INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION

5th WORLD CONGRESS – STIRLING, SCOTLAND – 17-21 June 2006

CONGRESS REPORT

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CONGRESS REPORT

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1. Introduction

The 5th World Congress of the International Ranger Federation was held in Stirling, Scotland on 17 to 21 June 2006.

Congress Aims

The aims of the Congress were twofold:

- To showcase Scotland as one of the world's leading practitioners in the field of countryside management, and
- To draw on the experiences of Rangers from around the world in the development of best practices in land care.

Scotland has always been a world leader in environmental protection. John Muir, founder of the American National Parks system and the Rangers concept, was born in Dunbar in 1838 before his family emigrated to the USA. A century and a half later, the Scottish Countryside Rangers Association (SCRA) held its annual conference in 1991 on the banks of Loch Lomond that differed from its forerunners in that it was the first to invite Rangers from ten different countries to share their experiences and exchange techniques. This meeting of like-minded people from all over the world led to the idea of an organisation that would promote the best ideals and practices of Rangering around the world.

A year later, Scotland, England and the USA became the first signatories of the IRF charter. Since then the number of signatories has grown to 56 countries, and four IRF World Congresses have been held – in Poland, Costa Rica, South Africa and Australia – each one building both the number of delegates and the number of countries represented.

People and Place, the Natural Connection

The title of the 5th World Congress was "People and Place, the Natural Connection". It explored how best to integrate the management and conservation of the world's natural heritage, while at the same time taking into account the needs of people, including those living in the world's protected areas, those who visit them, and engaging those who do not show an interest in the natural world.

To that end, each of the four main days delivered a separate strand: People, Place, Connections and Delivery.

The themes were based around the issues of Responsible Access, Positive Visitor Management, Biodiversity and Quality of Life. These themes incorporated sustainable economic development, partnerships (both management and funding), youth issues, education, and habitat protection, in countryside ranging from mountains to coastline.

Keynote speakers who are world experts in their fields underpinned a Programme containing a mix of plenary and workshop sessions with practical and field-based examples.

One day featured field trips to areas of specific interest to the Programme. These included trips to Cairngorms National Park, Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park, Pentland Hills Regional Park, Glen Coe and St Andrews, with the aim being to illustrate the issues contained within the Congress Programme.

Spreading the Net

Meanwhile, one of the main aims of the IRF is to spread the net as widely as possible around the world, and to get delegates from as many nations as possible to share in this chance to develop both personally and professionally. This is relatively easy with delegates from developed countries such as the USA, Australia and Western Europe, where the employers of Rangers can afford to send their staff to such events or the individuals are paid enough to pay their own way. But potential delegates from many nations in Africa, Asia and Latin America are not so fortunate.

To that end, sponsorship was obtained from a number of sources including government, NGOs, and private fund raising. Grants also came from the IUCN, SNH, the Countryside Agency, both Scottish

National Parks, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, various local authorities, Rotary Clubs, and fund raising efforts by SCRA and CMA members. (A list of sponsors is included in the appendix.)

The 5th World Congress was formally opened by Rhona Brankin, the Scottish Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Affairs, following a welcome on behalf of SNH by John Markland.

This report aims to summarise the main speakers' presentations and highlight papers and workshops presented by delegates. It will also cover the field trips, which provide examples of best practice across Scotland.

2. Summary Programme

Wednesday 14 June 2006

Arrivals Day & Opening Ceremony

1400-1730	Atrium	Registration of arriving delegates
1800		Welcome to Stirling and flag raising ceremony at Stirling Castle hosted by Provost Colin O'Brien, Stirling Council and Cllr Gillie Thompson, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park

Thursday 15 June 2006

PEOPLE

Is Anyone Out There?
Why is the natural world important to people?

0910	Mainhouse	**Rhona Brankin** - Deputy Environment & Rural Affairs Minister
0915	Mainhouse	**John Markland** - Scottish Natural Heritage Chairman
0920	Session opens	**Drennan Watson** (SCRA president) - Chair
0930	Mainhouse	**David Sheppard** - IUCN Protected Areas
1100	Atrium	Morning coffee
1130	Mainhouse	**Andrew Bachell** - Scottish Natural Heritage Director of Strategy & Operations (East)
1155	Mainhouse	**Ruth Grant** - Rangering in Scotland
1215	Mainhouse	Q&A Session and summary
1400	Mainhouse	"The Legacy of John Muir" (theatre piece)
1430	Mainhouse	**Murray Ferguson** - Cairngorms NPA
1450	Mainhouse	**Prof. Roger Crofts** – Rangers and the New Protected Areas Paradigm.
1600	Mainhouse	Paper Session - 'Community'
1800	Atrium	Poster Session from IRF member organisations
2030-2200	Mainhouse	**FILM PREMIERE – Sean Willmore's** "Rangers Round the World"

Friday 16 June 2006

PLACE

Landscape: Sculpted by Nature, Shaped by People
What kind of shape are we leaving it in?

0925	Mainhouse	**Sir Crispin Tickell** - Chair
1005	Mainhouse	**Terry O'Regan -** Landscape Alliance Ireland "How do you like your landscape served – with or without People?"
1130	Mainhouse	**Prof. T.C. Smout –** Historiographer Royal in Scotland "Do we see Scotland as just a Romantic photograph?"
1215	Mainhouse	**Toby Clark** – John Muir Award "Making a difference to people and their relationship to wild places"
1235	Mainhouse	**Jo Roberts -** Wilderness Foundation "Wilderness & Wildness".
1255	Mainhouse	Q&A session and summary.

1400 Geddes Court depart for **Local Site Visits (half-day field trips)**

Local Site Visits:

Lomond Hills Regional Park	Fife Ranger Service
Fallin Bing and Gartmorn Dam (2 trips)	Stirling & Clacks Ranger Service
Loch Leven Nat. Nature Reserve	Scottish Natural Heritage NNR*
Flanders Moss	Scottish Natural Heritage NNR
Glendevon Property	Woodland Trust Scotland
Glen Finglas	Woodland Trust Scotland
Inner Tay Estuary Local Nature Reserve	Perth & Kinross Ranger Service
Chatleherault CP & Morgan Glen	South Lanarkshire Ranger Service
North Lanarkshire – 2 sites	North Lanarkshire Ranger Service
Strathclyde CP & David Livingston Centre	North Lanarkshire Ranger Service
The Queen Elizabeth Forest Park	Cowal & the Trossachs Forest District Ranger

Saturday 17 June 2006

STUDY TOUR DAY
Study Tours (Whole Day Visits)

0830-2200

Option 1: **Pentland/East Lothian/Edinburgh**
Including Pentland Hills Regional Park, John Muir birthplace/Edinburgh's Old Town World Heritage Site

Option 2: **Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park**
Including Loch Katrine boat trip/Loch Lomond boat trip and the National Park Gateway Centre

Option 3: **Cairngorm National Park**
Including Blair Castle, Craigellachie NNR, Abernethy Forest (RSPB), Speyside Way long distance route/Glenmore Forest Park, Rothiemurchus Estate & Ranger service and Cairngorm Mountain

Option 4: **Glencoe and Loch Lomond & the Trossachs NP**
Including; Glen Coe Visitor Centre; National Trust for Scotland properties; West Highland Way; northern Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park projects

Option 5: **Loch Leven/Barry Buddon SSSI/St Andrews**
Including Vane Farm(RSPB)/Loch Leven NNR, Ministry of Defence sites; Eden estuary LNR (SSSI & Ramsar site), West sands & Old Course & St Andrews Bay integrated coastline management

Sunday 18 June 2006

CONNECTIONS

Heal the Land- Heal the People
Re-establishing the natural connection

0930	Mainhouse	Session Chairman **Professor Chris Baines** (CMA patron)
1015	Mainhouse	KEYNOTE SPEAKER **Hans Kampf** – Senior Policy Adviser to the Netherlands Government "Nature for people – people for Nature"
1130	Mainhouse	**Shaheen Safdar** - Black Env. Network Development Worker "Engaging marginalised social groups imaginatively"
1150	Mainhouse	**Barbara Mertin** - EUROPARC Junior Rangers "Protecting Europe's Natural& Cultural Heritage"
1210	Mainhouse	**Bob Elliot** - Loch Lomond & the Trossachs NPA "Community futures, community connections within the National Park"
1230	Mainhouse	**Dr.Ross Cameron –** University of Reading "Biophilia and the therapeutic landscape"
1330	Atrium	Poster Session
1530-1730		Presented papers session **1.** Mainhouse - Wildlife & Habitat Management **2.** Lecture Theatre B4 - Management Planning
2000	Mainhouse	Informal presentations by delegates

Monday 19 June 2006

DELIVERY

Can Rangers deliver sustainable development and environmental protection?

Aims of the day:
To focus on good practice in service delivery by looking at practical examples of Rangers delivering on sustainable development. In particular: getting the message across, engaging with people, and championing international, national and local laws.

	Training for European Practicitioners	**Workshops**	**Workshops**	**Presentations / Workshops**
0930	**Workshop 1:** "Europarc – Generating enthusiasm in children and young people for the ranger profession" Presenters: **Barbara Mertin** (Austria), **Marjeta Albinini** (Slovenia), **Sally Kempson** (UK)	**Workshop 2:** "Creating opportunities for young Rangers (20-35yrs)" Presenter: **Cassie Wright** (Australia)	**Workshop 3:** "Heritage Interpretation as a tool to promote sustainable development" Presenter: **Danish Rangers Association**	**Workshop 4:** "Organising Cooperative Conservation in an Urban National Park" Presenter: **Meg Weesner** (Arizona, USA)
1030	**Workshop 1** *continues*	**Workshop 2** *continues*	**Workshop 3** *continues* –	**Presentation 2:** "Indigenous Community Based Land and Sea Management in Arnhem Land, Australia" Presenter: **Djawa Yunupingu**, Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation
1130	**Workshop 1** *continues*	**Workshop 6:** "Evaluation and monitoring community involvement" Presenters: **Greenspace Scotland**, **Communities Scotland, NHS Scotland**, and others	**Workshop 7:** "How is your Park doing?: Evaluating the Management Effectiveness of Protected Areas" Presenter: **IUCN / WCPA joint workshop**	**Workshop 8:** "Care & Feeding a Volunteer Programme" Presenters: **Phil Young & Judy Chetwin** (New Mexico, USA)

1215	**Workshop 1** *continues*	**Workshop 9:** "Participatory Outdoor Workshops" Presenter: **John Cree**, Bishopswood Centre, England.	**Workshop 7** *continues* Presenters: **Sue Stolton** (UK), **Nigel Dudley** (UK), **Liza Higgins-Zogib** (Sui), **Marc Hocking** (Aus)	**Workshop 10:** "Transfrontier conservation management" Presenter: **Jobogo Mirindi** (DR Congo)
1400	**Workshop 11:** "Fighting Wildlife Crime, local and global links" plus Visit by Wildlife Crime Education Trailer Presenter: **Jo Connelly**, Strathclyde Police Wildlife Crime Officer, Scotland	**Workshop 12:** "Monitoring with Hands On learning opportunities" Presenter: **Glen Jameson**, Parks Victoria, Australia	**Workshop 7** *continues* "Capacity building" Presenters: **IUCN / WCPA**	**Workshop 13:** "Big Tree Country" – workshop plus exploring Woodland Bus on site Presenters: **Mike Flinn / Angela Hughes**, Big tree Country, Scotland

1615	Mainhouse	Plenary Session - **Ruth Grant**
1700	Various	IRF continental meetings
1800	Pathfoot	SCRA/Icelandic twinning 10th anniversary, special guest **Ian Jardie**, SNH

Tuesday 20 June 2006

IRF DAY

0930-1230	Mainhouse	IRF reports
1415-1530	Mainhouse	IRF reports
1530	Mainhouse	Presentation by next Congress.
1630	Queens Court	Flag lowering ceremony and hand over to 6th IRF World Congress hosts, Bolivia

Wednesday 21 June 2006

Departure Day

0730-0830	Haldane's	Breakfast (or earlier)
0930	**All rooms to be vacated** Departures or start of post-congress tours	

3. Main Speakers' Abstracts

N.B. This does not include the chairmen of the various days proceedings.

Thursday 15 June 2006

PEOPLE

Is Anyone Out There?
Why is the natural world important to people?

Andrew Bachell, Director of Strategy & Operations (East), Scottish Natural Heritage

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) – who we are and what we do

Aims:

- to briefly explain SNH – who we are and what we do;
- to show a little of the Natural Heritage resource we work with;
- to explain why Scotland and SNH needs Ranger Services and what we achieve together.

Scottish Natural Heritage is a government-funded agency, which reports to the Ministers for Environment and Rural Affairs in the Scottish Parliament. Working to secure the conservation and enhancement and to foster understanding and facilitate public enjoyment of the Natural Heritage. We define the natural heritage as habitats & species, landscape features and natural beauty, and, importantly, public amenity.

Much of SNH's agenda has contributed greatly to Ranger Services and we have invested in the development of Rangering in Scotland – from the 1970s we have supported over 300 posts across more than 50 services with around £2 million of our grant-aid each year.

Scotland is a small country with some of the most natural, wild and dramatic landscapes in Europe. Our population is very urban, with most people living in large settlements. This creates a need to show those people the benefits of nature on their doorstep and across Scotland.

The natural heritage includes designated areas: National Nature Reserves; Country Parks; Regional Parks; National Parks, with the UK's first Coastal and Marine National Park being designated in the near future.

The value of the Wider Countryside – i.e. large areas of 'non-designated' countryside, often highly attractive, important for wildlife and valuable for people to enjoy recreational activities. We also have a role in facilitating access to the urban fringe and greenspaces, where public access needs to be integrated with other land uses and activities. Rangers really come into their own in connecting people with place.

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act in 2003 has given Scotland some of the most innovative legislation in Europe governing outdoor public access. The new statutory right of access to most land and inland water came into effect in February 2005. These rights are conditional on responsible behaviour, and land managers also have a statutory obligation to manage their land in a way that respects the public's right to be there.

