



INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER JULY 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Photo Credit: Urs Wegmann

Through the Ranger Round Table discussions hosted by the partnership of The Thin Green Line Foundation (TGLF), the Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA) and the IRF, we have been asking the question of how we quantify and articulate the full value of rangers to the planet? New research coming out is bridging the flow of information to the sectors that, as key influencers, are often also the ones driving the ‘twin crises’ of biodiversity loss and climate change. All findings point to what many of us have been saying for years. For example, in [“The Dasgupta Review”](#) (an independent review, commissioned by the UK Government on the Economics of Biodiversity led by Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta, February 2021), it stated that, *“Conserving and restoring our natural assets will sustain and enhance their supply. It is less costly to conserve Nature than to restore it once damaged or degraded, all else being equal... Expanding and improving the management of Protected Areas therefore has an essential role to play.”* and *“...with grave concern that the unprecedented and interdependent crises of climate change and biodiversity loss pose an existential threat to nature, people, prosperity and security”*. The overall conclusion of this extensive piece of research is that our economic system is dependent on biodiversity. Governments have, in many cases, for far too long overlooked the important values of protected and conserved areas in economic development plans and recovery strategies, because the information to make conclusive links has been absent. In so doing, they have also overlooked the essential service of the skilled and committed people that are necessary to maintain the full suite of values that are derived from these areas.

In the recently released [“Banking on Protected Areas”](#) report (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / The World, 2021), the economic value of a ranger was considered in one of the case studies. It was found that when hiring a park guard (ranger) from local communities in Chitwan National Park, it resulted in a contribution of US \$6,535 to the local community which equates to a factor of 2.7 times greater than the investment (wages) of that position. In Brazil’s Abrolhos Marine National Park, the same was found where the economic impact of hiring an additional ranger from the local economy outweighed the cost, with an income multiplier of 2.7. In two parks in Zambia, the factor was lower (1.5 times) but still showing a

greater return on investment. These findings therefore suggest that hiring staff locally can promote conservation, improve local incomes, and generate social benefits through community representation in park management.

So, what is the purpose of mentioning this? For the IRF, with World Ranger Day 2021 approaching and as we enter what has been termed 'Ranger Month', we look to raise awareness of the plight of all rangers (female, community, indigenous, state or private) and their value to people, the environment and the global heritage, both past and future. The IRF will be hosting two webinars in July on ranger relevant topics (details in the newsletter) as part of our series to grow ranger-to-ranger communication and information sharing. Rangers need support and additional capacity to do their jobs. Yet again, we will unfortunately observe that more rangers have died in the line of duty over the past year than we can accept, when the Roll of Honour is released later this month. And lest we not forget those rangers that succumbed to the COVID-19 global pandemic, and the impact their loss has had on their families and colleagues. That is why valuing rangers' talks directly to our theme for World Ranger Day, of ranger safety and well-being.

It is very heartening when we hear the work that member associations are doing to support rangers safety and well-being. Whether it is one ranger association shipping equipment to a less resourced region, or hosting a gathering to share knowledge and recognise rangers' past, to build ranger morale and to strengthen the network of like-minded individuals. As a member of the IRF, we hope that you keep asking yourselves "what more can be done?" under the principle that one should not underestimate the impact that each contribution can make.

The IRF is growing! I would like to welcome our new members over the past period and also a special welcome to Mónica Álvarez Malvido (see her Bio), who started with the IRF on 1st May as the new IRF Federation Development Officer. This is a new position that aims, amongst other things, to look at how we strengthen the ranger associations. Mónica will also be leading the development of the first ever State of the Ranger Report so if you have not met her yet, I am sure she will be in contact with your Association at some point. We thank Re:Wild and URSA for making this position a reality.

Please remember to share any media and photos of your World Ranger Day celebrations with us as well as any other ranger related events from your region. Stay safe and may you all have great celebrations on World Ranger Day wherever you may be.

