



INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

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Second World Congress – Costa Rica

Plans for IRF's Second World Congress are well underway.

The congress, which is to be held in the Hotel Cariari in San Jose, Costa Rica, September 25-29, 1997, will be organized around the theme of "The Ranger's Role in Sustainable Development."

Speakers of international prominence will help delegates focus on the topics, but the real work of the congress will be done in small group workshops, facilitated by the delegates themselves.

One whole day of the congress will be devoted to a field trip, during which delegates will spend time with their Costa Rican colleagues discussing the issues related to the management of the parks which will be visited.

The President of Costa Rica, Jose Maria Figueres, has tentatively agreed to welcome us to his country. Minister of the Environment and Energy Rene Castro Salazar will also be with us. Plenary speakers from El Salvador, Brazil, England, Costa Rica and the United States will share their points of view with delegates.

SINAC, the Costa Rican Park Service, has also invited delegates to spend additional time in the country, living and working with host country rangers in some of Costa Rica's world famous parks. This option can be worked out in advance through the congress registrar.

The registrar is Lyn Rothgeb in the U.S. Her mailing address is 730 East Main Street, Luray, VA, 22835, USA; phone and fax are 540-743-1775; Internet address is rothgeb@aol.com.

Registration forms should be sent immediately to Lynn. Send yours in now! This is one meeting you will not want to miss.

If you have questions about the congress, you can reach congress coordinator Rick Smith at 2 Roadrunner Trail, Placitas, NM, 87043, USA. Telephone: 505-867-0047; telefax: 505-867-4175; Internet: rsmith0921@aol.com.

IRF News

Message from the Chair

The organization of the Second World Ranger Congress in Costa Rica is well advanced and promises to be a memorable occasion. Registrations from the Americas, Africa, Australasia and Europe indicate wide interest and commitment to the congress.

IRF recently met with the Federation of National and Nature Parks of Europe to discuss cooperation. We have also begun a dialogue with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Both promise to help raise awareness of the role of rangers in protected areas.

IRF, through the Game Rangers Association of Africa, continues to pursue opportunities for training rangers in African countries along with the World Wildlife Federation, and interest in similar opportunities in India is growing.

The Romanian Ranger Association, with the support of IRF, is set to become the first ranger association to be given the responsibility of managing and administering a national park. The Apuseni Mountains have been chosen as the site for this exciting project, and we hope to report on its development in the future.

IRF continues to encourage the formation of national ranger associations. New organizations are likely in South America, Africa, Southeast Asia, and New Zealand. While many associations are now members of IRF, there are many rangers around the world who have no form of representation whatsoever, and who are unable to share in the positive interaction that is now taking place. If you know of ranger associations in adjoining countries, let us know and we will make contact.

See you in Costa Rica!

Gordon Miller, Chairman
International Ranger Federation

News About IRF Associations

Italy – ALAVA

A seminar on the "Role and Duties of Park Rangers" was held during the Second National Meeting on Nature Parks at La Mandria Regional Park on May 24, 1997. Park personnel came from many regions.

During the seminar, information about the numbers of Italian rangers was revealed. There are 335 people employed by regional authorities in local nature parks. There are 52 national park rangers working at Gran Paradiso NP and another 17 at Abruzzo NP, the two oldest Italian protected areas. Other national parks are patrolled by agents of the National Forestry Corps, and the Italian government is preparing a new decree to assign about 1,000 forest guards to the twelve new national parks. Several regional parks are still without their own rangers. The need to describe the number and duties of park rangers under the national park law passed in 1991 was discussed.

Law enforcement, wildlife management and interpretation are the main duties of rangers. New regulations to obtain the same police powers for rangers in every region are needed.

AIGAP, an Italian national association of park rangers and wardens, was created a few years ago, and has been revived. AIGAP was asked to join the IRF.

Augusto Atturo

Nepal – Rangers Association of Nepal

Ashok Khand has left Royal Chitwan National Park on long leave to work for CARE International, and has stepped down as chair of the ranger association. He will be visiting the UK and meeting with Gordon Miller this October. IRF will be contacting the new chair.

Gordon Miller

Sweden – Naturvardarna

Naturvardarna, the new Swedish ranger association, has published and distributed its first newsletter. The organization has also been accepted by the tax and register authorities, and now has a formal Swedish organization number. Dues are now beginning to flow into Naturvardarna's account, and membership is growing - ten during a recent ten-day stretch alone.

Thomas Hansson

Uruguay – Association of Park Rangers and Nature Guides

The new association has been established. Rangers had to join with park laborers who work in some different activities and with three nature guides to increase the number of 'rangers.' A constitution has been created and been sent to IRF. The organization is seeking recognition by the government and hopes to have it by the end of this year. Three members, all 'true' rangers, have spoken on radio programs.

The association is looking at ways to raise money to support IRF. One possibility is to translate a book that Juan Carlos Gambarotta has written into English, then give IRF one half of the money received from sales. The book, Called "Mitai Birthday and Other Uruguayan Ecological Tales," has stories which deal with management of natural resources, national parks, endangered species, utility of native fauna and flora to the economy, and, as a contrast, the way Indians take care of nature.

Juan Carlos Gambarotta

News About Rangers

Nigeria

Tim Adkins in Savanna Conservation Nigeria is looking for an experienced, motivated and enthusiastic ranger (or someone with similar background) for a position as a wildlife manager in Nigeria. The candidate needs to speak English, have a wildlife biology background, and have experience as a budget manager.

The person selected will live and work in the bush with a minimum of supervision under difficult conditions. He is offering a salary of about \$18,000 annually, plus 20,000 niara in-country allowance per month - a sum more than sufficient to meet all needs - and medical insurance. Families, unfortunately, can not be accommodated. The contract is for two years and will involve training local staff to take over management of the area.

If you are interested, contact Tim at the following address: Savanna Conservation Nigeria, Suite 2b, Ahmed Talib House, 18/19 Ahmadu Bello Way, PO Box 9197, Kaduna, Nigeria. The telephone and telefax number is 062-233382.

Upcoming Events

- September 25-29, 1997 Second World IRF Congress, Hotel Cariari, San Jose, Costa Rica. Contact Lyn Rothgeb, Congress registrar, via telefax in the United States at 540-743-1775, or via e-mail at: rothgeb@aol.com
- October 14-16, 1997 21st Ranger Rendezvous, Association of National Park Rangers, Sheraton Harbor Place Hotel, Fort Myers, Florida, U.S.A.

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The International Ranger Federation Newsletter is produced four times per year and distributed to the IRF representatives for each member association. The newsletter is edited by Bill Halainen of the U.S. Association of National Park Rangers. He can be reached in any of the following ways. The preferred means for fax communications is the work number.

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