



GUARDAPARQUE

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Guardaparque is a publication prepared monthly and issued by the International Ranger Federation (IRF), an organization of non-governmental and governmental ranger organizations from around the world.

Guardaparque carries reports on emergency service and law enforcement incidents, on protection of parks and the natural and cultural resources within them, on programs to educate visitors and communities on the values of parks and protected areas, and on the people who are responsible for all these activities.

If you have a submission for **Guardaparque**, please send it to editor Bill Halainen (Bill_Halainen@nps.gov). Summaries in Spanish for each article were prepared by Rick Smith (rsmith0921@earthlink.net).

Emergency Services And Law Enforcement

Australia – Blue Mountains National Park, New South Wales Missing Backpacker Found After Massive Search

Summary/Resumen: An English backpacker has been found after a major search./Un mochilero inglés fue localizado después de una búsqueda masiva.

As you probably know by now, since there were literally thousands of stories on him worldwide, British backpacker Jamie Neale has survived after being lost for eleven days in the Blue Mountains. The following is taken from several Australian newspapers...

An English bushwalker who was missing for 11 days in the freezing cold of the Blue Mountains walked out of the bush "a bit crook" but alive. Jamie Neale, 19, who went missing while bushwalking near Katoomba on July 4th, reappeared near Narrow Neck plateau kilometers from Katoomba. He was last seen at the Ruined Castle rock formation in the Jamieson Valley that day, where he told bushwalkers he was heading for Mount Solitary.

A search party of about 60 people were unable to find any trace of him for almost two weeks, as overnight temperatures dipped close to freezing. He evidently lived on seeds and a rocket-like weed that he found during that period. Neale said he waved at the rescue helicopter several times, but was not seen. Searchers believe that they would have found him except that Neale kept moving around looking for water.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service has dismissed suggestions that Neale's story is a hoax: "Geoff Luscombe from National Parks says it is an amazing story - and one he believes. 'I think speculation of those things is pretty easy but having spoken to the police, they're pretty comfortable Jamie's story stacks up,' he said. 'He's looking and feeling very second-hand right now, and he's suffered from his ordeal and it's a remarkable feat that he's been able to walk out.'"

Kenya – Parks and Protected Areas

Kenya Seizes Poached Ivory And Rhino Horns

Summary/Resumen: The government of Kenya has seized \$1 million worth of elephant ivory and black rhinoceros horns that were poached in southern Africa and were being shipped to Asia. Conservation groups report that rhinoceros poaching is at a 15-year high./ El gobierno de Kenya capturó marfil de elefante y cuernos del rinocerante negro con un valor de \$1 millón que habían sido saqueados por los cazadores furtivos con destino a Asia. Los grupos conservacionistas informan que la caza ilegal de los rinocerantes ha alcanzado a un nivel más alto de los últimos quince años.

The Kenyan government has seized \$1 million worth of elephant ivory and black rhinoceros horns which were on their way from southern Africa to Asia. The seizure came on the heels of a previous report from conservation groups that illegal rhinoceros poaching is at a 15-year high. According to the groups, three times as many rhinos are now being poached per month in South Africa and Zimbabwe than was averaged per month across all of the continent between 2000 and 2005.

The elephant ivory and rhino horns from southern Africa are shipped to Asia, where they fetch handsome sums on the black market. A kilogram of elephant ivory can bring in \$3000, and rhino horns can be sold for \$5000 a kilogram. The increased poaching of rhinos is attributed to a rising demand from Asia, where the horns are highly valued for use in traditional medicine. Ivory from elephant tusks has long been prized for its ornamental value.

Ngugi Gichaga, a spokesman for the Kenya Wildlife Service, partly attributes the recent rise in elephant poaching to a decision made a year ago at an international convention in Geneva to allow China to reopen a limited legal ivory trade with countries in southern Africa. Kenya opposed the deal.

"As Kenya told them that is not the way to go because that was going to send the wrong signals, because what it was going to signify is that there has been a resumption of trade with ivory," Gichaga said. "And therefore we have said very clearly that we are definitely going to see an upside in the poaching of ivory because now the signal that has been sent out is that the ivory trade has been resumed."

The poached ivory and rhino horns were discovered by Kenyan authorities at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi. The cargo flight had originated in Mozambique and was bound for Laos. Authorities discovered the illegal items after one of the wooden coffin-shaped boxes containing ivory fell and broke open. Sniffer dogs were then used to find the other boxes. Blood on pieces of the ivory and horns showed that the animals had been killed recently. One of the horns had a bullet hole through it.

