



GUARDAPARQUE

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Thanks to the many people who sent in submissions or helped with the translations for this issue.

News About Rangers

India – Machhera Forest Preserve Forest Guard Murdered

On Friday, March 30th, the body of forest guard Vishal Prabhakar was found with gunshot wounds to his head in Machhera Forest near Madhav National Park (Madhya Pradesh). The government will look into complaints by his family about alleged harassment by senior forest officials and involvement of the mining mafia in his death.

Source: There are problems with the web link so it is not being included.

India – Bor Wildlife Sanctuary Forest Guard Killed By Tiger

A forest guard was killed by a family of tigers when he went to replenish their watering holes in the Bor Wildlife Sanctuary near Nagpur. The guard, Sitaram M. Wadve, 45, was reported missing on April 19th and his mangled body was found several days later. Wadve is survived by his wife, three daughters and a son.

Source: <http://www.deccanherald.com/content/243986/tigers-maul-kill-maharashtra-forest.html>

Nicaragua – Parks and Protected Areas Over 100 Graduate From Junior Ranger Program

On February 1, 2012, 120 young people from five communities along the western slope of Nicaragua, presented themselves as candidates to become that country's first junior rangers. Their parents had to give their permission for their children to participate, and the kids had to promise to complete the program. They were required to participate in 95% of the classes (twice a week for six weeks), obtain four badges (discipline, respect, working in teams or badges related to the protection of bats, turtles, insects, monkeys, birds or fish), participate as a team in a community clean up event (beach cleanup, school cleanup, making signs urging conservation etc.) and participate in 95% of the field trips held in conjunction with the program.



The new junior rangers hold up their graduation certificates.

Amazingly enough, on April 26, 103 participants graduated! The graduates received hats that read “guardaparque junior” (Spanish for junior ranger), a vest, and the collection of badges they had earned. The photos of the graduation show the obvious pride that these participants felt in graduation, but they aren't done yet. As a follow up, the kids have a monthly task that involves conservation and community service.

This project was organized and carried out by a small grass-roots NGO that works in Nicaragua, Paso Pacifico, www.pasopacifico.org Paso Pacifico's rangers (not government employees, but employees of the NGO) and its environmental education specialist are responsible for managing the program. The environmental education specialist is Julie Martinez, who finished second in last year's Young Conservationist Award sponsored by IUCN and the International Ranger Federation. The rangers involved were Jairo Coronado, Irvin Chaves, Felix Reyes, and Fernando Pilarte. All involved recognize that a sustainable environmental future for Nicaragua must start with the young people of the country. The junior rangers' parents were invited to participate in the program so they could see their children's commitment to a sustainable future. The junior rangers were also recognized by MARENA, the Nicaraguan Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources.

Paso Pacifico wishes to acknowledge the generous financial support of the Embassy of Denmark and the Turner Foundation for this program.

Source: Rick Smith, Past President, International Ranger Federation

Law Enforcement And Emergency Services

United States – Western Parks Artifact Smuggler Sentenced

A smuggler has been sentenced in a court for stealing artifacts from El Salvador and artifacts and cave features from Thailand and bringing them into the United States. This was another conviction in a five-year-long investigation called “Operation Antiquity” that is focusing on looting, importation, sale and tax fraud violations related to cultural items from the U.S. and other countries. More arrests are expected. Some of the other thefts have been from parks and protected areas in the United States.

Source: <http://www.nps.gov/applications/digest/headline.cfm?type=Incidents&id=6150>

India – Maharashtra State Forests Forest Guards Told To Shoot Poachers On Sight

Forest guards in India's Maharashtra state have been told to shoot poachers on sight to curb attacks on tigers. The Wildlife Protection Society of India says 14 tigers have been killed in India since January, with eight of them poached in Maharashtra. Tiger numbers have shrunk greatly in India in recent decades. A 2011 census counted just 1,706 tigers in the wild – a century ago there were estimated to be 100,000 tigers in India. The government plans to recruit 523 armed guards and for the state's four forests.