Chris Galliers

NEW IRF FEDERATION OFFICER



Photo credit: Monica Alvarez Maldivo - Mexico

Mónica has over 8 years of working experience in leading biodiversity conservation initiatives in Latin America, including: The Sustainable Rural Life program of the Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature and the Latin American Alliance to Strengthen Protected Areas (ALFA 2020) led by Pronatura. Most recently she worked at the National Commission for Protected Areas in Mexico as Interinstitutional Affairs Coordinator and Focal Point for RedParques.

She has a Bachelors' Degree in International Relations at the Universidad Iberoamericana and a Master's Degree in Environmental Management from the University of Queensland sponsored by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). She holds a Diploma on Mechanisms for managing controversies in protected areas by CATIE and is a current active member of the WCPA.

Mónica is a passionate outdoor explorer fully committed to supporting rangers and people who dedicate their lives to protect our planet.

WORLD RANGER DAY 2021

It is with great anticipation that we are approaching World Ranger Day on the 31st of July.

On World Ranger Day, we celebrate the critical work that rangers do on a daily basis around the globe. Their tireless work to protect our planet's habitats, species and natural resources whilst nurturing local communities is vital to all our futures. On this day we also commemorate those rangers killed or injured whilst protecting our natural and cultural heritage. Globally, we are facing a biodiversity and climate crises of epic proportions. Imagine how much worse these crises would be if rangers did not put their lives on the line to protect this planet we call home?

This year the IRF, in collaboration with The Thin Green Line Foundation and the Universal Ranger Support Alliance will be supporting our member ranger associations with a World Ranger Day Pack that will include promotional material to assist all associations to celebrate their rangers and to spread the message as widely as possible. Please keep an eye out for this World Ranger Day Pack around the 19th of July.

For now, we would like to provide you with five ranger videos, promoting the work that rangers do. These videos can be used in the build up to World Ranger Day. Follow this link to access the videos: <https://www.internationalrangers.org/events/>



Park ranger Deneb Saldierna performing underwater monitoring in support of the Sea Shepherd in Socorro Island Protected Area. Photo credit: ©Melissa Romao

Webinars:

As part of World Ranger Month (July), our second Ranger Roundtable Webinar; Towards Gender Equality in the Ranger Workforce – Challenges & Solutions was hosted on the 8th of July and spotlighted the first comprehensive and global analysis of the challenges and opportunities for bringing gender equality into Ranger workforces. Through a collaboration between the International Ranger Federation, The Thin Green

Line Foundation and the Universal Ranger Support Alliance, researcher Dr Joni Seager has opened critical new perspectives:

‘Women are as eager as men to contribute to conservation through serving as protected areas Rangers. But the profession is heavily male-dominated, and women globally represent only about 11% of the Ranger workforce.’ – Dr Joni Seager.

Summary report here: <https://www.internationalrangers.org/toolkit/towards-gender-equality-in-the-ranger-workforce-challenges-and-opportunities/>

The third Ranger Roundtable Webinar for the series and the second for July, Ranger Wellbeing and Social Safeguarding, will be taking place on Thursday the 29th of July. More information to be communicated closer to the time.

World Ranger Day Patch:

The California State Park Rangers Association and the Ranger Foundation have organized to host a World Ranger Day (WRD) on July 31st at the California Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve. As a part of this WRD event, a special patch was produced and a small supply is available for free to IRF members, on a first come first serve basis (whilst stocks last). To request your free patch email Mike Lynch at mike@cspra.com and include your mailing address.



THE THIN GREEN LINE FOUNDATION

Rolling Out Some Help to Rangers Far and Wide:



Earlier this year, The Thin Green Line Foundation (TGLF) was overwhelmed with many deserving applications for financial assistance from ranger associations around the world. Funds have gone out to organisations in 18 countries, and TGLF is working hard to send more help out in the next few months. Please read more at: <https://thingreenline.org.au/more-help-is-on-its-way/>



Image Credit: Rangers on patrol – Big Life Foundation

**INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**



INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY, 28 AUGUST 2021, 9PM UK TIME

ZOOM WEBINAR

The Board of the International Ranger Federation (IRF) would like to take this opportunity to invite all members of the IRF to join us for our first ever Annual General Meeting. We are excited to share with you the journey since the World Ranger Congress in Nepal, all the projects and milestones that we have achieved thus far and future projects in the pipeline.