This legislation has provided opportunities for Ranger Services to increase their profile, playing a significant part in making it work on the ground. As well as advising on integrating access with land management, one of the key roles for Rangers is to encourage responsible behaviour as set out in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code – to the public and to land managers.

Encouraging participation, getting people 'Out There', will be a new emphasis for SNH in recognition of the need to improve the nation's health and expand people's horizons. Rangers have a key role in interacting with young people through schools and wider means, assisting the next generation to be more aware of their own impact on the environment. Rangers encourage understanding and instil a sense of value in the natural world so that youngsters are better placed to make sustainable decisions about how they use it and play their part in global citizenship.

Ruth Grant
Rangering in Scotland: The Making of a Scottish Ranger Service

Fifty years ago, Rangers were identified as a key to delivering new policies on managing the beautiful and varied Scottish countryside for conservation and enjoyment. But little accessible land was publicly owned, so the challenge was to persuade many different land managers to take on a new concept – employees whose job was to look after both the land and the people who used it for recreation. Employers included local government, conservation bodies such as the National Trust for Scotland and Scottish Wildlife Trust, the Forestry Commission, and even private owners. Grant aid from the relevant Government agency provided the carrot.

With so many different interests involved, how could quality, consistency and a national identity be achieved? Key elements were: a person employed to promote the new ranger service to potential employers; national guidance on Rangers' duties; an in-service training course; an annual meeting of Rangers and their managers; and a badge that all Rangers wore on uniforms and used in publicity materials. Rangers themselves formed an association to promote their profession.

Over the years, many changes have taken place in Government policy on natural heritage management, including the recent designation of Scotland's first two National Parks, and the introduction of a legal right to access to almost all land and inland water for non-motorised recreation. Thanks to the early emphasis on creating a kind of national Ranger service, there is still a strong shared ethos across both the early supporters of Rangering and among newer local services which have emerged. The growth in the number of Ranger jobs in recent years is a testament to the value placed on Rangers' work.

Murray Ferguson
Cairngorms National Park: People Positive

The Cairngorms National Park is largest National Park in the United Kingdom and the newest in Scotland. The area was designated in 2003 and is classified as an IUCN Category V protected area.

The Park comprises some 3,800 km2. The area contains one quarter of the UK's threatened species with some 39% of the land area protected by national or European designation. It contains the highest and most massive range of sub-artic landscape, the largest expanse of native woodlands, and the cleanest rivers and lochs in the UK. The Park is also home to 16,000 residents and attracts about 1.4 million visitors per annum.

The National Park has four aims:

To conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area
To promote sustainable use of natural resources of the area
To promote public understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area
To promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities

The National Park Authority was established to ensure that the aims of the National Park are collectively achieved in a co-ordinated way. The Park Authority does this by working closely with other organisations in the area.

The Cairngorms National Park covers parts of four Scottish local authorities, three tourism areas, three Scottish Natural Heritage management areas, two Forestry Commission districts, and three enterprise company areas. The Cairngorms National Park Authority is slightly unusual in that it owns no land, manages no visitor centres directly, and at present does not directly employ any Rangers. Over the last three years, the Authority has been working collectively with partners to deliver the aims of the National Park and to develop a Park Plan which will be delivered by all the partners working together. This work has involved extensive consultation both locally and nationally to connect the people of Scotland to the Cairngorms National Park.

Professor Roger Crofts

Rangers and the New Protected Areas Paradigm

In this changing world, we need a fresh and innovative approach to protected areas and their role in broader conservation and development agendas.

This approach demands the maintenance and enhancement of our core conservation goals, equitably integrating them with the interests of all affected people.

In this way the synergy between conservation, the maintenance of life support systems and sustainable development is forged.

We see protected areas as vital means to achieve this synergy efficiently and cost-effectively.

We see protected areas as providers of benefits beyond boundaries beyond their boundaries on a map, beyond the boundaries of nation-states, across societies, genders and generations.

Following on from the World Parks Congress in Durban, the Durban Accord was drafted. Its essence is to maintain and enhance the core goal of protected areas and promote and achieve benefits beyond their boundaries. This can be achieved by contributing effectively to other agencies and reaching out positively to wider constituencies.

The objectives of the New Paradigm are to

- Run with social and economic as well as conservation and recreation objectives
- Have a multipurpose rationale
- Meet the needs of local people
- Show that wilderness areas are culturally important
- Restore and rehabilitate as well as protect

Rangers have a broad perspective on these areas and their needs including local knowledge of sites, ecology and local peoples. They are skilled at making a balance between different stakeholders and interests and engage with them. There will be a need for Rangers to begin to come to terms with the implications of the New Paradigm both at a local and international level.

Friday 16 June 2006

PLACE

Landscape: Sculpted by Nature, Shaped by People
What kind of shape are we leaving it in?

Terry O'Regan, Landscape Alliance Ireland

How do you like your landscape served – with or without People

In the 'Planet Earth Restaurant', the menu for the landscape course is seriously extensive, the choice of dressings wondrous. There is a problem though: in recent years it has become impossible to guarantee that any landscape dish is free from human contamination. Even the wildest landscape dish may have people lurking in some corner. Cultural landscape dishes are now served with a very heavy dressing of people of all flavours.

Landscape dishes based on the tourism school of cooking have been known to cause some diners to rush from their tables in a state of considerable agitation, complaining not alone that the plates are overfilled, but more seriously that the ingredients are not fresh and would appear to be over-cooked.

There is considerable research being undertaken to establish how serious the situation is likely to become, but in the meantime, those who have previously experienced an allergic reaction to people are advised to take all necessary precautions.

Landscape is not so much a place as a very dynamic process undergoing constant change. In the more distant past, the catalyst for change was largely diverse nature, but with people playing an ever increasing role. Today, the un-diverse nature of people is slipping out of control and we are in danger of precipitating irreversible negative changes in our landscape that may well trip all of nature's misunderstood safety switches.

Landscape is very like a Russian doll, with nature, natural heritage, man-made heritage, monuments, cultural heritage, environment; even social and spiritual issues all fitting neatly into Lady Landscape. If I am suggesting that landscape is a universal catchall, I mean it no disrespect – as an environmental integration catchall it is truly holistic and I can live with that.

I would like to stress that I am concerned with the total landscape rather than the more limited realm of protected or designated landscapes.

Unfortunately, regardless of which landscape we are addressing there is a great need for resources for protection, management and planning/design.

Even more unfortunately, we largely have to turn to governments for that funding. They tend to ask – though not always in such blunt words – "what's in this for us?"

If politicians are approached, they will equate funding provided to votes purchased. If the approach is to public servants they will tend to equate funding provided to politicians appeased.

We, as landscape activists, professionals and managers, need and should welcome public interest, involvement, support and participation in varying degrees. We need to attract and manage the Ken & Barbie Public, but that may be far from our area of training, interest and natural talents.

In addition, there is the problem of uncontrolled appetites – if we serve up the landscape too generously to people; they may well consume it in a single sitting.

At its simplest, in the landscape as elsewhere, the public must be controlled. I use the simple example of the seating capacity of a theatre or stadium: if you exceed the capacity, you risk a disaster – and the landscape theatre is no different.

The challenge of landscape is formidable; the challenge of landscape with people is daunting but surmountable – just! The experts have the answers, haven't they? If they haven't got the answers, they at least have the jargon, and that is nearly as good – isn't it?

In 1995, I set sail from Cork in the good ship Landscape Alliance Ireland, flying the colours of landscape policy. I thought I might attract a fleet. I did – it was a small fleet, and we were a motley lot. It was not a calm and prosperous voyage: we were often becalmed, ran short of food and water a few times; we came upon a strange fog on many occasions – we could not enter the fog but we could hear people inside shouting "where is this landscape?" – we caught a few storms and met some very suspicious people.

We are still sailing. The fleet has grown somewhat and we think the fog is lifting. We hear that a big fleet is being assembled in Strasbourg, flying the colours of the European Landscape Convention. We are cheered by that news, though we wonder about a fleet sailing from Strasbourg, maybe it is a fleet of road vessels.

It is rumoured that they like lots of people in their landscape dishes.

Professor T.C.Smout, Historiographer Royal in Scotland

Do we see Scotland as just a Romantic photograph?

We consider Scotland beautiful because it is wild, but the landscape has been almost everywhere profoundly modified by man. The sweeping moorlands are not "natural", but are the creation of millennia of management. The pinewoods have their open structure because they were used as wood-pasture. The oakwoods are so uniform because they were weeded of other species and cut for charcoal. The Lowland countryside, with its wide fields and ornamental plantings, is obviously formed and embellished by man.

In different centuries, people have seen the landscape in different ways. The first person to be charged with describing it was the cartographer Timothy Pont around 1590, whose maps gave form to the country. He found it wilderness in places, but described even remote parts as beautiful. The dominant view of Scotland then was classical – Virgilian – a land flowing with milk and honey, delightful and only incidentally wild. English travellers before about 1780 generally found wilderness revolting, but native Scots were neither impressed nor put off by it. The first landscape painters worked for landowners who wished to emphasise their improvements, and so create an impression of "wilderness tamed".

In the last quarter of the eighteenth century, this gave way to a wish to see wilderness untamed – the Romantic construction of Scotland owes something to English ideas of the picturesque, but more to Sir Walter Scott's vision of a sublime and terrific "land of the mountain and the flood". Queen Victoria's love of the Highlands was formed by Scott, and was shared by Landseer and many others painters. Landseer especially had an eye for wild landscape where only animals mattered.

We still largely see Scotland through these eyes, though not entirely so. We have lost the sense of discriminating between separate categories of "picturesque", "sublime" and "terrific" landscapes, and have added a sense of mountains as something to be "bagged" – landscape as obstacle course. An important modern contribution is the ecological idea of a "semi-natural" landscape that needed to be cherished and protected. With that came a rather anti-Romantic vision from Fraser Darling in the 1950s of the Highlands as "wet desert", degraded by overgrazing and overburning, and in need of reafforestation. This has its devotees and its critics, but most people still see Scotland just as Romantic photograph.

Toby Clark, John Muir Award

Making a difference to people and their relationship to wild places

The John Muir Award aims to encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to discover, enjoy and conserve the planet's wild places.

The John Muir Award was established to promote educational, social and personal development through the exploration of wild places and involvement in conservation. And to ensure that social circumstances don't exclude people from opportunities to experience wild places.

The John Muir Award reflects John Muir's principles in terms of:

Education -	encouraging people to learn about nature through direct investigation and study at first hand;
Conservation -	urging people to do something for wild places, i.e. take personal responsibility for the environment;
Recreational -	people need contact with nature, with wild landscapes and wild creatures as part of their personal development and health;
Wilderness Appeal -	people need access to beauty and solitude of wild places for their spiritual and aesthetic development

Successful engagement of people with wild places can be linked to Patrick Geddes's 'Heart, Head, Hand' model, whereby experiences that are centred on fun and adventure incorporate caring, understanding and doing.

Jo Roberts, Wilderness Foundation

Wilderness & Wildness: An overview of work of The Wilderness Trust

The basic idea is to explain something of the philosophy of the Trust and the benefits of wilderness/wildness to both the environment and to people.

Delegates should go away with an increased knowledge of the benefits of both protecting and utilising the wilderness areas of the world:

- Why it is special?
- How does being in wilderness affect the way we live, general wellbeing, mental and physical health, relationships, etc?
- How do we affect the same areas by our behaviour, activities or attitudes?

Sunday 18 June 2006

CONNECTIONS

Heal the Land- Heal the People
Re-establishing the natural connection

Hans Kampf, Senior Policy Adviser to the Netherlands Government

Nature for People – People for Nature

The Dutch recognised both the social and political urgency of ending environmental degradation and loss and published its 'Nature Policy Plan' in 1990 – revised in 2000 to 'Nature for People, People for Nature'. Its main theme is the 'Ecologische Hoofdstructuur' (EHS) or 'National Ecological Network'. This is the main tool to achieve the policy's aim of making 'an essential contribution to a liveable and sustainable society through the conservation, restoration, development and sustainable use of nature and landscape'. The EHS is seen as a solution to ecosystem fragmentation and loss of environmental quality: 'a spatially coherent network of existing and new natural areas' of countryside and water bodies (including parts of the North Sea). By 2018, the aim is to have increased the area of countryside that is preserved, new or restored to 730,000 ha – an increase of 280,000 ha. Robust inter-connections will link natural areas that are being increased in size and improved in quality. This combination of actions will increase the carrying capacity and coherence of the natural areas.

The EHS is composed of:
- core areas of national or international value;
- ecological development areas (can include former farmland);
- management areas (land in private hands managed for nature conservation);
- inter-connecting areas (linear, continuous, stepping stones); and
- buffer zones.

This network is expected to provide the necessary means by which individual (many small fragments) habitats can increase in nature conservation value by becoming functionally larger. This will include the breaching of roads, railway lines and canals that form barriers for both flora and fauna. This increasing connectivity and improvement in the nature conservation value of natural areas should enable species to migrate and promote the genetic exchange required to maintain healthy populations. It may also allow species redistribution in the face of climate change. But, not all aspects of connectivity are positive; there are species that only survive because of their isolation and increasing connectivity also allows non-indigenous species to spread.

Nature for People, People for Nature though is more than just about the 'reconnection of nature'. There are other issues that it is to address:
- ecosystem functions (e.g. production of clean water, CO_2 absorption, sustainable use of natural resources);
- social values (e.g. rural, cultural, historical, archaeological and geological values);
- economics (sustainable recreation, agriculture, fisheries and transport);
- 'green' locations for living and working; and
- mental and physical well-being.

An example of the type of restoration work undertaken is in the Renkum Brook Valley where the removal of an industrial area in the valley has allowed the Veluwe–Rhine corridor to return to an uninterrupted state. Another example is Oostvaardersplassen, a coastal area reclaimed from sea and zoned for industrial development in the late '60s, but found to be of significant nature conservation value and subsequently designated as a Ramsar site and Special Protection Area for Birds.