The rise in poaching has led to an "intensified" working relationship with the international police organization INTERPOL over the last year, according to officials at Kenya Wildlife Service. The sniffer dogs have been a recent addition to Kenya's strategy to curb the illicit trade. But as the incident Tuesday suggested, some of the ivory and rhino horns still slip through. If the box containing the ivory had not fallen and broken, it is likely the cargo would have arrived at its destination undetected. Kenyan authorities speculated that even though the cargo was on its way to Laos, the final destination of the poached goods was China.

Only 18,000 black rhinos exist in the world, and they are only found in eastern and southern Africa. The cargo intercepted in Kenya contained 280 kilograms of elephant ivory and 18 kilograms of rhino horns.

Source: U.S. Voice of America news story by Alan Boswell, sent along by IRF member Augusto Atturo. It can be found at: <http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-07-16-voa47.cfm>

**United States – Grand Teton National Park
Rapid Response By Rangers Saves Girls With Monoxide Poisoning**

Summary/Resumen: Two girls riding on a board being towed by their parents' boat almost died from inhaling exhaust from the boat, which contains carbon monoxide./ Dos chicas casi murieron mientras estando jalado después de una lancha por sus padres por haber inhalado los gases del escape del motor de la lancha.

A rapid response by park staff and the subsequent transporting of two 10-year old girls suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning after riding on a board behind their family's ski boat has resulted in their full recovery. The two girls riding on a board for the third time behind the family's 20-foot ski boat – and its exhaust ports – when the brother of one of the girls, riding on the stern, noticed that his sister was not responding to him. After pulling the girls onto the vessel, the parents began resuscitation efforts while a brother drove the boat to the Colter Bay Marina. Several emergency phone calls from there led to ranger and emergency personnel responding from around the park. The first ambulance was on scene within five minutes. Both girls were transported to the hospital within another eight minutes. Although the girls were non-responsive when personnel arrived on scene, they both quickly recovered and were released from the hospital the same night. Doctors and medical staff have credited the rapid intervention of park staff with the survival of the two girls, who otherwise would likely have succumbed to the carbon monoxide issuing from the boats' exhaust. The park's chief ranger is crediting all park divisions with this success, as volunteers, interpreters and maintenance division personnel joined rangers in the response.

Source: U.S. National Park Service Morning Report.

**United States – Katmai National Park and Preserve
Park Archeologists Shoot Attacking Brown Bear**

Summary/Resumen: Two park archeologists were forced to kill a brown bear on July 13th after it attacked them at their remote campsite on one of the park's offshore islands./ Dos arqueólogos del Servicio de Parques Nacionales de los EEUU se vieron obligados a matar a un oso marrón el 13 de Julio después de que el oso había atacado su lugar de acampar en una de las islas de parque.

Two park archeologists were forced to kill a brown bear on July 13th after it attacked them. The archeologists had been camping and working on an offshore island for several days when a lone bear appeared at their campsite. The bear showed continued aggressive behavior towards both members of the crew and was not easily chased away from their campsite. Various means were employed to dissuade the bear from approaching, including loud noises, visual displays and at one point pepper spray. At no time did the bear obtain food or other items from the campsite. On the morning of July 13th, the bear made an unprovoked charge at one of the archeologists while the camp was being dismantled for departure. Both archeologists fired their weapons to stop the charge, resulting in the bear's death. The investigation remains open while additional information is collected. There were no injuries to either of the archeologists. Samples have been collected from the animal and will be examined as part of the investigation. While this level of aggression towards people has been rare in the Katmai area, it should serve as a reminder to all visitors and staff that bears and other animals in the park are wild and exhibit unpredictable behavior. Adherence to existing food storage and viewing regulations are essential to the safety of both people and the wildlife around them.

Source: U.S. National Park Service Morning Report.

United States – Grand Canyon National Park Man Drives Car Over The Rim Of The Grand Canyon

Summary/Resumen: A despondent man drove his car between two buildings on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon and over the edge, crashing 600 feet below. / Un hombre desanimado dirigió su auto entre dos edificios en la parte sur del Grán Calón y más allá del borde del cañón cayendo, 200 metros a su muerte.

Park dispatch received numerous reports that a car had been driven over the edge near the El Tovar Hotel on the South Rim around 6 a.m. on Monday, July 13th. Upon arriving at the scene, rangers found tire tracks indicating that a car had been driven up onto the curb of the loading area between the El Tovar Hotel and the Kachina Lodge. The car then veered left, traveling through the grass behind Kachina Lodge until it reached the Thunderbird Lodge, where it veered right and into the canyon. As the car had traveled a significant distance from the regular roadway, there was no wall or barrier where it went over the edge. Rescue personnel descended on ropes and located the vehicle approximately 600 feet below the rim. The man's body was found shortly thereafter. After the scene was documented, the body was transported to the rim by helicopter via long-line operation and then picked up by the Coconino County medical examiner. The body has now been identified as that of 57-year-old Gheorghe Chiriac, who emigrated from Romania approximately 30 years ago. His death has been ruled a suicide.