Please submit any advance questions in writing to executiveofficer@internationalrangers.org by the 14th of August 2021. Should you have questions on the day, they will be noted and replied to after the event due to time restrictions.

PROPOSED DRAFT AGENDA:

- Welcome and Introduction – 10 Mins
- President's Report – 20 Mins
- Regional Reports – 40 Mins
- Working Group Reports – 10 Mins
- Financial Report – 5 Mins
- Resolutions – 5 Mins

IT IS ESSENTIAL TO RSVP BEFORE OR BY 14 AUGUST 2021 TO
EXECUTIVEOFFICER@INTERNATIONALRANGERS.ORG

**THIS AGM WILL BE TRANSLATED IN SPANISH AND FRENCH BY
INTERPRETERS ON THE DAY.**

We cordially invite all our Member Associations to join us for the International Ranger Federation Annual General Meeting:

Date: Saturday 28 August 2021

Time: 9:00pm UK (London time)

Venue: Zoom

Register here: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LkaHXSGjSZWxva7l_qtwXw

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

This meeting will be conducted in English and translated live time to Spanish and French.

NEWS FROM REGIONS

AFRICA

Ranger Legacy Campaign

The Game Rangers Association of Africa (GRAA) continues in its aim to raise the profile of Africa's rangers, their importance and the challenges they face in its Ranger Legacy Campaign. Over the past few months, the GRAA has focused on 'the importance of raising the profile of rangers' and 'what rangers mean to conservation'. First-hand accounts from rangers tell the story best and their responses have been featured on all our social media platforms. The GRAA believes this is an important step in increasing ranger support, which will influence policy and help to raise funds to benefit them.

Ranger Skills - Bursary Fund Training

42.9% of rangers surveyed in 2020 felt they had not been adequately trained to do their job.

The GRAA believe that rangers need to be adequately trained to maintain the integrity of Africa's wildlife and wild places. We have already trained over 1800 rangers across Africa through our Ranger Skills Bursary Fund Training Program. In July, the GRAA will be offering two specialised training courses to upskill selected rangers in Advanced Field Ranger Tactics and Remote Area First Aid.

The Advanced Field Ranger Training equips rangers with the advanced skills to operate at a clandestine level in counter poaching operations. Because rangers often work in dangerous environments, knowing how to react correctly and keep fellow rangers safe makes the Remote Area First Aid course vital to ranger safety and wellbeing. By focusing on improving rangers' skills, the GRAA aims to improve the capabilities of rangers, which in turn, benefits species, habitats, ecosystems and communities.