Developing Ecological Networks not only fulfils requirements under the EC Habitats and Birds Directives, but also international obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Berne, Bonne and Ramsar Conventions and OSPAR. For Holland, this also means it is crucial to connect natural areas across its borders with Belgium and Germany including its marine boundaries.

Shaheen Safdar, Black Environment Network development worker

Engaging marginalised social groups imaginatively

Black Environment Network (BEN) is a unique organisation working for ethnic participation within the built and natural environment. We use the word 'black' symbolically, recognising that the black communities are the most visible of all ethnic communities. We work with both black and white ethnic communities.

Our work is recognised nationally and internationally. We are seen in the UK and abroad as the leader and the pioneer in the field of ethnic environmental participation, which we have created. BEN has projects in England, Scotland and Wales.

BEN takes a unique position with regard to inclusion. We believe that alongside fighting racism, there is an enormous untapped force for change that rests within people of goodwill who far outnumber racists. Alongside stimulating ethnic participation, we work to inspire and enable organisational personnel to gain skills to work effectively with ethnic groups, thereby creating a climate and a framework within which ethnic participation can take place.

We work with major players such as English Heritage, Greenpeace, Heritage Lottery Fund, BTCV, the National Trust, Countryside Agency, English Nature, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Scottish Museums Council, Countryside Council for Wales, University of Bangor and many others. Acting as adviser on policy and strategy, providing training, and playing a key role in promoting the organisational culture change, BEN lays down the basis for effective work with ethnic groups.

We are instrumental in groundbreaking work with ethnic communities, promoting all developments in the context of sustainable development.

Barbara Mertin, EUROPARC Federation

EUROPARC Junior Rangers – Protecting Europe's Natural and Cultural Heritage

Junior Rangers:

- The idea was born in the United States
- EUROPARC adopted the idea by modifying aims

The aims of EUROPARC Junior Ranger programmes are:

- to develop and implement practical programmes and activities based on the work of park rangers for interested youngsters living in or near a protected area
- to create a sense of ownership for their home park and win young people as future supporters of their home protected areas

EUROPARC Junior Ranger pilot project:

- 2001 – 2003 implementation of activities was tested in PAs in Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovenia
- two age groups were tested
- experiences were summarised in a handbook to provide guidance for other PAs interested in developing activities according to EUROPARC's quality standards

Junior Ranger activities include:

- communicating with visitors
- carrying out scientific studies
- identifying and surveying habitat & species
- acquiring knowledge about the interaction of natural and cultural values
- taking over basic maintenance tasks

Following professional rangers:
- Junior Rangers gain practical experience in nature conservation work
- Professional Rangers' tasks are at the core of Junior Rangers' practical work
- Professional Rangers serve as positive role models for Junior Rangers

Can Rangers re-establish connections to the natural world?
- YES, they can, and they are already very successful in doing so by being professional and personal role models for active Junior Rangers

Winning supporters for protected areas:
- Participating in camps and follow-up acitvities Junior Rangers usually become supporters of their park
- Very often Junior Rangers are the connecting link between parks and parents who have missed developing a connection to nature and their home protected area so far
- Park directors become supporters of the Junior Ranger Project

Connecting Europe's Natural Heritage:
- The project also strives for the networking of junior ranger programmes at the European level
- Each year, the EUROPARC Federation organises an International EUROPARC Junior Ranger Camp
- The best two Junior Rangers of ten participating protected areas take part

International EUROPARC Junior Ranger Camps:
- Junior Rangers get to know a new park in another country
- The international event raises awareness among Junior Rangers that they are part of the Junior Ranger movement, which connects many Junior Rangers throughout Europe

Re-establishing the Natural Connection:
- It is hoped that Junior Rangers become professional Rangers and nature conservationists of the future, passing down their natural connection to coming generations!

Bob Elliot, Loch Lomond & the Trossachs NPA

Community futures, community connections within the National Park

Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park has set up a Community Futures programme to integrate the delivery of services within the park with the needs and aspirations of both the local people and visitors to the park. The Community Agents work in close contact with the local community and help integrate their ideas into the work programme of the Park.

Dr Ross Cameron, University of Reading

Biophilia and The Therapeutic Landscape

What is Biophilia?:
- Controversial Theory or Common Sense?
- "Man's biological need for an emotional relationship with the rest of nature".

Best illustrated by 2 images:
1. Snake – but Annual Death Rates from Snake-bite = 50,000
2. Bus – but Annual death rate from Road traffic incidents = -1,095,000

Theory by Edward Wilson (1980's):
- Uncoupled from nature – problems with our mental well-being
- Evolutionary 'hang-over'
- Affinity for certain landscape features
- Relates to our evolution on the African Savanna

- Preference for parkland
- Humans have a distinct preference for 1/3 structure 2/3 space
- Most secure when we have a vantage point and our backs protected – equates now to the patio overlooking the lawn!

Why are Natural Landscapes and Green Spaces Important?:

- To be exploited – hunting, farming, forestry
- A playground (for the rich!)
- Biodiversity and conservation
- Offset our environmental problems – "green lungs"
- Now for our physical and psychological well-being – Western World = Economic justification

Kaplan's restoration theory (Kaplan & Kaplan, 1989):

The Natural World helped people recover from stress (Stress = directed attention):

- Being away (away from the stress factor – different environment)
- Extent (explore in a new direction – take your mind off things)
- Fascination (release from the normal blocking methods)
- Compatibility (how close it is to your interests)
- Different depths 'clearing your head' – 'new outlook on life'
- Views of nature = involuntary attention (passive interest) allowing the ability for directed attention to return
- Favourite places (often associated with scenic beauty)

The Health Agenda – Prevention is better than cure!

UK Health Concerns:

- Poor diet and limited exercise = heart disease, cancers, diabetes, stroke
- UK Sedentary lifestyle 23% males and 26% females = £10.7 bn pa
- Mental health – Estimated that depression will become the second most common disability, after heart disease, by 2020
- 50% of population may experience at least one episode of mental health problems

So why is exposure to the natural environment beneficial ? (Morris, 2003) ;

Personal and social communication skills:

- Physical health
- Mental and spiritual health
- Spiritual, sensory and aesthetic awareness
- Ability to assert personal control and direct one's own well-being
- WHO now acknowledges that ecosystems have impact on psychological health (Corvalan, et al. 2005)

Hospital Patients and Views of Nature (Ulrich 1984):

Two groups gallbladder patients – Views of nature versus views of wall

Patients with views of natural scenes had:

- Shorter post-operative stays
- Fewer negative notes
- Took fewer painkillers

The view does not even need to be real!

Green Exercise (Pretty et al. 2005):

- Countryside activities
- Anger, confusion, depression, fatigue and tension = Decreased, Vigour = Increased
- Our physiology has been 'outpaced' by changes in society and lifestyle
- Homo sapiens = 300,000 generation as hunter-gatherer but only 2 dependent on industrialised food production

Views or contact with green space / plants:

- Reduced blood pressure
- Self-reported happiness
- Reduced crime rates
- Reduced sickness from work
- Increased productivity
- Higher retention rates (Green gyms)

Un-coupling (Ross et. al., 2003)

- More environmental problems & apathy = 'un-coupling' from the natural world?
- Appreciation of nature – Urban children showed signs of anthropocentrism (man at the centre)
- But, rural children generalized in terms of biological affinity and ecological reasoning

Need for contact with Nature?

Emotional responses to flowers and evolutionary behaviour – Haviland-Jones et al. (2005):

- People have cultivated flowers > 5000 yrs, but no known 'reward' for this 'costly' behaviour
- Compared flowers to other presents
- With flowers, women, always elicited the Duchenne (true) smile & reported more positive moods 3 days later
- More positive social behaviour than other stimuli

Authors concluded:

- Flowers have immediate and long-term effects on emotional reactions, mood, social behaviours and even memory
- Some flowers have 'evolved' to induce positive emotion in humans, just as others have evolved to attract insects or birds

Nature V Nurture (Wohlwill, 1983) / Bixler and Floyd (1997):

- Some schoolchildren express fears about wilderness
- Students reported negative perceptions of wild environments & had lower preferences for activities within them
- Some preferred indoors!
- Actually worst in Rural and Suburban students, not Urban!
- Gaps in our knowledge?
- Most research relates to restoration theory (other theories?)
- Complex areas – lack of controlled experiments
- Some elements may relate to nurture rather than nature

CONCLUSIONS

- Natural environments key role in physical and psychological health
- Potential to move up the political agenda
- More research needed esp. on psychological benefits – different population samples?

Common sense really!!!

4. Local Site Visits

Integral to the 5th IRF World Congress in Stirling were the local site visits. At an early stage in planning, we agreed that we should offer delegates the opportunity to experience the work that Rangers here in the UK, and specifically in Scotland, do and the areas in which they work. A series of full day study tours (see next section) to some of the iconic locations in Scotland were planned, but it was also agreed that the opportunity for delegates to experience the full range of work that Rangers do should be maximised.

To this end, 12 half-day field trips to locations within an hour of Stirling were arranged. These trips were designed to demonstrate the spectrum of work that Rangers and associated professions undertake and the wide variety of locations that we work in. The 12 locations and land care management units were:

Inner Tay Estuary Local Nature Reserve	Perth & Kinross Ranger Service
Glen Finglas	Woodland Trust Scotland
Glendevon Woodlands	Woodland Trust Scotland
Lomond Hills Regional Park	Fife Ranger Service
Fallin Bing and Gartmorn Dam	Stirling & Clackmannanshire Ranger Services
Loch Leven National Nature Reserve	Scottish Natural Heritage
Flanders Moss National Nature Reserve	Scottish Natural Heritage
Chatleherault Country Park & Morgan Glen	South Lanarkshire Ranger Service
Dumbrek March & Colzium Estate	North Lanarkshire Ranger Service
Strathclyde CP & David Livingston Centre	North Lanarkshire Ranger Service
The Queen Elizabeth Forest Park	Forestry Commission Scotland
The Falkirk Wheel	British Waterways

All the site visits were arranged and led by professionals working on the sites, and covered the complete range of land management in Scotland:

- from land managers such as Local Authority, Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland, and the Woodland Trust Scotland;
- to conservation measures such as National Nature Reserves, SSSIs, and Local Nature Reserves;
- to the parks system, that is, National, Regional, and Country Parks;
- and finally, from 'wild areas' to urban and urban fringe settings.

Delegates were invited to explore each site, and were offered demonstrations of ways in which the local professionals work with communities. These demonstrations ranged from meeting schoolchildren in deprived communities that have been instrumental in the restoration of a popular countryside area (Fallin Bing), to seeing the way that problems of illegal use of sites is managed (Strathclyde Country Park and motorcycle use). Delegates were also shown how immense tourist pressures impact sites (the Falkirk Wheel and Queen Elizabeth Forest Park).

Local communities (Gartmorn Dam) also gave delegates an insight into the importance that is placed on local sites, such as the internationally important reserves that exist in some of the most densely populated areas of the Central Belt (the River Tay reed beds, Flanders Moss), and how these are managed with access in mind (Loch Leven).

Finally, delegates had the opportunity to see how charitable bodies are able to restore environments (Glendevon Woodlands) and manage some of the most scenic areas in Scotland (Glen Finglas).

The local site visits were a great success, with many delegates being introduced to completely new ideas and experiences. The concepts of working with people, engaging with communities, and integrating people into the management of sensitive areas were new concepts to many Rangers from the parts of the world where people are perceived as a problem. Indeed, 'Environmental Education' – an often-overused phrase in UK conservation – was an unfamiliar concept to many of the delegates. In many areas around the world, it is apparent that the idea of teaching people to understand the environment, and thereby instil a sense of ownership and pride in their Natural Heritage, is an unfamiliar one. The successes that were demonstrated offered inspiration to delegates and developed an appreciation for the work of Scottish Rangers.

The concept of valuable countryside/outdoor areas was explored, as was the importance of ‘greenspace’ and the outdoors being a treasured ‘commodity’. It was pointed out that past industrial sites – sites in communities considered ‘under privileged’ and sites adjacent to the largest urban areas in Scotland – now have a fundamental importance to the people that use them as a link to their environment. That they are valued, and that people’s use of such areas is actively encouraged as an introduction to the Scottish countryside, was developed and demonstrated.

5. Study Tours

In order to show the delegates more examples of how Scotland's Natural heritage is managed, and how communities are involved in this, five study tours were organised to various parts of Scotland.

These were run with the help, funding and expertise of various agencies, communities, and Rangers on the ground.

They lasted all day and took in several examples to give a broad overview of the work we do and how it relates to the Congress themes of lining People to Place.

An outline of each of the five study tours is described below.

1. Pentland Hills Regional Park/East Lothian/Edinburgh

The study tour started with a visit to the Hillend Ski centre and a short walk in the Pentland Hills Regional Park to look at the interactions between land managers and conservation in a protected area next to a major capital city.

This was followed by a trip to Dunbar to visit John Muir's birthplace where East Lothian Rangers showed the delegates John Muir country park.

Then it was on to the Scottish Seabird Centre to look at the state-of-the-art remote interpretation with cameras on both the Bass Rock and the Isle of May. As well as the facilities themselves, there was an opportunity to see how conservation and tourism can work together.

Finally, there was a trip into Edinburgh to visit the Hermitage of Braid and look at the work of the City of Edinburgh Ranger Service. An urban service was a novelty to many of the delegates and this was a chance to see how to take the message to the people.

The day ended with a twilight walk up Blackford Hill to discuss techniques of managing such an open space right in the heart of the city with all the attendant problems of vandals, anti social behaviour, etc.

2. Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park

Designated in 2002, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park is Scotland's first National Park. On this study tour, delegates experienced first hand the incredible diversity of landscapes where the lowlands meet the highlands – set forth on two of the over 33 lochs (lakes) – and visited one of the most beautiful small villages within the Park.

The tour began at Loch Katrine with a trip on the Sir Walter Scott, the only surviving screw steam ship in regular passenger service in Scotland. Delegates then journeyed through the beautiful rolling hills of the Trossachs. Along the way, they heard from a representative of the Forestry Commission about some of the current land management issues.