Source: U.S. National Park Service Morning Report.

Species Management

Nicaragua – Coastal Area Rare Hawksbill Turtles Found And Protected

Summary/Resumen: Rangers working for Paso Pacifico in Nicaragua discovered two rare hawksbill turtles on a beach that they patrol. Many people came to see them, and radio transmitters were put on them so they could be tracked by satellites when they returned to the sea. / Lean la traducción en español debajo la versión en inglés.

Past IRF president Rick Smith has sent along this submission:

During the time that I was in Nicaragua working with the community rangers who are employees of the NGO, Paso Pacifico, a rare thing occurred. Two hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) came ashore to nest on the beach that the rangers patrol. This is one of the most critically endangered of the marine sea turtles. Very few records exist of hawksbill turtles nesting on the western beaches of Central America. Moreover, scientists know little about their migration patterns or about their population numbers. The rangers kept the two turtles on the beach for two days. (It is possible to keep the turtles for up to three days if a wet towel is kept on their heads and water is poured over their backs.) During the second day, a turtle expert from a regional program known as Project Hawksbill came and in cooperation with Paso Pacifico and the employees of MARENA (The Ministry of Natural Resources in Nicaragua) installed a digital transmitter on the shells of the turtles so that their movements can be tracked by satellites when they come to the surface to breath. This was a big deal. Children were released from school to observe the installation. Officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources were there, as were representatives of the media. Everyone recognized that the real heroes of this event were the rangers who work for Paso Pacifico.

It was very emotional when the children applauded when the second turtle returned to the sea after being liberated. I am sure none of them will become turtle egg poachers in the future.

You can track the movements of these two turtles at the website http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/?project_id=295&dyn=1246546646 . On the left hand side of the page, you will find our two turtles, Karen and Brasilia. (The children named the second turtle Brasilia.) Click on the names of the turtles to see their movements. Brasilia had laid her eggs before the rangers nabbed her. Karen had not. It is likely that she will return to the same beach to lay her eggs.

Durante el tiempo que estuve en Nicaragua trabajando con los guardaparques comunitarios, empleados de la ONG Paso Pacifico, una cosa maravillosa ocurrió. Dos tortugas carey (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) llegaron a anidar a las playas que los guardaparques patrullaban. Esta tortuga es una especie críticamente en peligro de extinción. Existen pocos casos documentados de las tortugas carey anidando en las playas orientales de América Central. Además, los científicos no saben mucho de sus migraciones y el estado de sus poblaciones en esta área de América. Los guardaparques las controlaron en la playa por dos días. (Se puede controlar una tortuga por tres días dando las condiciones necesarias para mantenerla calmada e hidratada). Durante el segundo día, vino un experto del Proyecto Regional conocido como Proyecto Carey que en coordinación con Paso Pacifico y el MARENA instaló en el caparazón de cada tortuga un transmisor satelital. A través de este transmisor se comunica con los satélites para que los científicos puedan seguir la pista de las tortugas cuando salgan a la superficie para respirar. Este fue un evento significativo. Los niños salieron de las escuelas para observar la instalación. Los oficiales del MARENA (el Ministerio del Ambiente y los Recursos Naturales) estuvieron presentes. Hubo representantes de los medios de comunicación. Todo el mundo reconoció que los verdaderos héroes de este evento fueron los guardaparques de Paso Pacifico.

Fue muy emocionante cuando los niños aplaudieron cuando la segunda tortuga regresó al mar después de ser liberada. Estoy seguro de que ellos no serán la próxima generación de hueveros.

Pueden seguir los movimientos de las tortugas al entrar en la página web http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/?project_id=295&dyn=1246546646 . En la parte a la izquierda de la página, van a encontrar a nuestras dos tortugas, Karen y Brasilia. (Los niños dieron el nombre de Brasilia a la segunda tortuga porque esta fue encontrada en un playa llamada Brasilón). Hagan un clic a los nombres para observar sus movimientos. Brasilia había depositado sus huevos antes de ser capturada por los guardaparques pero Karen no. Es muy probable que ella regrese a la misma playa para anidar.

Nepal – Parks and Protected Areas Study Reveals Substantial Number Of Breeding Age Tigers

Summary/Resumen: A census of tigers in Nepal reveals more than 120 of breeding age within the four protected areas in Nepal – more than expected./ Un censo de tigres en Nepal muestra más de 120 ejemplares de edad de reproducir, un resultado más de lo esperado.

