

International Programs Bulletin

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National Park Service
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Office of International Affairs

Welcome to the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) International Programs Bulletin, issued quarterly by the NPS Office of International Affairs (OIA). Additional information on NPS international activities can be found at the NPS OIA webpage: <http://www.nps.gov/oia>

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World Bank Dialogue With Park Managers

Park managers from 11 nations, including a U.S. National Park Service **superintendent**, participated in a Dialogue with Park Managers, hosted by World Bank President Robert Zoellick, held in Nagoya, Japan, on the margins of the 10th Biodiversity Convention Conference of Parties. Common issues that challenge managers of protected areas globally were discussed: 1) managing protected areas as integral parts of the community, economically – from a development, conservation, and tourism standpoint; 2) possessing adequate capacity to get the job accomplished; & 3) communication –globally with other park managers on critical issues, lessons learned, resource sharing, etc. President Zoellick discussed how the World Bank could assist/serve as a focal point for information flow and provide space for park managers to connect and dialogue throughout the world. Since their return from Nagoya, these park managers have remained in touch and set up an electronic mechanism to support ongoing communication. For more information, contact Karen Gustin, at karen_gustin@nps.gov



World Bank President Zoellick (seated, 3rd from right) with park managers

Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative Meets

NPS staff participated in the 4th meeting of the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) in Miami, Florida. WHMSI brings together government and non-governmental organizations from throughout the Western Hemisphere to discuss and plan collaborative activities to protect shared migratory species, including birds, butterflies, marine mammals and sea turtles, among others. As many of the species found in U.S. national parks also spend significant portions of their lives outside parks and indeed outside the U.S., their ultimate survival within NPS units depends on protection throughout their entire range. For more information on WHMSI, see <http://www.whmsi.net/index.cfm>. For more information on the NPS's Migratory Species program, see <http://www.nature.nps.gov/biology/migratoryspecies/> see or contact Jonathan Putnam, at jonathan_putnam@nps.gov



The Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative holds hope for the sea turtle.

Papahānaumokuākea Inscription Ceremony & World Heritage Marine Managers Workshop

Senior Administration officials from the Interior, Commerce and State Departments as well as the State of Hawaii participated in a ceremony to commemorate the July 2010 inscription of **Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument** on the UNESCO World Heritage List; the first US site added to the List in 15 years. The ceremony was timed to also celebrate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve by the Clinton Administration. Inclusion on the World Heritage List signifies recognition by the international community of the Monument's cultural and natural significance. Preceding the inscription event, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in cooperation with the National Park Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration sponsored the first-ever gathering of World Heritage Marine Site managers. More than 25 countries were represented at the managers workshop. For more information, contact Stephen Morris, at stephen_morris@nps.gov

Cambodia-Thai Rangers: Partners in Peace

In December, Cambodian and Thai rangers joined forces for the first time to participate in Maddox-Jolie-Pitt Foundation's (MJP) park management training workshop in northwestern Cambodia. Joining the Thais and Cambodian rangers were two U.S. National Park Service rangers from **Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park** and an IUCN wildlife monitoring specialist. Since 2009, MJP has been encouraging the Cambodian & Thai governments to create a transboundary peace park in the tropical forest eco-region across northwestern Cambodia (**Samlaut Protected Area**) and northeastern Thailand (**Khlong Kreua Wai Wildlife Sanctuary & Namtok Khlong Kaew National Park**). The Samlaut/Thai eco-region covers 110,000 hectares of relatively intact tropical forest and is home to Asian elephants and Indochinese tigers. The three protected areas together constitute a potential 'peace park' where co-operation between the Thai and Cambodian governments could work toward positive **geotourism**, tighter control over illegal activities that are currently ravaging these areas, regional sustainable development and conflict resolution. MJP began its conservation program in Samlaut in 2003 and in 2006 it facilitated the first sister park relationship between Cambodia and the U.S. (see <http://www.nps.gov/seki/historyculture/sister-park.htm>) For more information, contact Stephan Bognar, at bognar@mjpasia.org