This was followed by a short ride to Inversnaid to hear about the West Highland Way, a long distance walking route that bisects the Park. From Inversnaid the delegates boarded a Cruise Loch Lomond boat for lunch and a two hour trip on Loch Lomond. Being on the water was the best vantage point from which to experience this incredible landscape. While on board, delegates had an opportunity to discuss the many visitor management issues affecting the loch and surrounding area.

After being dropped off at the conservation village of Luss, delegates spent the next two hours exploring this beautiful community. Luss is a village of 200 residents that experience over half a million visitors per year, posing significant visitor management concerns.

Finally, the group travelled the short distance to Auchendennan, the birthplace of the IRF. After some photo opportunities, delegates headed back to Luss for dinner at the local Coachhouse restaurant.

3. Cairngorm National Park

The object of this visit was to look at Scotland's newest National Park and to see examples of how it brings together the work of the various Ranger Services employed by various agencies.

The trip was split into two groups, both of which started with a visit to Blair Castle and a trip around the grounds with the Atholl Estate Ranger Service, an example of a private employer working with a government agency (SNH) to deliver a national work programme.

From there, the first coach went on to Aviemore to be shown round the Craigellachie NNR by SHN staff, an example of how a nationally important site can coexist with a major tourist centre. The first coach then moved on to the Rothiemurchas Estate where the Rangers from another private employer discussed the management of the native pine forest and the interaction between the local people, tourists and the environment. This was followed by a tour of Glenmore Forest Park by the Forestry Commission, an interesting comparison of how public and private sectors can work to the same ends.

Meanwhile, the second coach went straight to the RSPB reserve at Abernethy where they stopped to look at the award winning visitor centre and discuss raptor reintroduction and visitor management of high profile species. Then followed a walk through the pass of Ryvoan with local Rangers, looking at the management of visitors in wild areas and management of the Caledonian pine forest by a number of agencies.

Both trips met up at Glenmore Lodge before travelling up to Cairngorm Ski Centre for a visit with the Cairngorm Rangers, followed by a trip up the Funicular Railway to Ptarmigan Restaurant to discuss its interpretation and the management of such infrastructure on sensitive habitats.

4. Glen Coe/Loch Lomond &Trossachs National Park/West Highland Way

Unfortunately, a breakdown of the coach meant that the scheduled morning meeting with Highland Council Rangers on the West Highland Way did not eventuate.

Once the replacement coach arrived, delegates were shown around the National Trust for Scotland's flagship visitor centre. After taking in the interpretation and discussing its management with NTS staff, the delegates had lunch before moving on to the Glen.

At the Glen, the Rangers walked delegates along part of the old road past the entrance to the hidden valley discussing topics such as visitor management, habitat management, and the interaction between people and a wilderness environment.

From there the tour went back to a woodland project just outside of Killin – within the boundaries of Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park – to look at community work done by the Fife Air Cadet Conservation Group in conjunction with local activists and the National Park Ranger Service. Delegates were split into smaller groups and the Cadets showed each group a variety of site management projects.

5. Loch Leven/Barry Buddon SSSI/St Andrews

The trip started with a visit to Vane Farm, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) reserve overlooking Loch Leven National Nature Reserve (NNR). Here delegates looked at the management of a variety of wetland habitats on the shore of the Loch and over adjacent farmland. Highlighted was the RSPB's work to improve the wetland's attraction to waterfowl.

The Loch is an NNR/SPA/Ramsar site due to the huge numbers of ducks and geese that visit over winter. There was discussion of wetland management with centre staff and a visit to some of the hides.

The trip then moved on to Barry Buddon – the army's main training camp in Scotland – to look at their innovative approach to conserving the fragile dune grassland that makes up the camp. The area is managed in concert with Scottish Natural Heritage and the local community to allow limited public access (when there are no guns being fired!). As well as the natural history, there are important historical buildings dating back to the First World War that also need protection. There was also a

chance to get close to the highland cattle that graze the grassland areas to encourage the growth of wild flowers.

The last site visit was in St Andrews, the home of golf. Fife Ranger Service works closely with the Links Trust (who manage the old course) and various tourism operators to control the impact of over a million visitors a year to the West Sands. As well as being a mecca for golfers, the area is now Scotland's premiere site for kite buggies. The site is visited by thousands of families each year, by wildfowl hunters in the winter, and is disturbed by an increase in off-road bikes and quad-bikes. It is also a fragile site of special scientific interest, and the Eden Estuary/St Andrews Bay are designated a Special Protection Area. The Eden is also a Ramsar site.

Fife Council has been promoting the Fife Coastal Path as its flagship outdoor tourism attraction. There was a walk along part of this beautiful coastal path to look back over stunning views of St Andrews, and discussion on how to manage access for tourism.

6. Workshops

A number of workshops were held on the sixth day of the Congress focussing on good practice in service delivery and sustainable development.

Ruth Grant chaired the day encouraging and collating common threads that link people and place.

An outline of each of the workshops is described below.

Workshop 1

EUROPARC – Generating enthusiasm in children and young people for the Ranger profession

Presented by **Barbara Mertin** (Austria), **Claudia Klampfl** (Germany), **Marjeta Albinini** (Slovenia) & **Sally Kempson** (England).

This session was led by EUROPARC, focussing on the Junior Ranger Programme. It included examples of good practice, international camps, quality standards, and involving other social groups of young people.

Workshop 2

Creating opportunities for young Rangers (20-35yrs)

Presented by **Cassie Wright** (Australia)

This workshop was an opportunity for Rangers under 35 years (and interested others) to hear about the opportunities developed for young conservationists since the World Parks Congress in 2003. Participants also helped develop an action plan to guide the future work of the IRF Youth Development Committee.

Workshop 3

Heritage Interpretation as a tool to promote sustainable development

Presented by **Arne Bondo-Anderson** & **Danish Rangers Association**

This workshop was a follow-up on the 11 shared principles of "Heritage Interpretation as a tool promoting sustainable development" prepared as a proposal by the Danish Nature Interpretation Service for the IRF's 4th World Congress in Australia, March 2003. The principles were discussed, adapted and accepted at the Congress.

The principles are very important for many rangers working in the arena of global conservation and preservation who see implementing sustainable development practices as key to meeting the needs of humans in this generation, while also protecting limited resources for the future.

Workshop 4

Organising cooperative conservation in an urban national park

Presented by **Meg Weesner** (USA)

Connecting urban residents to a National Park is essential to the long term preservation of the Saguaro National Park in Arizona, USA. This session looked at community partnerships and habitat protection in areas under increasing development pressure, and three projects involving local communities in species management. As a result of these programmes, local people have developed a stewardship responsibility to help protect the resources of the National Park.

Workshop 6

Evaluation and monitoring community involvement in urban environments

Presented by **Elaine Gibb**, Greenspace Scotland

Greenspace Scotland was established in 2003 to promote a step change in the development and management of quality greenspaces in towns and cities. This workshop examined the reasons for community involvement in urban environmental work, and explored different ways to engage communities. It also gave information on ways to support and evaluate community involvement.

Workshop 7

How is your Park doing?: Evaluating the management and effectiveness of protected areas

Presented by **Marc Hockings** (Australia), **Sue Stolton** (UK). **Nigel Dudley** (UK), **Liza Higgins-Zogib** (Sui), **Ghad Muguri** (Uganda), and **Chimeg Junai** (Mongolia**)**

This workshop was organised by IUCN and WCPA and considered:

- the need for systematic and regular evaluation of management effectiveness of protected areas
- the range of evaluation systems that have been developed, and
- how participants develop understanding of the basic approaches and processes involved in undertaking an evaluation, and awareness of some of the systems available to help guide evaluations and the main requirements for their use

The organisers would like to thank the World Bank for funding this workshop and sponsoring participants to attend the workshop.

Workshop 8

Care and feeding a volunteer programme

Presented by **Phil Young** & **Judy Chetwin** (USA)

This workshop looked at the role that eco/heritage tourism plays in many micro and macro economies, and how volunteer programmes are being established to assist land managers monitor and protect their critical and sensitive resources from natural and human forces. The session discussed some “lessons learned” by the Arizona Site Stewards and New Mexico SiteWatch programs in the southwest USA. It presented some of the program growing- pains experienced by volunteers (& volunteer coordinators), and some proposed “best practices” that were pertinent to different situations and countries.

Workshop 9

Participatory outdoor workshops

Presented by **John Cree** (England)

This workshop encouraged participants to put some effort and zing into their interpretation of the outdoor world for a largely urban population. Different techniques and issues were discussed, explored, and presented as a group session.

Workshop 10

Trans-Frontier conservation management

Presented by **Jobogo Mirindi** (DR Congo)

Jobogo is a Park Warden in charge of Virunga National Park in Democratic Republic of Congo and has been working under high risk to protect the Mountain Gorillas since 1990. Dedicated to his work in difficult conditions – his workmates were assassinated by rebels in the course of their duties – he now heads up the Wardens Committee in charge of trans-boundary matters between Uganda and Rwanda in protecting the Mountain Gorillas. This inspiring workshop looked at the training, support and determination required to carry out trans-frontier conservation management.

Workshop 11

Investigating wildlife crime in Scotland – a partnership approach

Presented by **Joe Connelly** and **Kathrine Blake** (Scotland)

This session looked at the investigation of Wildlife Crimes in Scotland through the work of the Police Wildlife Crime Officers and explored the multi-agency approach of the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW). Participants were also able to view several common 'crime scenes' and discuss the approaches to them in different countries.

Workshop 12

'Measure for Measure' – monitoring with hands-on learning opportunities

Presented by **Glen Jameson** (Australia)

'Measure for Measure' was a hands on exploration of a range of monitoring techniques developed by Parks Victoria where participants learnt how Parks Victoria staff record and measure pest animals (rabbit, deer, fox, cats) and pest plants. The techniques have been developed from global literature, so have universal application.

Workshop 13

Big Tree Country and Forest School

Presented by **Mike Flinn** and **Angela Hughes** (Scotland)

Participants viewed the activities – and the actual Woodland Bus that tours Perth & Kinross – taking woodlands into schools. The bus is accompanied by countryside rangers, foresters, and traditional craft and woodworkers. Children take part in workshops helping them make connections with their local environment. Forest School allows children and young people to take their learning out of the school building and into a forest classroom. It develops self-confidence and self-esteem.

Presentation 2

Indigenous community land and sea joint management in Arnhem Land, Australia

Presented by **Phil Wise** and **Djawa Yunipingu** (Australia)

Djawa and Phil introduced a joint management arrangement between a community ranger group and a government Parks and Wildlife Agency. Ideas were then explored with participants as to what might be considered the essential ingredients to achieving successful joint management when working on land owned by the local indigenous people. Experiences of rangers from other countries were shared in this discussion.

Natural Connections

Claire Dumigan (Scotland)

Natural Connections is an outdoor learning programme aimed at young people. There are six elements in the programme, each one focussing on a specific aspect of the outdoor and natural environment. Commitment, effort, enthusiasm and determination are valuable qualities that are recognised by this programme. The programme has been designed to be flexible to allow people to plan and design their own experiences and to participate in ways that best suit them, their abilities and interests.

7. Delegates' Papers Abstracts

This section is divided into three strands, each strand representing the following:

1. Working with Communities
2. Management Planning
3. Wildlife and Habitat

Strand One – Working with Communities

Meg Weesner, Saguaro National Park, USA:

Organizing Cooperative Conservation Projects in an Urban National Park

Saguaro National Park is a 38,000-hectare protected area adjacent to Tucson, Arizona, a city of 800,000 people. Connecting city residents to the park is essential to the long-term preservation of its unique desert plants and abundant animals. By partnering with local non-profit conservation organizations we have been able to generate interest in protecting the park among city residents and among landowners in the more rural areas adjacent to the park. Three projects will be described in this presentation. The first project involved restoring a degraded section of Rincon Creek by removing exotic plants and planting native riparian species. Nearby landowners have formed a community partnership to support protection of the creek as it courses in and out of park boundaries and across their own properties. The second project involved restoring habitat for a native frog that was declining. Volunteers removed sediment from in-stream pools and built backyard ponds to raise native frogs – which could then be reintroduced. The third project involves a planning partnership that seeks to protect important habitat values in an area subject to rapid housing and commercial growth. Private citizens, conservation organizations, business interests, and local, state, and federal government representatives meet twice monthly to identify threats to protected areas and to develop strategies for responding to those threats. As a result of these projects, participants have learned more about the park and have developed a stewardship responsibility to help protect the resources of the park.

Matthew Axford, Countryside Ranger, Astbury, Mere Country Park, UK:

Community ownership of greenspace

In England, the vast majority of publicly accessible greenspace is owned and managed by Local Authorities. However, the most beneficial way in which true community involvement can be achieved is if the community themselves own and manage land.

Organisational priorities and cultures can combine to inhibit the ability and flexibility of Local Authorities to respond effectively to the needs and aspirations of local communities. Parks owned by a community are more receptive to community needs and can be instrumental in engendering a real sense of responsibility and stewardship of the local environment.

Astbury Mere Country Park is a 10ha urban fringe park on the outskirts of the market town of Congleton in Cheshire. It is owned by Astbury Mere Trust, a charity set up following a successful campaign in the 1980s to prevent industrial development of a previous quarry site. The Trust was formed by local people in order to protect this open space for the benefit of the town and with the object of improving the condition of life of the town's population. The park is now an integral element in the area, being a valued recreational facility located within a natural setting where widespread community involvement into all aspects of site management is encouraged. The Trust engage the professional services of the Local Authority's countryside management service to oversee the day to day operations in the park, though ultimate control and direction rests with the Trustees.

Many countryside services will perceive themselves as 'providers' of facilities and seek to legitimise their work though engagement with the community. However, community ownership of greenspace (supported where appropriate by professional countryside management services) is already rooted in a locality and managers of such parks are thus well placed to reflect the needs and aspirations of the community of which they form a part.