Photo Credit: Peter Chadwick - Game Rangers Association of Africa

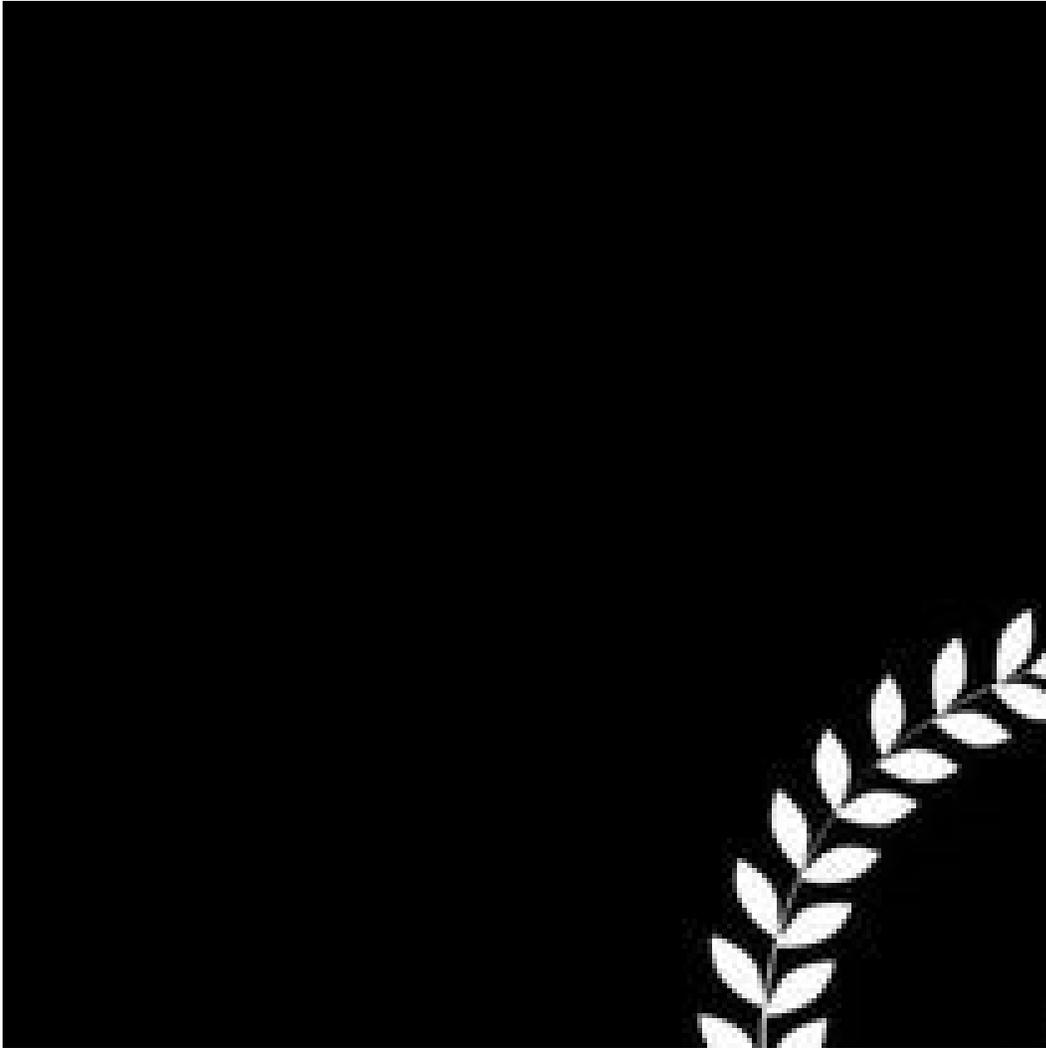
Rhino Conservation Awards 2021

The Rhino Conservation Awards (RCA) celebrates its 10th year of recognising conservation heroes across Africa. These awards highlight outstanding efforts by those who are dedicated to reducing the threats and increasing the sustainability of conservation efforts in Africa in order to create a future where wildlife and people can thrive.

“Recognition is an important motivating factor for rangers who work against all odds at the coalface of conservation. Their work benefits species, habitats, ecosystems and people, but often goes unnoticed. Despite the challenges faced in the world today, there are amazing people doing amazing things. It is our privilege to be part of the 10th Rhino Conservation Awards and to recognise their incredible efforts!” Andrew Campbell, Chief Executive Officer, Game Rangers Association of Africa (GRAA).

Nominations are open under the following categories:

- Best Field Ranger
- Best Game Ranger
- Best Conservation Team
- Best Conservation Supporter



Game Rangers Association of Africa Cote d'Ivoire: An elective General Assembly on the program of the Celebration of World Ranger Day

The Cote d'Ivoire Chapter of the Game Rangers Association of Africa will be celebrating World Ranger Day with visits to Banco National Park and the Dahliafleur Partial Reserve. Training on patrolling in insecure areas and first aid in view of terrorist activities in the Comoé National Park area will take place on the day. An appearance on television is planned to promote the event as well as promote the International Ranger Federation and its member association GRAA Côte d'Ivoire. An important item on the agenda is the elective general assembly that will take place on July 31.