16th Japan-US Interpreter Training Seminar

Japanese park interpretation rangers & forestry students participated in the 16th annual Japan-US Interpreter Training Seminar, held at **Biscayne, Big Cypress & Everglades National Parks**. Jointly organized by NPS and the Association for Interpretation-Japan, the seminar was supported by staff from the volunteer, interpretation and resource management staffs of each of these south Florida national parks. Japanese park staff, many of whom work under contract from the national or local government, selected the Seminar's theme - "Volunteer Management and Interpretation of Ecosystem Restoration." Sessions focused on how to recruit, retain, reward or terminate volunteers, as well as how these three south Florida national parks interpret and incorporate into environmental education programs the ongoing restoration of the Everglades ecosystem. For more information, contact Rudy D'Alessandro, at rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov

Sister Parks Working Together in Chile

Yosemite National Park's sister park, **Parque Nacional Torres del Paine**, requested assistance with trails and interpretation, particularly for a key restoration project on their most significant and heavily used visitor trail, where erosion and decay had created safety and environmental concerns. The expertise of trails staff from Yosemite was crucial to successfully completing preliminary planning and design work. Additionally, Yosemite's chief of Interpretation & Education serves as the liaison for the sister park relationship and this visit established important linkages with counterpart staff in Patagonia. For more information, contact Tom Medema, at tom_medema@nps.gov



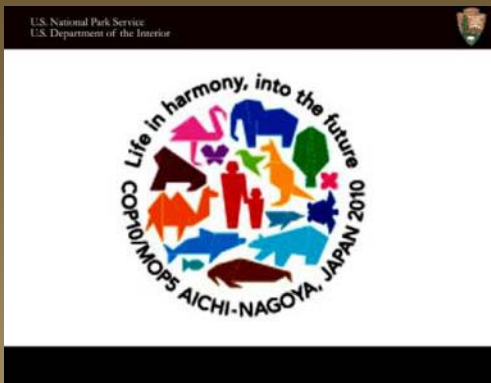
NPS Participates in Biodiversity Convention

At the request of the U.S. State Department, NPS sent its Deputy Associate Director for Natural Resources Science Stewardship to participate in the U.S. Government's Observer Delegation to the 10th Conference of Parties (COP-CBD) to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The 10th COP-CBD took up biodiversity issues as they related to protected areas management. NPS provided critical input and examples of US Government activities on Protected Areas, Mountain Biodiversity, Invasive Alien Species, Marine and Coastal, Inland Waters Biodiversity and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity. The Aichi Target, named for the area around Nagoya, calls for halving by 2020 the rate at which natural habitats are destroyed and increasing the amount of land in protected areas from 13 percent to 17 percent of the world's continents. Nations also pledged to increase marine protected areas from 1 percent of the world's oceans to 10 percent. Decision documents from the meeting are available online at <http://www.cbd.int/cop10/doc/>. For more information, contact Beth Johnson, at beth_johnson@nps.gov.

NPS staff from Alaska delivered an introductory training course on managing the sustainable use of natural resources in protected areas under the U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP), with the help of a Tbilisi-based ITAP in-country coordinator, for 26 students from Kazbegi Municipality, several Georgian protected areas, the Agency for Protected Areas, and the Forestry Agency. The experience of Alaskan national parks with managing hunting, fishing, plant gathering, and timber harvest under the subsistence provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act figured prominently in presentations. The students applied the general concepts to Georgian examples through three in-class exercises. The team also made a presentation summarizing U.S. best practices at the Georgian Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources in Tbilisi. For more details, contact Barbara Cellarius, at Barbara_cellarius@nps.gov or visit the ITAP website at <http://www.doi.gov/intl/itap/index.cfm>

Sondrio Environment Film Festival

Reflecting the National Park Service's extensive experience with in-house and commercial production of national park visitor center films, a national park ranger noted for his film making and interpretation skills was selected to represent the NPS to serve as a member of the Commune di Sondrio Environmental Film Festival jury, a five-person team that reviews and awards environmental education filmmakers for outstanding new documentaries on 'protected' lands. The jury also includes a manager from Italy's Stelvio National Park, film industry professionals, and a parks conservation advocate. This year's winner was a small, quiet film about an Italian park ranger from Gran Paradiso national park. In addition to participating in the film jury, the NPS ranger assisted with environmental education programs for nearby Italian classrooms, including promotion of NPS park units in the U.S., as well as establishing contacts with a variety of competent filmmakers who may ultimately create films for the NPS. For more information,