Djawa Yunupingu, Director, Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation, Australia
(co-author **Steve Roeger**, Dhimurru Executive Officer):

Indigenous Community Based Land and Sea Management in Arnhem Land Australia

Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation is a community based land and sea management organisation. Dhimurru was established in 1992 primarily to manage recreational impacts resulting from a 4,000 strong non-Aboriginal township developed for the Alcan Gove Bauxite Mine and Refinery in Northern Territory, Australia. Uncontrolled recreational access over the 20 years of mine operation prior to Dhimurru's formation was having a tremendous physical and cultural impact.

Dhimurru's charter is far reaching, articulating the local Indigenous (Yolngu) people's call for an organisation that can not only respond to their requirements and promote Yolngu knowledge, expertise, and engagement, but is also able to develop effective partnerships with the broader community.

Since its inception, Dhimurru has implemented a number of programs and undertaken ground-breaking activities in pursuit of its charter. Dhimurru's achievements include:

- implementation of an access permit system;
- declaration of the Dhimurru Indigenous Protected Area resulting in the inclusion of 101,000ha of Yolngu estate in Australia's reserve estate;
- negotiation of an agreement under the Northern Territory's Parks and Wildlife Act including the establishment of an Advisory Group involving the Northern Territory Government, the Commonwealth Government, and Dhimurru;
- a marine turtle research and recovery program rescuing turtles caught in ghost nets and recording cultural and physical attributes; and
- participation in quarantine inspections and surveys.

Dhimurru employs 14 staff, 11 of whom are local landowning Yolngu. Dhimurru gathers resources from a number of sources developing strong partnerships to enable effective management according to Yolngu direction. Dhimurru's successful "both ways" approach, combining Yolngu customary practice and contemporary scientific knowledge to achieve practical outcomes, is a model for promoting effective cross-cultural engagement where competing interests struggle in the management of biodiversity on indigenous estates.

Phil Young, Archeologist & SiteWatch Coordinator, New Mexico, USA:

Care and feeding of a volunteer program

Our parks and preserves are instrumental components of our economy and overall quality of life. With shrinking budgets and staff at most natural and cultural sites, the responsibility of protecting our patrimony and eco/heritage tourism destinations for present and future generations becomes more complex and challenging each year. Though some programs have a prohibition on using volunteer assistance (for example, if it "replaces" a paid employee for certain tasks) more and more agencies are using unpaid volunteers to help provide a myriad of services. This presentation looks at the role that eco/heritage tourism plays in many micro and macro economies, and how volunteer programs are being established to assist land managers monitor and protect their critical and sensitive resources from natural and human forces. The session will discuss some "lessons learned" by the Arizona Site Stewards and New Mexico SiteWatch programs in the southwestern US. It will present some of the program growing pains experienced by volunteers (and volunteer coordinators), and some proposed "best practices" that may (or may not) be pertinent to your situation.

After the session, attendees will be able to:

1. Articulate how their park/preserve contributes to eco/heritage tourism
2. Identify potential pitfalls of volunteer programs
3. List ways of getting a program started/re-started
4. Contact other preservation volunteer network partners

The session facilitator, Phillip A Young, started a US National Park Service (NPS) career as a volunteer archaeologist. He has worked as a national park ranger in Alaska, California, Louisiana, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming, before becoming a regional special agent investigating interagency archaeological and natural resource theft and trafficking cases with numerous Federal agencies in the US, including the FBI and US Fish & Wildlife Service. He retired from the NPS at end of 2000 to take a

position as an archaeologist with the State of New Mexico's Historic Preservation Division, performing National Historic Preservation Act reviews for a wide range of Federal, state and local agencies and jurisdictions. He is the coordinator for New Mexico's SiteWatch volunteer stewards program.

Chris Artiemiew, District Training Officer, Queensland Fire & Rescue Service, Australia:

The Queensland Rural Fire Service – The Community Protecting their Environment.

The Queensland Department of Emergency Services serves and supports the Queensland community in preventing, planning for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies and disasters. The Rural Fire Service is a division of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, which administers and provides support and training to volunteer Rural Fire Brigades, and services approximately 93% of the geographic area of the State (slide showing England fitting into Qld many times). Some brigades cover an area of just a few square kilometres, and others more than 500 square kilometres – depending on location, population and bushfire risk assessment. This equates to approximately 44,000 Volunteer Fire-fighters and 2,500 Volunteer Fire Wardens.

The Service operates through volunteer Fire Wardens, who control the lighting of fires through a permit system, and volunteer brigades, who respond to wildfires and assist the community with hazard reduction burning, raising community awareness of wildfire hazards and fire suppression in rural areas.

The state supports community based volunteer Rural Fire Brigades by providing subsidised firefighting equipment and support services, such as:

- Personal Protective Equipment
- General Firefighting Equipment
- Communications Equipment
- Firefighting Appliances
- Construction of a Base/Fire Station
- Provides Training and Training Materials
- Rural Fire Service volunteers are covered through WorkCover for any related injury incurred during brigade operations and recognised activities.

A rural fire brigade is responsible for taking measures in readiness for fire to reduce potential danger to persons, property and the environment. With continuing support from the state government and the community, the Fire Wardens and Rural Fire Brigade volunteer members aim to keep Queensland communities safe and free from the devastation and threat of wildfire.

Dewi Morris, Daventry Country Park, Northants, UK:

The Daventry Community Allotment Garden Project

The Daventry Community Allotment Garden Project began in 2002. The project was aimed at encouraging schools and communities to work together on a community garden allotment. Three full time Ranger staff from Daventry Countryside Services, as well as volunteers, are involved in the project.

A pilot programme established the need for such a project as many children assumed their vegetables came from Tescos (a supermarket) or from a factory rather than out of the ground.

Daventry District Council set the project objectives: to build strong communities, a protected environment, and a thriving economy.

The District Council recognised that allotments are a vital asset to the community that improve urban landscape variety and quality while promoting health and well-being. They are a community resource and provide a haven for flora and fauna. The authority also values allotments for their visual amenity and for enhancing urban town-scapes.

Seven local schools are involved with the project. Activities varied throughout the academic year – reflecting the needs of the garden – from planting seeds to harvesting the produce, then making soup and composting garden waste. In this way, teachers have been able to address curriculum topics of sustainability, healthy living, environmental awareness and citizenship by tackling subjects such as

waste, recycling, local foods, healthy eating, cooking and also vandalism. Work starts in the classrooms in the early spring with seed planting, and as the plants grow, they are transplanted in the classroom and then planted in the garden.

All the partner schools are able to walk to the garden via mainly traffic-free routes thus providing exercise and fresh air. Schools were also invited to the garden to learn other topics of the National Curriculum, for example, habitats and homes, mini-beasts, plant and flower identification.

Local people with an interest in gardening contribute to the project by volunteering in holiday times with routine maintenance. A local group of artists has also designed sensory areas, pathways and natural sculptures that have enhanced the garden as a resource for the schools and the community. The community allotment garden is run as an organic garden.

At the time of reporting, 7,776 people have participated in the project.

Alejandro Caparros, Ranger, Parque Nacional Los Glaciares, Argentina:

Working in conjunction with the community in the northern zone of the Parque Nacional Los Glaciares. Patagonia, Argentina

The Glaciers National park was created in 1937, has an area of 724,000ha, and was declared a world heritage area by UNESCO in 1987.

The national park has an administration centre in the town of El Calafate, where tourists from around the world arrive to see the imposing Perito Moreno Glacier. 230km from El Calafate is El Chalten the youngest town in Argentina and a centre for trekking and climbing with 30,000 visitors each year.

The philosophy that we pursue in this natural area is to maintain personal contact with the visitors so that they feel comfortable. They do not have to pay a fee to enter the park and are made to feel part of the team. The challenge we have is to educate and make them understand and respect the simple rules and to leave no trace, and they take this philosophy as their own. We also explain that in many parks in the world they have lost this objective and have sold out to commercial operators, hotels and concessionaires.

We work in conjunction with the tour operators to reduce the mobile camps and the amount of gear they need, reducing the use of pack horses and preventing further erosion of the trails. We discuss with them future decisions, alternatives rather than using the main trails, and to also limit entry to once a week. We both maintain the trails and assemble the corrals so that the horses don't just wander through the town and the parks.

Education is also important and each school that visits the park receives an introductory talk about the area park rules. Then, if it is possible, we accompany them on their walks.

We hope to start a junior rangers program. We invite the community to participate in training for fighting fires so they can assist us in a useful and organised way. On the other side, we help the community with the annual 'fiesta nacional del trekking', a festival of competitions, and exhibitions.

The town is within the park and becoming more established and populated. That means working with the community is probably the most important task for us over the next 10 years.

Cath Ireland, Mid-North Coast Region, NPWS, Australia:

Blood, Sweat and Biscuits…In Praise Of The Australian Volunteer

It takes all of us to care for our special places. As a Ranger of 22 years, it has been my great pleasure and privilege to share caring for our heritage – natural, Aboriginal and cultural – with the great Australian (and sometimes international) volunteer, including colleagues who contribute above and beyond the call of duty.

Faced with seemingly insurmountable odds, I have found it is very often the volunteers who come through: counting colonial nesting waterbirds in 49 degree heat, acting as wardens to protect endangered Little Terns, abseiling, canoeing and walking down freezing creeks to treat noxious weeds in World Heritage areas, doing a whole range of tasks from painstakingly researching the history, assisting with the preventive conservation of artefacts, giving information, propagating seeds for the sites on the Register of the National Estate, contributing expert advice as part of Aboriginal Custodian Groups and Conservation Societies, rescuing native plants and animals, running koala hospitals. The list goes on.

Along with the assumption that our generous and multi talented community can contribute, many of these projects start with nothing other than the most important thing: community, and colleagues at other organisations both government and non-government. It is crucial that the management structure supports volunteer projects – as the Parks and Wildlife Division of the Department of Environment and Conservation NSW does through its volunteer policies and guidelines.

What about money? Well, my own direct experience suggest that this way of working has a multiplier effect that can increase a project's overall value by four-to-eight fold – and possibly more when students are involved as well. This aspect is very important to help management justify and support these projects.

Research shows that groups of ordinary people working together consistently outperform even the most gifted working alone! Therefore my recommendations would be: always ask for universal help – and listen well to feedback because this is the key to improving our efforts to care for our special places. But above all…enjoy those homemade biscuits!

Kevin Vigars, Access Development Officer (Tyne and Wear), Gateshead, UK:

Local Access Forums – do they reflect the needs of the local community?

Access to the countryside has been brought into sharp focus in the United Kingdom in recent years with the introduction of the Countryside Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 in England and Wales and the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. CRoW makes it a duty on local and national park authorities in England and Wales to establish local access forums.

What is a local access forum?
A Local Access Forum (LAF) is a way of bringing together all parties with an interest in developing and managing access. It is an advisory body helping to promote dialogue and understanding develop consensus and promote a co-operative approach to access development and management. Forums are made up of representatives of users, landowners, and other local interests, such as conservation, tourism and business.

The Tyne and Wear Local Access Forum
The Joint Tyne and Wear Local Access Forum (The Forum) was established in November 2003 to help ease the way for the public to explore the cultural and historical landscape of the region. The Forum covers the five Local Authority areas of Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Sunderland Councils.

Do LAFs reflect the needs of the Local Community?
This question will be considered looking at the role of LAFs both nationally and locally since their establishment in 2003. The presentation will focus on the experience from members of the Joint Tyne and Wear Forum and the appointing authority officers. These findings will be compared with other available data, such as National Research carried out by the Countryside Agency, and Feedback and reports from regional and national workshops. This will enable us to ascertain if LAFs in their current format and role are really meeting the needs of the local communities.

Han-Seok Ryoo, Korea National Park Service:

Korea National Park Service's Community Program

Since the designation of Korea's first national park in 1967, a total of 20 NPs have been designated. Two are managed by provincial governments, while the other 18 are managed by Korea National Park Service (KNPS).

Korea's NPs are not only natural but also social areas where different dynamics of stakeholders coexist. Many indigenous communities working in agriculture, fishery, and service industries live in national parks. KNPS alone cannot manage national parks effectively and needs the help of these communities. With that in mind, KNPS implemented the National Park Community Program, which is mainly about partnerships and cooperation.

Each national park office has a park management council. All stakeholders, including local residents, religious and academic communities, civic organizations, and government agencies participate in this to discuss current issues relating to national park management. Local government institutions play a critical role in parks management: Korea Forest Service, fire stations, and provincial governments deal with prevention and control of forest fires; fire and police stations handle rescue activities and emergency medical services; while police and provincial governments are in charge of law enforcement. In addition, national park offices maintain cooperative relationships with local coast guards with respect to maritime area management.

A number of private corporations in Korea have been participating in the protection activities of national parks as part of their Corporate Social Responsibilities. For example:

- Chohung Bank provided financial assistance for tree-labeling projects,
- W.L.GORE & ASSOCIATES (KOREA) LTD made financial contributions for the rehabilitation project of Jirisan Asiatic black bears, and
- Cheil Industries donated clothing to volunteer workers in national parks.

Aside from these financial contributions, many corporations support the protection of national parks by participating in environment purification activities.

As one of the organizations responsible for executing community service sentences, KNPS oversees the national park environment protection activities of criminals sentenced to community service by the court to provide the service with no pay. Through community services, we facilitate the rehabilitation of criminals and provide them the opportunity to experience national parks.

KNPS is carrying out various assistance activities including provision of financial support, and guardianships for underprivileged people including juvenile breadwinners, seniors living alone, and the handicapped to help them lead a better life.

Phillip Snell, Milton Keynes Council, UK:

The Milton Keynes Forest Schools Project

The Forest Schools idea originated in Scandinavia and became an accepted part of Danish early-years learning programme. In the UK, it is a national initiative based principally on delivering environmental education in a stimulating outdoor setting throughout the year.

Forest Schools offers practical learning opportunities that nurture self-esteem, confidence, communication and social skills, and an appreciation and respect for the natural environment. It has found a wider audience with women's refuge groups, family centre groups, excluded children, traveller's children, and young offenders.