NORTH AMERICA

North American Representative Reviews New Children's Book

North American Representative Andy Wright recently reviewed the new children's book **My First Day as a**

Junior Park Ranger. Author Jennifer Benito-Kowalski reached out to the IRF Board of Directors to review the new book. The story tracks a new prairie dog on his first day as a Junior Park Ranger. He meets other animals that staff the park and learns important lessons about asking questions and getting comfortable in new situations. The artwork is incredible, and the characters are all animals found in the western US. After follow-up discussions with the author, an additional version is being produced with animals and scenes from the Eastern US. The full review is below:

“My First day as a Junior Park Ranger is a great new book that can introduce kids to the numerous jobs and careers that are important for taking care of our parks and natural areas. Ranger Kyler shows up for his first day on the job and is a bit nervous about it all. Will he know how to handle everything? Will the other animals that work at the park be nice? As Ranger Kyler makes his way through the park on his first day, he meets many of his coworkers and finds out they are all nice and willing to help him learn and be a better Park Ranger. He learns they all have important jobs that are critical in properly taking care of the park. By the end of the day, Ranger Kyler has several new friends and he is excited about his job as a Junior Park Ranger! He has also learned that it is ok to be nervous when doing something for the first time and that it is ok and important to ask questions to learn new things. This is a great book that I enjoyed reading with my child and look forward to reading it again many times!”

World Ranger Day Planning Includes at least Two Events in US

As COVID numbers fall in the US and restrictions are lifted, events are being planned in Tennessee and California to celebrate World Ranger Day. California’s event will be held at Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve. Tennessee State Parks will be hosting an alumni reunion at Henry Horton State Park.

IRF Welcomes British Columbia’s Provincial Rangers as Provisional Members

Parks and Protected Areas Section Head Mike Neto led a drive to involve as many British Columbian Parks rangers as possible on the application. Ultimately, nearly 50 signed the document! The IRF looks forward to working with Neto and the other rangers in British Columbia in the coming years.

New National Park Wardens in Canada Complete Training

Four new Canadian Park Wardens complete their Experienced Officer Training Program just in time for summer traffic to pick up. We wish them luck as they return to their park assignments.



Photo credit: Andrew Wright

Florida Wildlife Commission Names New Director of Law Enforcement

Roger Young has recently been appointed to the director of law enforcement for the Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC). The FWC is an agency member of the Park Law Enforcement Association. Young has served to protect Florida's natural resources for the last 25 years. A full story can be found here: https://myfwc.com/news/all-news/col-young/?fbclid=IwAR1xQgg-y7jMjYHq_v-dQEBzMZtviorAOTAUsh32NZkJRQhuqLaOvBBkMPQ.

EUROPE

"Last big ranger meetings were possible in 2019. The picture shows a training of the European Ranger Federation on the occasion of the Swiss Rangers General Assembly with over 60 participants from 8 countries". – Urs Wegmann -



Photo credit: Urs Wegmann

Save the date: European Ranger Congress 2022 in Albania

The European Ranger Federation (ERF) had to cancel its congress in the Bavarian Forest National Park in 2020 because of the COVID pandemic. Now the ERF is planning its next congress in Albania in the week of 16th May 2022. An organizing committee has started work. Save the date! Further information will be posted at: www.europeanrangers.org

LATIN AMERICA

Latin America and Caribbean Protected Planet Report 2020

The *Latin America and Caribbean Protected Planet Report 2020* was launched in April 2021. The report analyzes the progress of 51 countries and territories in the fulfillment of Aichi Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The report includes a chapter of Enabling Conditions that covers the challenges rangers face in their day-to-day duties. According to a survey conducted by WWF in 2019 on the perceptions of park rangers in Latin America, 82% of the park rangers surveyed perceive their work to be dangerous because of the possibility of receiving threats from poachers and 62.4% because of the possibility of being attacked by wildlife. Despite the challenges, 98% of them feel proud of their work as guardians of the diverse forms of life on the planet. The report identifies that there is on average one ranger per 324km² of protected area coverage, which would be equivalent to one ranger per 50 677 soccer fields. This data only relates to rangers hired directly by National Systems of Protected Areas in 18 Latin American countries.

Download full report here <https://redparques.com/modules/ecom/documentos/publicacion/INFORME-2020-final.pdf>



Bolivia's First Female Park Ranger Receives Recognition for her Work

The Network of Women in Conservation of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Network of Women in Conservation of Bolivia, have awarded Carola Vaca -first park ranger of Bolivia - the 'Illustrious Woman in Conservation' Award. The ceremony was held on June 5th, World Environment Day.