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-india-18175513>

Canada (British Columbia) – Carmanah-Walbran Provincial Park Ancient Tree Cut Down By Poachers

A giant, 800-year-old red cedar tree has been poached from the park, but the poachers who repeatedly returned to the site to hack it down may never be brought to justice. Continuing budget cuts over the last decade mean park rangers rarely monitor remote sites such as Carmanah-Walbran Provincial Park, where the cedar was chopped. Only ten full-time park rangers monitor about 1,000 parks and protected areas across British Columbia, down from about 40 full-time positions in 2001.

Source: http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2012/05/17/vancouver-island-red-cedar_n_1525958.html?icid=maing-grid%7Cmain5%7Cdl2%7Csec1_lnk3%26pLid%3D162086

Belize – Parks and Protected Areas Rangers Struggle To Stop Illegal Poaching

The Maya Mountains in Belize been identified as the second largest continuous area of tropical rainforest in the Americas after the Amazon. Many protected areas exist to protect this critical biodiversity hotspot, but despite this threats continue to grow. In Belize the main threats are from illegal border crossings and the illegal unsustainable logging, xate harvest, parrot and scarlet macaw nest poaching and widespread illegal harvesting of bush meat.

Ya'axché Conservation Trust manages the Bladen Nature Reserve, a core area of Belize's Maya Mountains. This extremely rugged and inaccessible landscape does not discourage the illegal xaté palm collectors, known as Xateros, who have established an extensive network of trails into the reserve. They have steadily advanced into Belize over the past 10 years and can now be found 20 km inside Belize territory, where semi-permanent camps are set up and access is facilitated by horses.

Tackling this problem is currently beyond the capacity of Belize. As a developing country with a small economy, little money is allocated to the Belize Defence Force who are responsible for defending Belize's sovereignty, and support from NGO protected area managers is required to try to stem the flow of illegal activity. Ya'axché's rangers often conduct joint patrols with the BDF and have encountered aggressive resistance from the Xateros, who are always armed. The next wave after the xaté is extirpated will be illegal loggers who have shown even greater aggression further north in Chiquibul National Park and pose an even greater threat.

Urgent action is required to deal with these threats before Belize's untouched natural resources are gone. With a small population and a high percentage of protected areas, Belize has the chance to secure a sustainable future for itself, but pressure from overpopulated neighbors who have already used up the majority of their resources will grow. Innovative financing mechanisms will be required to train rangers to deal with these dangerous threats, in the meantime Ya'axché's rangers continue to put their safety on the line to protect their countries resources.

Source: Lee McLoughlin, Manager, Ya'axche Conservation Trust

Species Management

Africa – Parks and Protected Areas Elephant Numbers Drop Dramatically Due To Poaching

Wayne Lotter has sent several stories about the terrible attacks continuing against elephants in Africa:

- About 5,000 elephants have been killed by poachers over the past five years around the Nouabale Ndoki National Park in the Republic of Congo. Source: <http://www.abc4.com/news/world/story/5-000-elephants-killed-in-Republic-of-Congo/OKL04XZhJkC6m33TUo4duA.csp>
- Customs officials in Sri Lanka recently discovered 600 tusks hidden in a container being shipped from Kenya to Dubai. Source: http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=52559
- Elephant numbers in Central Africa dropped by almost 50% between 2006 and 2011. In one area, they dropped from 13,000 to 6,300 animals in that period. Source: <http://news.mongabay.com/2012/0607-congo-wcs-elephants.html>

Parks And Protected Areas

Canada – Rouge National Park New National Urban Park Established

Canada has created its first national urban park, located in Toronto. It will cover 6,000 hectares (about 15,000 acres) and will contain woodland trails, wetlands, an education and interpretive center, cultural events and examples of sustainable agriculture. It will be within an hour's drive for seven million people in the Toronto area.

Source: <http://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorials/article/1161526--rouge-national-urban-park-will-be-a-treasure-for-toronto-and-all-of-canada>

More information: http://www.rougepark.com/about/parks_can.php

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

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