Environmental education is seen as an important part of children's scholastic development, and is recognised as such in the Milton Keynes Community Strategy "Equip Milton Keynes citizens with the knowledge, values and skills to creatively engage in pursuit of sustainable development".

The project will form a focal point for Sustainability in Milton Keynes as well as meeting many objectives of the Government's "Communities Plan". This dovetails with Milton Keynes corporate plan, which includes improving school standards through environmental education.

To ensure the sustainability of the project, teachers will be trained to lead the activities and will be given assistance in setting up their own project. Once established, they will be eligible to join as a cluster member and benefit from continued support through regular cluster group meetings.

Strand Two – Management Planning

Margaret Burnes, Resorts Section, Environmental Services Unit, National Parks and Wildlife Service, New South Wales, Australia:

Perisher Range Resorts Environmental Management System

The Perisher Range Resorts Environmental Management System (PRREMS) is an example of best-practice environmental management by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) working in partnership with ski resort operators to ensure the sustainable future of one of Australia's most sensitive environments.

Kosciuszko National Park (KNP) is internationally recognised as an UNESCO biosphere reserve, with alpine and sub-alpine areas containing unique biota, distinctive glacial features, and Mt Kosciuszko and recreational ski fields, including the Perisher Range Resorts (PRR).

The PRR attracts around 600,000 visitors each year with visitor numbers set to increase with future expansion of the Resorts. A condition of development consent was to develop an environmental management system to ensure that the Resorts are managed in a sustainable manner.

The PRREMS was developed in 2002 by resort operators including conservation groups, government agencies (NPWS and NSW Department of Planning), Perisher Blue P/L and lodge owners.

The PRREMS allows NPWS to track environmental performance of each operator against objectives and targets and thus determine the environmental health of the Resort as a whole.

The PRREMS represents a unique and innovative approach to management systems. While the EMS is based on the international standard for environmental management (ISO14001) it is unique in terms of its scale and application to multiple stakeholders, and has been adapted to ensure that it is a practical tool for all.

One such adaptation was the development of the Lodge Workbook, which allows 125 club and commercial lodges to satisfy their EMS requirements without needing to refer to complex procedures. The Workbook provides lodge owners with a creative way of managing environmental impacts by integrating environmental protection into everyday business. The Lodge Workbook was recognised for its innovation and achievement in environmental management through nomination as a 2004 finalist for the prestigious Banksia Foundation Environmental Awards.

Scotland Regional Parks: Managing Innovation

"The way ahead is to secure for the nation as a whole the comprehensive opportunities which are required for outdoor recreation, whilst at the same time, conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Scottish countryside…" – Countryside Commission for Scotland 1974

32 years after that visionary statement, Scotland's Regional Parks continue to take up the challenge to manage for innovation. There follow three presentations, one from each Regional Park:

1. Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park
presented by **Charles Woodward**, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Manager

"Managing Innovation" enables Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park to deliver "added value" in conservation and recreation projects, resulting in enhanced social and economic well-being for visitors and residents.

After briefly describing innovations in staff training, stakeholder involvement and volunteer programmes, I shall focus on three high profile examples:
- Windpower Ranger – recently the Park has entered a partnership with a windfarm developer for the provision of environmental education services to schools near a small windfarm
- International Study Tours – over the last few years the Park has hosted trips for staff from other protected areas. These are based in the Park but with visits to all parts of Scotland
- Hen Harrier CCTV - live pictures from a nest of these rare birds have been shown to thousands of people. Unique edited footage of the 2005 season will be shown

2. Lomond Hills Regional Park Partnership
presented by **Mark Wootton**, Head Ranger, Fife Countryside Services

Through effectively connecting people, place and purpose we believe you can create an environment that supports innovation.

The management of this process involves engaging and encouraging people to contribute to the overall aims of the Park and recognising the positive contribution they make – be they community volunteers, local landowners or staff.

By valuing and supporting the work that people do we have been able to find new ways of providing a welcome for the visitor, improving access management and discovering more about nearby communities' hopes and aspirations.

I will focus on how and what we have achieved in these areas.

3. Pentland Hills Regional Park
presented by **Carol Huston**, Pentland Hills Regional Park Manager

Bringing policy into practice isn't usually considered a hot bed of innovation. Yet in reality it is the challenge of turning Aspirations into Actions.

We are about reconnecting people to their landscape, and strengthening existing ones. Environmental education, interpretation, community involvement, biodiversity, cultural knowledge and practical management are our tools.

These connections should be nurtured for future generations and we endeavour to encourage innovation in our approach and delivery by our Volunteer Ranger Service.

As well as creating a sustainable park, we need to look beyond and contribute to the creation of sustainable communities and ecosystems – of which the park is an important component. We have created the Pentland Hills Producers, a marketing and branding initiative with farmers in the Regional Park.

We have a Twenty-First century responsibility of great importance: it is to proclaim anew the meaning and value of parks, conservation, and recreation; to expand the learning opportunities occurring in parks and share that knowledge broadly; and to encourage all to experience these special places.

Brian Martin, Director, Shearwater Associates Pty Ltd, Australia:

Planning for national parks: Victoria, Australia

Management plans have become an accepted part of the documentation for national parks and other protected areas, but how relevant are they to day-to-day management? In different jurisdictions, management plans vary from a slim document which summarises management actions for, say, a twelve month period, to major plans which contain resource information, are the result of extensive public consultation, and have a life of up to fifteen years.

Parks Victoria has standardised the production of management plans so that they have a similar style, but the process of public consultation and the content of plans is still evolving. The plans do not contain extensive resource information and user statistics, but have a zoning plan and specific prescriptions for management actions. Priorities for action, funding and staff resourcing are not dealt with in the management plan but are determined by the annual Corporate Plan and according to priorities set in statewide programs.

This paper examines a number of fundamental issues associated with the production of management plans, including: appropriate ways to engage with the public, involvement of field staff in the preparation and review of the plan, the structure of the plan, the development of objectives for nature conservation, the static or dynamic nature of plans, and the need for a clear sense of priorities. It questions whether the current style of management plan adequately serves both the ranger staff and the public over an extended period of ten years or more.

Kit Howden, New Zealand

Park Care – Towards a Park Ranger Ethic

In Auckland, New Zealand, some of the dormant basaltic volcanoes are islands of green public parks in the world's largest Polynesian City. These cones have cultural and natural heritage values, and are also internationally significant. As the urban population grows, the cones are suffering from poor recreation management, boundary encroachment, weed growth, park infringements and tourism pressure. In addition, there has been a lack of adherence to management plans, divided management from government, and philosophical and political differences. Active volunteer ranger activity can make a difference, but how does this happen when dealing with government officials, politicians and ranger/park staff and contractors?

It is important that the activist volunteer ranger has a defined ethic and leads by example when dealing with the complexity and divisive structures of present day park management. It means working through NGOs as well as engaging with the political structures of government and other democratic institutions such as the media. However, what are the limits: how does one keep to professional values, stay effective and get a higher ranger profile? A Park Care Ethic concentrates on traditional conservation and interpretative practice, but also covers the importance of personal and community values.

Glen Jameson, Environmental Monitoring Officer, Parks Victoria, Australia:

Measure for Measure

A major role of Rangers is the day-to-day delivery of management programmes. The success of such programmes can be critical to the long-term viability of species, vegetation communities and ecosystems. Monitoring has not generally been incorporated into work programmes, with a common perception amongst some operationally based staff that "doing the work is more important than monitoring". This means that some important issues remain unresolved, such as:

- How do we measure the progress of management programmes?
- How do we know that we are being effective?
- Are we meeting our strategic conservation goals?
- Is our monitoring sufficiently rigorous to yield valuable, long-term data and withstand scientific scrutiny?

The problem is that if rigorous monitoring is not incorporated into work programmes, Rangers, Planners and Managers will lack vital information and confidence about the on-ground outcomes of their actions.

Data needs to be collected in a way that it is scientifically verifiable. Land management agencies need to develop monitoring protocols that ensure data is collected in a systematic way. Rangers need to be trained in data collection methods so that they can develop necessary professional skills to deliver effective environmental programmes.

Parks Victoria has adopted an Environmental Management Framework which uses a risk-based principal to evaluate the condition of park values, taking an adaptive management approach to

developing management strategies. Data is important to validate management effectiveness, therefore Parks Victoria is developing a set of monitoring protocols to assist Rangers to collect data in the field.

Monitoring Protocols have been developed for rabbits, foxes, deer and cats, with the latest and most complex Pest Plant Mapping and Monitoring Protocol. Rangers need to be made comfortable with the use of the Protocal, and convinced of its ability to yield useful data to improve operational delivery.

Strand Three – Wildlife and Habitat

Tegan Burton, Ranger, Lower Hawkesbury Area, New South Wales, Australia:

Weeds or cultural plants? How does the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service address the management of exotic species in protected areas?

Through the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), the Department of Environment and Conservation (New South Wales) manages almost six million hectares in more than 600 reserves throughout New South Wales, Australia. These reserves contain a suite of non-indigenous plants originating from past land tenures and management practices. Although many of these have become 'weeds', some may also be in integral component of our historic heritage.

The NPWS has a legislated responsibility to conserve both cultural and natural heritage within reserves. Conserving historic vegetation is particularly complex, in part because of a perceived conflict with the natural heritage values many reserves have been dedicated to conserve, and because of an organisational culture which values individual judgement.

My research with wide-ranging data collected through attitudinal interviews with a cross-section of NPWS managers, reveals a number of key factors, including:

- a highly varied participant understanding of key concepts such as the role of the agency and the meaning of heritage value
- an organisational culture where individuality has a strong role to play in management
- the artificial divide between natural and cultural heritage persists, particularly historic as opposed to indigenous heritage
- the level of planning for management of non-indigenous plants as pests is significantly greater than that of non-indigenous plants as cultural heritage, and
- inconsistent approaches to significance assessment and the on-ground management of plant-based cultural heritage

Identification of attitudinal barriers to effective conservation of plant-based cultural heritage enables the development of strategies to assist the informed conservation of these significant values. Recommendations derived from this research can be applied to operational aspects of many other reserve management issues and are also applicable to any conservation agency based on a similar management model.

Fiona Smith, Ranger in Charge, Grasslands Unit, Parks Victoria, Australia:

Urban Grasslands – critically endangered ecosystems in the urban environment

The Western (Basalt) Plains Grassland is a highly threatened grassland community with a number of critically endangered flora and fauna species. There is less than 0.1% remaining of its original distribution, which once extended from the west of Melbourne to the South Australian border. Most of this grassland community has been lost to agriculture. However, the remaining areas occurring on the outer west of Melbourne largely on private land, are now being engulfed by Melbourne's rapidly expanding urban sprawl.

In the last 5 years there has been a concerted effort to protect some of these areas through negotiations with land owners and developers. The resulting protected areas (and significant funding) are the responsibility of Parks Victoria.

The 12 or so grasslands ranging in size from 5.4 hectares to 300 hectares are set amongst and adjacent to housing estates, industrial developments, freeways and even a prison. The challenge for us

as protected area managers is to manage these small and vulnerable sites to conserve and enhance their nationally significant values in an environment of industry and disinterested communities. How do we raise awareness, engender empathy and promote support for these areas which do not fit the traditional view of leafy green parks in communities whose own issues outweigh that of the conservation of obscure plants and animals?

This presentation will outline the values of the grassland community, the unique urban environments in which they occur, and some of the current and potential techniques for engaging these communities. My aim is to put forward the challenges and seek some discussion and potential solutions from the congress participants.

Iain Marshall, Parks Victoria, Australia:

Grey-Headed Flying-Fox Habitat Relocation

It was necessary to relocate the colony of Grey-headed Flying-fox (GHFF) *Pteropus poliocephalus* from the Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG) in Melbourne, as in summer the colony exceeds 30,000 bats and wreaks havoc on the garden plantings, some being irreplaceable.

After discussions with various agencies, a site was chosen approx 10Km's NE of Melbourne's city centre on the Yarra River at Horseshoe Bend. However, the GHFF's themselves decided where they were going and settled on the Yarra River in the Yarra Bend Park (YBP) some 5 Km's NE of Melbourne. It was decided by all agencies that to try to move the colony to the preferred site may result in them dispersing or returning to the RBG.

Horseshoe Bend is a relatively isolated 4ha site and has sufficient vegetation to for the bats to establish themselves with minimal disturbance to or from the local human population. The YBP site, while not ideal, has sufficient overstorey trees to enable the bats to establish their colony there.

The relocation was carried out over a period of time using over 200 staff from various agencies. Thousands of hours were spent manoeuvring the colony out of the RBG onto the Yarra River with the intention of moving them upstream to Horseshoe Bend. The main method used was by having people walking around the RBG site making loud noises, that is, playing taped sounds, banging tins, etc as the bats came back to roost at dawn.

The State Government has allocated $1.7M over 5 years to ensure that the colony remains sustainable at its present site. This money is spent on developing a Management Plan, weed eradication, habitat establishment including wetlands, interpretive material including signage and viewing platforms.

The major objective has been achieved in that no bats have roosted in the RBG since April 2003. The continuing measure of success will be that the colony remains at the YBP site in a sustainable manner and doesn't return to the RBG.

This has not been achieved anywhere else in Australia and I am not aware of any other project of this nature having taken place anywhere else in the world.

Jung-Woo Lee, Legal Affairs Team, Korean National Park Service:

The management of Korea's National Parks

Korea's national parks, as natural ecosystems or regions that have natural or cultural values, are designated by the Minister of Environment. Currently 20 national parks are designated and protected in Korea, and all of them are protected areas with natural and cultural heritage. There are 16 terrestrial parks, 2 marine parks, 1 seashore park and 1 historic park. Annually, about 27 million people (57% of Korea's population) visit Korea's national parks.

For the 20 years since Korea's national park system was first established in 1967, provincial governments had the authority to manage national parks. The Minister of Environment had the authority to designate Korea's national parks, and he entrusted the Metropolitan city mayors, provincial governors, and Korea National Park Service (KNPS) with the power to manage national parks.