Under the slogan, 'reimagine, recreate, restore', both organizations chose Vaca for her work in conservation throughout several protected areas in Bolivia. During the virtual ceremony, the work of 17 other female park rangers in Bolivia was also recognized.

Lilian Apaza, Bolivian representative of the Network, explains that Carola Vaca personifies the effort and tenacity of many of the park rangers, "who face excessive health and safety risks."

The award is a symbolic recognition of a trajectory of struggle and love for the protected areas of Bolivia and the world.

***Note taken from:**

<https://www.laregion.bo/la-primera-guardaparque-de-bolivia-recibe-reconocimiento-por-su-labor-en-diferentes-areas-protegidas-del-pais/>



Photo credit: Facebook Carola Vaca

Peruvian Park Ranger: Symbol of Commitment, Courage, and Love for Protected Areas

'Park rangers are the defenders of our biodiversity, the heroes of conservation, the guardians of nature and a fundamental pillar of conservation'. This is how many authorities and the general public refer to the men and women who dedicate their strength, courage and passion for the protection and conservation of the protected natural areas of Peru.

In Peru, there are 747 men and women park rangers, who, with mysticism, commitment, honesty, vocation of service and love for nature, manage 75 protected natural areas, which total more than 20 million hectares; that is 17% of the national territory.

The park ranger's work has a dual purpose: conserving protected natural areas and promoting the sustainable use of their ecosystems. They carry out various tasks such as surveillance and control, comprehensive monitoring, environmental education, visitor orientation, local promoters of sustainable development, and liaising between government and local communities; all while working often in difficult and dangerous conditions.

Rangers' work, together with the strategies of the National Service of Natural Areas Protected by the State (Sernanp), including surveillance and control, granting of rights for the sustainable use of natural resources, successful territorial negotiations? and inclusive? management have been highly effective. As a result, it's been possible to maintain 95.44% of the conservation status of the State. For this reason, the park ranger is a source of pride and admiration that all Peruvians share. We express our immense gratitude for the privilege of being the guardians of the protected natural areas of our country.



Park Rangers from the Province of Mendoza, Argentina Carry Out Simultaneous Censuses of the Andean Condor, *Vultur gryphus* - Roberto Pereyra Lobos

The Directorate of Renewable Natural Resources of the Province of Mendoza, is carrying out a program for the conservation of the Andean Condor *Vultur gryphus* . The program is designed to gather information to help rangers understand the species' conservation status and identify and possibly even prevent or mitigate threats that may endanger the species.

One of the program's most ambitious actions is carrying out simultaneous censuses within protected areas in locations where there is suitable habitat for the species. The advantage of conducting simultaneous censuses, is that it avoids multiple records of individuals and provides reliable data for the estimation of populations, as well as mapping the important sites for the conservation of the species so we can establish criteria for its protection. Mendoza will be the first province in Argentina to complete the census.

The Park Rangers were trained by the Bioandina Foundation to carry out identification, sampling and recording in the field. Since September 2020, park rangers have carried out three simultaneous seasonal censuses corresponding to Spring (first census), Summer (second census) and the latest (third) in Autumn. The fourth census is approaching as we enter the Winter months.



Photo credit: Parque Provincial Aconcagua (Eduardo Chamorro)

Photo credit: Primer Censo de Cóndor (Mario Cataldo)

On June 10, the regional representatives of Central America (Leonel Delgado) and South America (Werhner Atoche) International Ranger Federation (IRF) met via zoom with the development officer of the (IRF) Mónica Álvarez, and the park rangers Julio Vergara (Chile), Miguel Madrigal from Costa Rica, Park Ranger Roberto Pereyra Lobos (Argentina) could not be present for reasons of force majeure. Some very important issues for the region were discussed in addition to reporting the work has been carrying out the official in Latin America.