NPS Participates In International Law Enforcement Academy in Thailand

An NPS Special Agent and an FBI Art Crime Program Manager provided training to 32 police officers from Southeast Asia at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Bangkok, Thailand in late 2010. Participants in the training came from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. This training focused on the laws pertaining to cultural resource protection, investigative techniques and strategies that can be used to combat the looting and trafficking of artifacts. Delivery methodologies included lecture and scenario based training. The culmination of the week was a day-long scenario that included processing a crime scene in the field, analyzing evidence and presenting a case to a prosecutor. For more details, contact Todd Swain, at todd_swain@nps.gov



Officers from the Philippines & Malaysia work on a tabletop exercise during training

World Famous Mountains Convene in China

During mid-October, the Superintendent of **Shenandoah National Park** and the Chief Ranger **Mount Rainier National Park** were among several other U.S. protected area managers invited to participate in the second World Famous Mountains Conference held at Mount Lushan, China. The conference included representatives of 24 mountain areas from 5 different continents, with the purpose of sharing information on protecting the unique natural and cultural resources of the world's mountain areas, while developing and promoting tourism to these areas. The government of China, who sponsored the conference, is realizing the importance of protecting their heritage, culture, and natural history through management of their country's mountain areas. For more information, contact Chuck Young, at chuck_young@nps.gov



U.S. protected area managers at 2nd World Famous Mountains Conference, Mt. Lushan NP

NPS Museum Management and ICOM

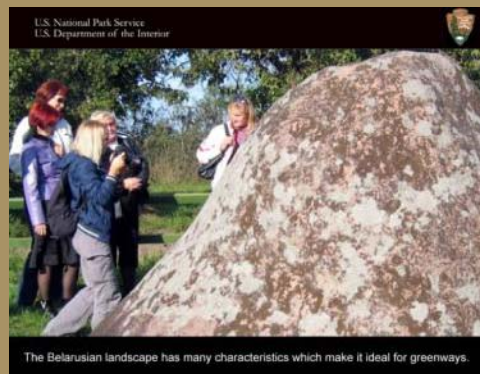
An NPS museum management curator attended the 25th General Assembly of the International Council of Museums [ICOM] in Shanghai. Hosted by the Chinese ICOM committee, the conference's theme was "Museums for Social Harmony," and attracted over 3,700 delegates from art, anthropology, history, science, and natural history and historic house museums from around the world to discuss a broad range of museum issues. Many sessions were held at Expo Shanghai, which had just closed. It was moving and remarkable to see and hear the large and varied membership from all the corners of the world. This was the first ICOM meeting ever hosted by the Chinese museum community. For more information, contact Joan Bacharach, at joan_bacharach@nps.gov



Some of the 3,700 participants at the International Council of Museums meeting in China

Developing Greenways in Belarus

The U.N. Development Program (UNDP) and the Belarus Environment Ministry invited NPS to conduct workshops on developing local and regional greenways in three pilot regions, Motol, Rossony and Vileyka. Training course and materials were produced in consultation with UNDP and the Belarusian Association 'Country Escape,' a nascent national greenways NGO. Training also included presentations by the Belarusian Environment Ministry, Belarusian National Parks, wildlife experts, ecotourism and cultural festival consultants, and local greenway advocates. NPS also participated in a workshop focused on partnership building skills for regional greenway advocates and tourism commissions and submitted a report, *Expanding Belarusian Greenways: Recommendations for Enhancing Local Greenways and Establishing a National Greenways Program*, is posted on the UNDP Belarus website - <http://www.ecorazvitie.by/index.php?cat=1>. For more details, contact Charles Tracy at charles_tracy@nps.gov



The Belarusian landscape has many characteristics which make it ideal for greenways.

This newsletter is distributed quarterly to NPS staff, partners and other interested parties. If you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please contact Rudy D'Alessandro at rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov. We encourage NPS colleagues to submit brief summaries of international activities and accomplishments suitable for inclusion in this bulletin.