KNPS was established as the organization mainly responsible for managing national parks in 1987. It has implemented various protection and restoration projects for wild animals and plants in national parks. In February 2001, 159km sq. of land in Jirisan NP was designated as Asiatic Black Bear Protected area to reintroduce and restore bears in the park, and a management team was established to implement the project. KNPS has a goal to increase bear populations up to 50 by 2012. After spending some time in the nature adjustment training facility, the bears are released. There have been occasions where bears caused damage to bee keeping residents, and recently a bear was trapped in a snare illegally installed by a resident.

KNPS operates visitor centres in national parks across the country to provide visitor information and educational programs. Visitor centres are mostly located at entry points of parks to allow visitors to have easy access and use them to learn more about national parks and provide park environmental education to park visitors.

Keith Roberts, Anti-Poaching Manager, Friedkin Conservation Fund, Tanzania:

Wildlife Law Enforcement Assistance – NGO assistance to the Tanzanian Wildlife Department

The hunting industry provides a huge source of income and employment to the people and government of Tanzania. There is a legal obligation for hunting companies to assist the Wildlife Department in anti-poaching operations as well as to partake in community development.

A few of the hunting companies fulfil their obligations through Conservation Foundations or Trusts. I work for the Friedkin Conservation Fund, which represents Tanzanian Game Tracker Safaris, Wengert Windrose Safaris, and Ker and Downy Tanzania. The responsibilities we have cover 14 hunting blocks making up a total of just over 33 000 km sq. We have fully equipped anti-poaching teams in each area with a total of 72 rangers on the ground and 12 ex-pat managers.

There are many restraints however as we are there to “assist” and don’t have “powers of arrest”. This can make for complications as red tape is cut, but we have, over time, developed a really good working relationship with the Wildlife Department, which has led to a very high success rate. We face many other challenges such as malaria, sleeping sickness, black cotton soil, armed poachers, village aggression, as well as the general remoteness and lack of access to these areas.

The types of poaching encountered are varied, including illegal fishing, illegal honey harvesting, bush meat, hard wood timber, charcoal production and elephant poaching. Each requires a different technique to prevent, but they are all equally destructive.

Without hunting in these areas and the protection it can offer, the majority of these areas would have been destroyed by now. However many of the companies don’t have the resources or finances to fund large operations. We are in a fortunate position in that we receive good funding from a number of sources for both community projects as well as for anti-poaching.

Wayne Lotter, South Africa:

Certification of Tourism and Hunting Agents Operating in African Protected Areas

At the 2003 IUCN World Parks Congress, it was cautioned that the ecological, social and cultural costs of tourism can be considerable. Tourism can contribute to the deterioration of cultural landscapes, threaten biodiversity, contribute to pollution and degradation of ecosystems, disrupt social systems, and increase poverty. More rigorous guarantees of effective management are being demanded.

Congress participants stressed the need to:

- Ensure that financial mechanisms adopted to increase protected area revenue do not lead to degradation of biodiversity or destruction of natural/cultural heritage
- Ensure that where private sector activities affect biodiversity or natural/cultural heritage adversely, the responsible parties should meet the costs of avoiding, minimising, mitigating, restoring or compensating for their damages

- Obtain assistance from the tourism sector in working towards ensuring that tourism associated with protected areas i) respects the primacy of the role of conservation for protected areas, ii) monitors, reports and mitigates negative impacts, and iii) promotes the use of codes of practice and certification programmes; and
- Call on states and protected area managers to adopt systems for evaluating management effectiveness.

Furthermore, the World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004) recommended that agencies responsible for the control of wildlife utilization implement measures to ensure that codes of high ethical conduct and standards are achieved and maintained.

More recently, various authors have called for a certification system for the hunting and nature based tourism sectors in Africa. Delegates to the 2005 Game Rangers Association of Africa (GRAA) Seminar on the Evaluation of Management Effectiveness recommended that:

- "Protected Area (PA) management authorities should require, or at least encourage, outsourced and concessionary agents to undergo independent management effectiveness assessments against accepted standards in respect of their operations within the PA."

This paper discusses the potential benefits and requirements of appropriate certification standards for i) tourism, and ii) hunting agents. It additionally explores roles that the GRAA and IRF might play as proposed custodians of these initiatives.

8. Poster Session Abstracts

Colin Hart, Ranger, The Broads Authority:
The Youth Ranger Project – Broads Style

The Youth Ranger Project is a Pan European Project initiated by Europarc, the federation of European Protected Areas. It involves the engaging of young people in their local protected area. This is done by placing them with their local Rangers, getting them out in the field, usually in the form of a week-long stay in the area, carrying out surveys and practical work directly with the Ranger on the ground.

This promotes:

- Team work
- An understanding in natural environment
- Switches them on to the landscape on their doorstep
- Potentially delivers a future employee

There are groups throughout Europe that have been operating for three years now with excellent outcomes.

In the UK, we have a long tradition of volunteering in our local reserves and wild places, with local folk getting stuck in doing practical work. The volunteering ethic doesn't really exist on the continent and that is why the Youth Ranger Project has been so groundbreaking.

In the Broads Authority, we work closely with a local High School offering a Practical Environmental Skills course. At the end of each year, we go to another National Park to experience different environments and different tasks. The results are positive, with many work projects completed, and more than half of the participants completing the academic side of the course.

Other National Parks such as The Peak District and The North York Moors are involved in similar Youth Ranger Projects in the UK.

The bottom line is that we are engaging local young people in their "local" National Park, instilling in them an understanding and appreciation for their natural environment.

It's a "win-win" situation and it's also good fun.

Nirmal Jivan Shah, **James Hardcastle**, and **Kerstin Henri**, Nature Seychelles:
Linking Globally, Acting Locally – A capacity development programme in Seychelles using protected areas worldwide

Cousin Island Special Reserve in the Republic of Seychelles became one of the world's first whole island and sea reserves when it was designated a Nature Reserve in 1968. It is host to biodiversity as well as conservation and ecotourism programmes whose importance has been recognized globally. However, the Seychelles is one of the smallest nations in the world and distant from other countries. With limited resources, technical skills, educational opportunities and international expertise, Nature Seychelles, the NGO managing Cousin Island, is finding it difficult to keep the Reserve to international norms and standards.

However, there are many protected areas in the world that have a tremendous wealth of experience and expertise. In order to tap this global knowledge, Nature Seychelles has created the Experience Xchange Programme, or 'EXP'. Rangers or conservation officers with a certain level of education and experience are invited to live and work with the wardens on Cousin for up to three-months. It is expected that the local staff will benefit from working with personnel with higher levels of education and a different knowledge base. Visiting personnel could in turn gain a range of personal skills and valuable experiences that may be transferable elsewhere.

Up to two visiting personnel can be accommodated every 3 months. The visiting personnel or their organisations pay for the international airfare and insurance and Nature Seychelles provides local logistics, uniform, equipment, board and lodgings. The programme began in May 2005. It has been

advertised worldwide and has registered interest from persons in some 50 countries. To date there has been positive feedback both from the Reserve staff and the visiting personnel. Monitoring is in place for the purpose of adaptive management and continual improvement.

Paul Shoreman

Reclamation and management of a former hard stone quarry (Lee Quarry) in the Rossendale district of Lancashire.

Lee and Greens Moor quarry in Stackteads, Rossendale, was developed by Lancashire County Council under the Rossendale Quarries Reclamation Scheme. The scheme was supported by a number of funding bodies including the North West Development Agency and English Partnerships.

Lee quarry was cleared of tipping debris, abandoned cars and old machinery. Extensive work was carried out to minimize hazards to the public on the site, taking care to retain the character of the landscape. The industrial heritage of the site was preserved and is now a major theme of the interpretation for visitors. Due to the archaeological and geological features of the landscape, the quarry has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest by English Nature. In addition, a wide range of wildlife is developing in and around the quarry including peregrine falcons, ravens, owls and Twite. The reclaimed watercourses support dragon and damselflies.

Before reclamation, the quarry was severely misused: vehicles were dumped, fires were common and fly tipping was a regular occurrence. There was also disturbance to nearby residents through illegal off-road activities with 4x4s and motorbikes.

To promote recreation on the site, way-marked trails have been constructed as well as an arena for horse riders. There has also been agreement for part of the site to be used for planned trial biking events.

This project has been a major success in connecting both local people and other visitors with their heritage and landscape in an educational and enjoyable manner. The site promotes social inclusion with a number of "all terrain" wheelchairs allowing less able visitors to experience more challenging routes and landscapes.

Barry Samson, Director Park Management Solutions Ltd:

Abel Tasman National Park; New Zealand – Water Quality Monitoring Project

In 2005, Park Management Solutions Ltd approached the Department of Conservation (NZ) and introduced the B2P Ltd product range to assist them with their water quality control. DOC was wrestling with the implications of a new central government water standard, which suggested that backcountry water supplies (huts and campsites) meet a much higher standard. The dilemma posed by this pending legislation is just how to collect a sample, monitor the water, and react in a timely way. It can take up to five days to get a result back from labs to confirm the presence/absence of contaminated water (Coliforms/E.Coli). By this time, a large number of visitors may have drunk from the contaminated supply.

Abel Tasman National Park has tens of thousands of visitors annually. Most of these concentrate on the coastal fringe to camp, use the park huts, or walk small sections of the track as day visitors. This concentration of visitors puts enormous pressure on facilities and resources. Small, localised streams and rivers are used for swimming and recreating. They also assist in the supply of drinking water. Other drinking water is directed from roofs to tanks.

The water collection system (Watercheck 100) is a small plastic vacuum-sealed vial. By using the spike tube, 100mls of water is sucked into the vial. The water mixes with a growth medium in the vial and turns blue. At this stage the vial can be incubated by keeping it close to the body. At 37ºC incubation begins, and if contamination is present the water turns bright pink. If E.coli is present the sample turns white. This can take 2-14 hours to occur.

This method of analysis has been supported by a mobile incubator that can be fitted to trucks, boats and remote huts. The vial is inserted and analysed. An indication of presence of contamination can take as little as 30 minutes. This initial project will be extended to other areas of the DOC estate and further development carried out.

Janice Burley, Training and Development Officer, Losehill Hall:

International Ranger Training: What has happened so far, and where could we go in the future?

Losehill Hall, The Peak District National Park Centre for Environmental Learning, has led the way in developing and testing training courses that set international standards for Ranger Training.

'Foundation Ranger Training', an international course developed by Losehill Hall, is based on a very successful course that has run at Losehill Hall for 30 years. It is aimed at rangers who are relatively new to the job, or who haven't had any formal training. It is based around the 'Six Losehill Principles', the generic internationally applicable description of what a ranger should be able to do, which has been adopted by IRF and many of its member ranger associations, and approved by Europarc and IUCN.

The Foundation Ranger Training course has been successfully delivered to Icelandic rangers at Skaftafell National Park in 2001, and in Petronell near Vienna in October 2003, to rangers from Germany, Italy, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, Serbia and the UK.

The courses were developed as part of a three European partnership project called TOPAS (Training of Protected Area Staff). The three-year project, which ended in December 2003, aimed to develop a pan-European vocational training standard for the continuing training of staff working in European protected areas. Training centres across Europe, including Losehill Hall, developed training course modules which were translated and delivered in other countries to check they were transferable. After testing, all training material developed was made available on the TOPAS website to facilitate learning for participants from across Europe.

Losehill Hall is keen to explore the potential of working with other partners delivering Ranger training in European or international settings. Previous experience has shown this to be possible in a European setting, and a greater challenge would be to test this on an international level, either delivering existing modules or in developing new ones.

Imre Szarvas, Hungary:

The changing role of State Rangers in the Hungarian Nature Conservation Authority following new legislation, a changing administrative environment, and the broadening of State Ranger tasks

Protecting, preserving and maintaining natural areas and natural assets are governmental responsibilities in Hungary. In practice, implementation of this responsibility in the field is given over to the protection rangers of the Ranger Services.

In Hungary, the Ranger Services are structured into three levels. There are governmental or state rangers, responsible for natural areas and values of national significance; local governmental or municipal rangers protect natural areas of local significance; while both are supported by voluntary civilian guards.

The Ranger Services are supervised by the Authority for Nature Conservation of the Ministry for Environment and Water.

In Hungary professional ranger services have been in operation since 1972, and the scope of their duties and authority has changed in the last decade. This poster describes these changes.

Linda Nunn, CMA and IRF:

Passing Out Parade for Rangers, Democratic Republic of Congo

On Sunday 19 March 2006, forty-five rangers stood tall and proud at their passing out ceremony on the new training centre parade ground, Ishango, Virunga National Park, eastern DR Congo. Rangers from the five stations around the park had received communications, security, self defence and weapons training, together with many other skills required for their difficult and often dangerous work protecting this World Heritage Site in Danger.

After many months of tough and challenging training, these rangers received much deserved congratulations and admiration on behalf of the 479 rangers who had completed the course from a variety of invited guests. I was honoured to be invited to Ishango, having visited many of the rangers back in July 2004 as part of a small delegation from the IRF. At that time, these extremely dedicated and committed rangers were nonetheless appearing in need of self confidence, practical support and a boost to their morale. Watching their faces at Ishango, they certainly now had all of that and more besides.

Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) had enabled this training programme to take place through encouraging the co-operation of many partners within DRC and via funding from themselves and from different international sources. Support for the programme had had to be gained at the political level from military leaders and from MONUC, the United Nations forces in DRC.

Amongst those attending the ceremony were the Assistant Provincial Governor of North Kivu, the military chief in the province, the Technical Director of ICCN (Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature), and representatives from FZS, DFGF, WCS and ZSL. Many speeches were given praising the grit, determination and perseverance of the rangers in completing the training, and congratulated them on their tremendous success.

Robert Muir from FZS, together with partners and the skilled instructors, had shown great determination in implementing this programme, but the true stars of the day were the rangers themselves. They showed off their skills during a mock capture of poachers, marched in unison around the parade ground, and stepped forward one by one to receive certificates and medals for their achievements.

