elephant.

More information: <http://flashnewstoday.com/index.php/kaziranga-forest-guard-killed-by-wild-elephant/>

### **Republic of South Africa – South African National Parks Ranger Staff Being Increased To Deal With Poaching**

South Africa is recruiting 150 more park rangers to prevent rhinoceros poaching in Kruger National Park. Five hundred rangers currently watch over the park, which last week was the site of an 11-rhino slaughter in one day. Last year, poachers killed a record-breaking 448 rhinos in South Africa, more than half of which were in Kruger. Growing demand for rhino horn, a popular ingredient in traditional Asian medicine, is believed to be the impetus for the increasing occurrence of rhino killings. So far, rhino births have displaced the death toll. Molewa stopped short of issuing a moratorium on rhino hunting but said officials would work to stop issuing permits to hunters from countries without legislation to end illegal horn sales

More information: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/travel/news/south-africa-boosts-efforts-to-protect-kruger-rhinos/story-e6frg8ro-1226245125332>

## **Parks And Protected Areas**

### **United States – Olympic National Park Major Dam Removal Project Currently Underway**

The National Park Service is involved in a major project to restore the Elwha River in Olympic National Park. The effort includes the biggest dam removal project ever undertaken in the country's history. The 108-foot-high Elwha Dam and the 210-foot-high Glines Canyon Dam are being removed to allow fish to access more than 70 miles of protected habitat and help restore the river's salmon populations from 3,000 to more than 300,000 fish.

The park has established a blog where you can keep posted on the dam removal and see some photos of the project: <http://www.nps.gov/olym/naturescience/dam-removal-blog.htm>

Information is also available on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Elwha-River-Restoration/116387105073343> .

### **Australia – Marine Park World's Largest Marine Park Planned**

An area the size of Germany and France combined is about to become the world's largest marine park. The park, which will be located off the country's northeast coast, will include a large section of the Coral Sea, where the Great Barrier Reef is located. The area is home to some of the most exotic sea creatures in the world as well as several important shipwrecks from World War II.

More information: <http://www.gadling.com/2011/11/27/australia-plans-worlds-largest-marine-park/>

## **Canada – Bowen Island National Park Voters Reject Plan For Proposed National Park**

Not all proposals for new national parks or protected areas are received with excitement. Plans for a new national park on Bowen Island, which is in the Pacific Ocean off British Columbia on Canada's west coast, were abandoned last month after about 55% of voters on the island rejected the idea. Of the 1,990 people who cast ballots, 1,089 voted against the proposal, which would have turned 42 per cent of the island's 5,260 hectares (about 13,000 acres) into a national park. Parks Canada said it would respect the voters' decision. Critics of the proposal believed that a national park would, among other things, give too much power to the federal government and lead to more tourists.

More information:

<http://www.vancouversun.com/travel/Parks+Canada+buries+national+park+plan+after+voters+reject+civic+election/5776843/story.html>

## **News About Rangers**

### **Asia - Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Laos and Thailand Parks Rangers Receive Training To Deal With Poachers**

Forest rangers from across Asia have completed an intensive counter poaching operations training course under a new U.S. Agency for International Development funded program called ARREST (Asia's Regional Response to Endangered Species Trafficking).

More than 50 park rangers from Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Laos and Thailand trained together for two weeks under the guidance of experienced instructors at Khao Yai National Park's Regional Nature Protection Training Center in Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand.

The rangers were trained in navigation, patrolling, first aid, reconnaissance, raids, arrests, search, crime scene processing, and other skills park rangers need.

Wildlife and forests are under fierce attack by poachers, traffickers and illegal loggers across Asia. Organized criminal groups are making billions of dollars in illicit profits, largely due to inadequate protection of the natural resources they target in national parks, sanctuaries and other protected areas. Poaching gangs are plundering forests to supply trafficking syndicates with everything from tigers, bears, deer, and elephant ivory to various kinds of plants and trees, such as aloe-wood, teak, and other valuable species. Gangs often exploit local villagers by compelling them to take risks poaching. Park patrolling and enforcement are crucial to protect wild animals, plants and habitats, which comprise the healthy ecosystems that local

More information: <http://freeland.org/eng/news/press-release/241-asias-forest-rangers-train-to-boost-defenses-against-poaching-and-illegal-logging>

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Prepared and published by the International Ranger Federation as a service to rangers around the world.

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