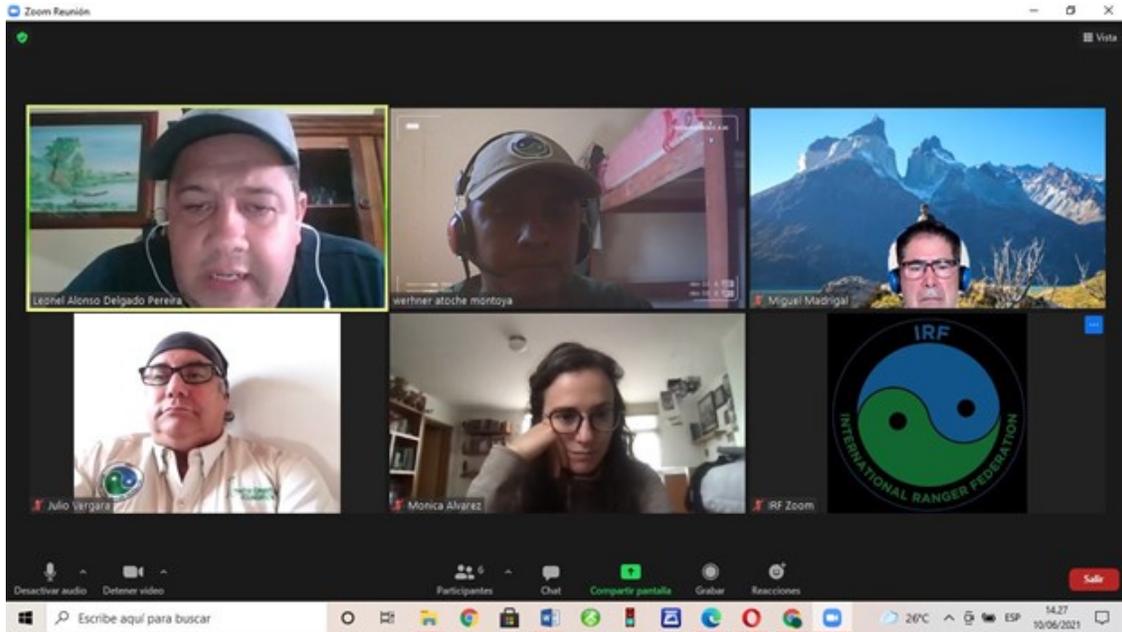


Photo credit: Wehrner Montoya

Nesting of Flamingos in Virrilá - Pablo Martínez and Mónica Alzamora
Association of Voluntary Rangers of the Sechura Wetlands - Peru

Pablo Martínez is a volunteer park ranger, community member and conservation leader in the province of Sechura in Northern Peru. He has studied the biodiversity of the Sechura Wetlands for many years and among the most important findings by him and the members of the association is the Flamingo nesting in the area known as Laguna Palo Parado in Sechura, on the edge of the Virrilá Estuary Environmental Conservation Area. They have recorded approximately 539 nests and over 2000 chicks aging between 5 and 12 days old.

The Association of Volunteer Park Rangers of the Sechura Wetlands led by Pablo Martínez act as caretakers of biodiversity. Other active members of the association include Robert Martínez, Dennis Martínez, Reyner Martínez and Hans Martínez. Other areas of interest for the conservation of the biodiversity of Sechura include the Zapallal and Pampas Salinas (also known as Yerba Blanca) sectors. These areas depend on the entry of fresh water through the Piura River, whose flow depends on the now temporary rains due to El Niño.

Other species that nest in the wetlands of Sechura are the Guanay Cormorant, 'Gallareta' as well as various species of ducks, gulls, storks and terns. This nesting occurs by the fresh water inlet of the Piura River .

It should be noted that the registered nesting site is not incorporated into the Virrilá Estuary Environmental Conservation Area (Virrilá Estuary is currently being evaluated for nomination as a new RAMSAR site). The association has recommended the inclusion of this important habitat to the conservation area to protect this significant breeding site into the future.



Photo credit: Pablo Martínez and Mónica Alzamora

Junglekeepers Peru

Junglekeepers is a Peruvian NGO working in the Las Piedras region of the Amazon. Its mission is to protect the rainforest by working with people from local communities through our ranger program. Presently, we have six rangers in our ranger program that are protecting over 14,000ha of forest.