I was honoured to present a short, congratulatory speech on behalf of David Zeller, President of IRF, together with another for the UK Government and a UK charity 'Gearing Up 4 Gorillas'. The applause from the rangers showed their appreciation of the support from the 'world family of rangers'. I hope to have a display at the Stirling World Congress depicting this significant event.

Although 19 March was billed as a 'closing ceremony', this was indeed just the beginning. The tremendous success of this initial programme has gained the admiration and ongoing support from all those present on 19 March, paving the way for Ishango to now welcome many more rangers from all around DRC who will go on to benefit from the wide ranging training on offer.

A resounding 'well done' to everyone involved!

Bob Weston, Fife Ranger Service

Fife Air Cadets Conservation Group Expedition 'Czech Mates' – Czech Republic, July 2005

Thirty-one members of the Fife Air Cadets Conservation Group participated in "Czech Mates", their July 2005 expedition to the Czech Republic. They spent 8 days in Cesky Krumlov, a UNESCO World Heritage site, 180 km south of Prague, along with three days exploring the city of Prague, discovering its cultural and historical gems. A Ranger accompanied them from Fife Council, who worked closely with the group.

The expedition aims were to –

Promote:

- The ethos of the Fife Air Cadets Conservation Group by demonstrating the volunteers' skills, motivation, enthusiasm and overall hard work
- The John Muir Award by Discovering, Exploring, Conserving and Sharing

- The idea of community conservation volunteering at an international level, involving youth organisations like the Air Training Corps, the Scout Association's 'working together for tomorrow's future', and Fife Ranger Services volunteering programme

Develop:
- New skills and knowledge through environmental awareness and education, while increasing fitness levels, and enhancing leadership and teamwork

Support
- The local community and their surrounding environment

This working expedition to the Czech Republic challenged everyone, from organising and financing, to hard work on the conservation tasks.

Like all youth activities, the expedition relied on effective teamwork. Ours was fortunate to have the expertise of a Countryside Ranger sponsored by Fife Council and the Scottish Countryside Rangers Association.

The next stage is to develop links with communities in Estonia and to set up partnerships between Rangers and youth groups there and in Fife.

Goran Pavic, Ranger, Papuk Nature Park, Croatia:

Papuk Nature Park

Papuk Nature Park is one of the "youngest" nature parks in Croatia, and with an area of 33,600 ha, is the third largest. There are three areas within the Park: the special nature reserve of forest vegetation, Sekulinačke planine (virgin forest of beech and fir); the Jankovac park-forest (hill valley surrounded by beech forest with karst phenomena); and the geological nature monument Rupnica (columnar jointing volcanic rocks).

Forests dominate the panorama including beech, sessile oak and fir. High-altitude vegetation zoning starts with sessile oak and hornbeam forest, mountain fir forests are situated somewhat higher, followed by beech and fir zones with sycamore, maple and common ash at the highest peaks.

Pubescent oak is situated on the south slopes, while black alder forest is situated next to mountain springs.

The floral composition of the Park is rich and diversified, which is a consequence of relief contrasts, diversity of geological composition and variety of pedological and climatic influences.

The Park, with its geo-morphological, climatic and vegetation features, offers excellent natural habitat for numerous animals. More than 200 years ago Taube, bears, wolves and lynx were living at Papuk but have subsequently disappeared. The thick forests prove an ideal habitat and shelter for numerous mammals: European red deer, western roe deer, wild boar, red fox, European pine marten, least weasel, European otter etc. Populations of bats (Chiroptera) are especially important, and there are six species that are included on the IUCN endangered list. There are 75 types of birds and only five of them do not belong to protected species.

There are significant remains of cultural heritage in the area. Near the village of Kaptol there is a valuable archaeological find of the Hallstatt culture dating back to the 8th Century BC. There are remains of eight mediaeval towns in the Park. The most beautiful and the most preserved one is the town of Ružica.

In the near future the intention of the Papuk Nature Park is to become a part of the network of Geoparks under the auspices of UNESCO.

Diego Saad, Argentina:

Deep Freeze Ranger – The coldest nature reserve on earth?

Diego Saad is a Park Ranger in Antarctica. The Argentinian Antarctic Institute is exclusively devoted to Antarctic research and is undertaking a major programme of research activity and international observations focused in the polar regions of our globe. It has decided to send Park Rangers to carry out various tasks, using rangers who are used to working with wild life, travelling in inhospitable terrain, and who are prepared to deal with the isolation and the extreme conditions during a whole year in Antarctica.

The world's Antarctic resources are administered by the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. The aim of the Convention is the conservation of the ecological biodiversity of the sub continent, to verify changes brought about by global warming, to quantify their effects and to predict possible changes. Each year, two Park Rangers are selected to join the Winter Antarctic Campaign at Orcadas Station (60°44´ S - 44°44´ W). They undertake field research tasks related to different programs from the Convention and are the only Rangers in this, the biggest protected Natural Reserve in the world.

Dewi Morris, Daventry Country Park:

The Daventry Community Allotment Garden Project

The Daventry Community Allotment Garden Project began in 2002. The project was aimed at encouraging schools and communities to work together on a community garden allotment. Three full time Ranger staff from Daventry Countryside Services, as well as volunteers, are involved in the project.

A pilot programme established the need for such a project as many children assumed their vegetables came from Tescos (a supermarket) or from a factory rather than out of the ground.

Daventry District Council set the project objectives: to build strong communities, a protected environment, and a thriving economy.

The District Council recognised that allotments are a vital asset to the community that improve urban landscape variety and quality while promoting health and well-being. They are a community resource and provide a haven for flora and fauna. The authority also values allotments for their visual amenity and for enhancing urban town-scapes.

Seven local schools are involved with the project. Activities varied throughout the academic year – reflecting the needs of the garden – from planting seeds to harvesting the produce, then making soup and composting garden waste. In this way, teachers have been able to address curriculum topics of sustainability, healthy living, environmental awareness and citizenship by tackling subjects such as waste, recycling, local foods, healthy eating, cooking and also vandalism. Work starts in the classrooms in the early spring with seed planting, and as the plants grow, they are transplanted in the classroom and then planted in the garden.

All the partner schools are able to walk to the garden via mainly traffic-free routes thus providing exercise and fresh air. Schools were also invited to the garden to learn other topics of the National Curriculum, for example, habitats and homes, mini-beasts, plant and flower identification.

Local people with an interest in gardening contribute to the project by volunteering in holiday times with routine maintenance. A local group of artists has also designed sensory areas, pathways and natural sculptures that have enhanced the garden as a resource for the schools and the community. The community allotment garden is run as an organic garden.

At the time of reporting, 7,776 people have participated in the project.

Carole Lloyd, Manager, Partnerships for Wellbeing:

You tak' the High Road, but we'll tak' the low road...

The Highlands of Scotland are renowned for wild and rugged scenery. This factor is partly responsible for the fact that even Highlanders can be inactive to the point where it poses a health risk. The Step it Up Highland healthy walking initiative was originally developed to redress this balance.

By promoting the many benefits of walking, the Step it Up Highland initiative aims to encourage individuals to step up their levels of physical activity in a relaxed and social environment.

The Scheme, which has been funded by Paths to Health and the National Health Service, is delivered by the voluntary organisation, Partnerships for Wellbeing. This engages volunteer walk leaders from within local communities to lead regular walks. Currently there are 26 walking groups across Highland, with over 200 trained volunteer walk leaders. All the Volunteer Walk Leaders receive full training in leading health walks, first aid, risk assessment, and have Insurance cover. They are supplied with Step it Up branded clothing and rucksacks to ensure that they are clearly identifiable. Additional support is provided by volunteer 'walking companions' who are on hand to assist walkers who may have higher support needs.

Since it started in 2003, more than 500 people who were previously inactive now enjoy regular Step it Up Highland walks.

Encouraged by this success, the Step it Up Further programme is being developed. This represents the next step for those walkers who have attained a greater level of fitness and are looking for greater challenges. The first of these is the 'Great Glen Way in Bite-sized chunks.' In collaboration with the Great Glen Way Rangers, this long distance route has been broken down into manageable sections.

Step it Up Highland has demonstrated to the local population that walking in the Highlands does not have to be about miles and miles in the wild – and more importantly, that Rangers do not bite!

Appendix – SNH Sponsored Delegates

Report on SNH funded delegates to IRF World Ranger Congress from Eastern European Countries

Name/Role	Country	Funding provided	Responses to attending congress
Juraj Švajda (Age 30) Ranger Manager	Tatra National Park, Slovakia	£550 delegate fee (he paid for own travel)	I am leader of voluntary and also professional rangers in our national park. I am hands-on in preparing training sessions for Slovak rangers. Congress has given a new vision for Slovak rangers, there is no unified looking on rangers work in our country – oscillating understanding ranger as "policemen" to "officers". Also I gathered actual information about trends and experiences of professional rangers work in other countries
Emilian Burdusel (Age 30) Secretary, Romanian Ranger Association	Rodnei Mountains National Park, Romania	£550 delegate fee (he paid for own travel)	In the context in which this profession is at the beginning in Romania, it is important for our Romanian Ranger Association (RRA) to share experience and to gain relevant knowledge from other professionals in this domain. I was able to actively participate at the congress, to meet rangers and exchange ideas and to find subjects of cooperation with ranger associations and/or with parks. And from the point of view of our organisation, RRA is going to become one of the strongest Romanian NGOs. Rangers from over 20 National and Natural Parks and from other Protected Areas have joined RRA. We need to initiate cooperation activities in ranger training and connections with other parks and protected areas around the world, and the congress has given us this opportunity.
Halastauan Florin Vasile (Age 34) Ranger	Retezat National Parc, Romania (IRF member)	£550 delegate fee (he paid for own travel)	I am a Trainer in Ranger Summer Schools and organise a Junior Ranger programme each year in the Retezat National Parc. Sharing experience with rangers from other countries and learning new enforcement management techniques from rangers who work in countries with a longer experience in protected areas has provided knowledge that is used in examples like Romanian Rangers Association training courses.
Dr. Yuriy Gorshkov Director	Volzhsko-Kamsky Biosphere Reserve, Tatarstan Republic, Russian Federation	£550 delegate fee (he paid for own travel)	I feel I got the productive discussions on the problems of protected areas including managing Biosphere Reserves. After visiting such IRF congresses the government structures have paid more attention for Russian protected areas. This is a most positive outcome from such international gatherings.

Marjeta Albinini (Age 28) Ranger	Triglav National Park, Slovenia	£550 delegate fee (she paid for own travel)	I am active in the junior ranger programme, volunteer rangers and nature trails management, Getting to know other countries and people, their way of life and dealing with problems, often unbelievably similar to ours, widens one's comprehension. Since one of my fields of work is planning and managing (nature) trails, I have gained some new knowledge in this aspect. In Slovenia there are very few outdoor places which are arranged in the "universal accessibility" aspect. Triglav NP started to manage some of the outdoor interests within the park systematically in 2005 (through Junior ranger project). It was useful to talk to people who have already done these things. Associating with people who have similar interests, sharing knowledge, meeting possible partners for further activities were all positive gains.
Michal Skalka (Age 38) Ranger	Krkonose National Park, Czech Republic	£550 delegate fee (he paid for own travel)	What a good way to gather knowledge for managing of relations among subjects in nature conservation, work with visitors, prepare facilities for visitors and ranger-training. I gained information about co-operation ranger association and regional offices, state ministry of envir. for building of link between legal responsible person and NGO with know-how for nature managing. I gained knowledge about formal and informal training methods (PR, communication, interpretation, negotiation etc.) plus much about rangers around the world
Dr Bogdan Jaroszewicz (Age 39) Deputy Director	Bialowieza National Park, Poland	£550 delegate fee. Travel paid by UNESCO	I am one of the initiators and founding members of the Polish Rangers Association (PRA). Up to May 2005, I was the chair of Association. Due to a recent role change, I am no longer a Ranger, but am now Deputy Director responsible for tourism, education, science coordination and international affairs. I hope that my attending has brought wider recognition of the Polish Ranger Association between fellow organizations, and will help us in its further development. I have established new personal contacts with rangers from other Associations and hope to make arrangements for future cooperation (between persons and between organisations).
Imre Szarvas (Age 46) State ranger – regional supervisor	Bükk National Park, Hungary	£550 delegate fee (he paid for own travel)	I valued making contacts, learning and sharing experiences, for example by giving a poster presentation and distributing information leaflets on the Hungarian ranger system. Generally gaining knowledge on the themes of the Congress; I will present these to the Hungarian colleagues both on national and NGO level and this will widen international ranger co-operation in the homeland.
Rosza Sandor (Age 40) Head of Ranger Service	Aggtelek Karst National Park, Hungary	£550 delegate fee (paid for own travel)	In Hungary there are no existing NGO ranger associations yet, but we have connection with Slovak Ranger Association. The themes of the Congress were good, especially on ranger-public relations concerning interpretation and safeguarding natural assets; to make contacts and share experiences. I

			am planning to give presentations to my colleagues about the learnt things, to use those in my daily work as the leader of my National Park Rangers and to maintain co-operation amongst the international ranger community
Cristian Mititelu Raileanu (Age 32) Councillor – International Programme and Projects Office	Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority, Romania	£550 delegate fee. Travel paid by UNESCO	I am responsible for field trips with foreign delegations, specialists and students (guiding and translations) and documentation trips for presentation/information materials for the Reserve. It was very important to share my experience with colleagues from other protected areas and benefit in turn from their knowledge and expertise in field-related activities (guiding, display panels, surveillance etc).
Goran Pavic (Age 33) Ranger	Nature Park Papuk, Croatia	£550 delegate fee (he paid for own travel)	It was excellent to meet a lot of rangers. We could share experience in doing our every day tasks. Conversation with other colleagues helped me to find out how to solve some issues which we all have. I have improved my knowledge and got useful advices about ranger service. It would help to establish a ranger association in our country, which does not yet have an association.
TOTALS		**£6050**	