During the last few months, as the rainy season came to an end, there has been an increase in illegal activities such as agricultural groups invading forestry concessions and unauthorized brazil nut harvesting, a product from primary rainforest. Junglekeepers' rangers have been monitoring the forest along the river and reporting illegal activities to the proper authorities. Our team of rangers are keeping the area they are protecting safe for thousands and thousands of species of wildlife.



Photo credit: Illegal agricultural invasions, slash & burn of future farmlands. ©Junglekeepers

Photo credit: Dasheel Flores, taking data with the SMART Mobile app ©Junglekeepers

Association of Community Rangers - Protectors of Vicuñas in the Communities of the Mountains of Peru

We started with the production of fiber from Vicuña in the mountains, south of Ayacucho. At 4,200 meters m. s. n. m, men and women of the field, with a multicolored fence, carry out their activity of the Chaccu de vicuña, the mechanized shearing to obtain the finest fiber in the world. In all this activity, the members of the Association of Community Park Rangers are present; protectors of Vicuñas in the communities of the mountains of Peru.



Photo credit: Association of Community Rangers, Peru

Paraguayan Association of Park Rangers, of the National System of Protected Wild Areas (AGUAPA)

Financial aid has been provided to Park Rangers diagnosed with COVID-19; the funding support came from the contributions of the associates. In many protected areas of Paraguay, illegal plantations have been found by rangers and have been destroyed with the assistance from relevant law enforcement authorities of the State including SENAD, the National Police and the Public Ministry.



Photo credit: AGUAPA

Ecuador Park Rangers Association (AGE)

The (AGE) has strengthened its social media connections by developing a pilot workshop for rangers focusing on network management for protected areas resulting in 5 new Instagram pages. Social media has helped to highlight many activities including the first dose of the COVID vaccine to over 700 colleagues and meetings on defending our working rights. We have also created the virtual space: 'Friday Photographic Exhibition' where we present the protected areas of Ecuador through the lens of the park rangers. To date, we have 11 galleries.



Photo credit: Ecuador Park Rangers Association

Rangers of the Cerro Blanco Protective Forest – Guayaquil, Ecuador

The Cerro Blanco Protective Forest was created by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock under Ministerial Agreement No. 143 of April 20, 1989, beginning with approximately 2000 hectares. Subsequently, several extensions have been made, and is now at approximately 6000 hectares in total. During the first few years it was administered by Fundación Natura, however, since 1993 to the present, it is being managed by Fundación Pro-Bosque. Cerro Blanco is located on the outskirts of the city of Guayaquil, Ecuador. It is a tropical dry forest reserve that houses the characteristic biodiversity of this type of ecosystem, represented by approximately 700 species of vascular plants, 240 species of birds, 54 species of mammals, 22 species of reptiles and 8 species of amphibians.

This important area is considered the best conserved remnant of the Dry Forest of the Ecuadorian Coast and also represents one of the main lungs for the city of Guayaquil since, in addition to oxygen, it provides other ecosystem services, including: a) the capture of approximately 400 000 tons of CO²; b) oxygen for approximately 350 000 people from the city of Guayaquil and surrounds; c) the provision of pure water with approximately 2500 m³ /ha/year; and, d) provides essential habitat for important biodiversity. The locations most vulnerable to threats are the north-east areas because this sector borders illegal settlements; and in the north-west sector since the Cerro Blanco Forest is close to a highway, making access for illegal hunters and loggers easier. The forest rangers support each other by performing routine patrols with the UPMA Environmental Protection Unit of the National Police. They also have five guards stationed in strategic places to monitor and deal with threats. However, due to the current lack of economic resources only two stations are maintained; they are the ones covering the most vulnerable areas.



Photo credit: Rangers of the Cerro Blanco Protective Forest – Guayaquil, Ecuador

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To view this Newsletter in Spanish, follow this link:

<https://mailchi.mp/a4ba7d0be709/boletn-de-la-federacin-internacional-de-guardaparques-julio-de-2021>

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<https://mailchi.mp/cc7bfab7f764/bulletin-de-la-fdration-internationale-des-rangers-juillet-2021>



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