The first ever overall nationwide estimate of the tiger population brought a positive ray of hope among conservationists this month. The figures announced by the Nepal Government's Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation shows the presence of 121 (100 – 194) breeding tigers in the wild within the four protected areas of Nepal. The numbers are better than expected.

According to WWF Global Tiger Network Initiative, the wild tiger population is at a tipping point. Tigers are experiencing a range collapse, occupying 40 per cent less habitat than was estimated just one decade ago. The estimated number of tigers in important range countries is frighteningly low, with a recent government census suggesting there may be as few as 1,300 tigers left in India, the species' stronghold.

The main reason for the decline of tiger populations has been attributed to poaching and illegal trade. This is linked to the illegal international trade in tiger parts and derivatives (skin, bones, meat in some cases although not reported in Nepal) and use in traditional Chinese medicines. Apart from these, sporadic cases of retaliatory killing from irate communities have been reported. Other important reasons of tiger population decline are habitat shrinkage and fragmentation due to human intervention, loss/decline of prey species.

The government of Nepal has approved and launched the 'Tiger Conservation Action Plan 2008- 2012'. A comprehensive management plan has been devised in which the target is to increase the population of tigers by 10 per cent within the first five year period of the plan implementation.

Source: Science News – <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/07/090727135537.htm>

Worldwide – All Species IUCN Reports On Worldwide Wildlife Crisis

Summary/Resumen: A report recently released by IUCN, the world conservation organization, analyzes the status of nearly 45,000 species worldwide and reports that many of them are in a very serious situation./ Un informe de la IUCN analiza el estatus de casi 45.000 especies en el mundo y dice que muchas de ellas están en situaciones muy peligrosas.

Despite good news like the above stories, the situation for wildlife throughout the world remains grim. IUCN, the world conservation organization, has just released a report entitled “Wildlife In A Changing World” that shows that “life on Earth is under serious threat, despite the commitment by world leaders to reverse the trend...” Here’s some highlight from the report summary – a link below will take you to the related web site.

The report analyses 44,838 species on the IUCN “Red List” and presents results by groups of species, geographical regions, and different habitats, such as marine, freshwater and terrestrial.

It shows that 869 species are extinct or extinct in the wild, and this figure rises to 1,159 if the 290 critically endangered species tagged as possibly extinct are included. Overall, a minimum of 16,928 species are threatened with extinction. Considering that only 2.7 percent of the 1.8 million described species have been analyzed, this number is a gross underestimate, but it does provide a useful snapshot of what is happening to all forms of life on Earth.

An increased number of freshwater species have now been assessed, giving a better picture of the dire situation they face. In Europe, for example, 38 percent of all fishes are threatened and 28 percent in Eastern Africa. The high degree of connectivity in freshwater systems, allowing pollution or invasive species to spread rapidly, and the development of water resources with scant regard for the species that live in them, are behind the high level of threat.

In the oceans, the picture is similarly bleak. The report shows that a broad range of marine species are experiencing potentially irreversible loss due to over-fishing, climate change, invasive species, coastal development and pollution. At least 17 percent of the 1,045 shark and ray species, 12.4 percent of groupers and six of the seven marine turtle species are threatened with extinction. Most noticeably, 27 percent of the 845 species of reef building corals are threatened, 20 percent are near threatened and there is not enough data for 17 percent to be assessed. Marine birds are much more threatened than terrestrial ones with 27.5 percent in danger of extinction, compared with 11.8 percent of terrestrial birds.

The report shows nearly one third of amphibians, more than one in eight birds and nearly a quarter of mammals are threatened with extinction. For some plant groups, such as conifers and cycads, the situation is even more serious, with 28 percent and 52 percent threatened respectively. For all these groups, habitat destruction, through agriculture, logging and development, is the main threat and occurs worldwide.

Climate change is not currently the main threat to wildlife, but this may soon change, according to the report. After examining the biological characteristics of 17,000 species of birds, amphibians and reef building corals, the report found that a significant proportion of species that are currently not threatened with extinction are susceptible to climate change. This includes 30 percent of non-threatened birds, 51 percent of non-threatened corals and 41 percent of non-threatened amphibians, which all have traits that make them susceptible to climate change.

Source: IUCN report sent along by IRF member Wayne Lotter.

Full story: <http://www.iucn.org/?3460/Wildlife-crisis-worse-than-economic-crisis--IUCN>

News About Rangers

Democratic Republic of Congo – Virunga National Park Another Ranger Killed By Mai Mai Rebels

Summary/Resumen: Another ranger in Virunga National Park has been killed by rebels./ Los rebeldes han matado a un guardaparque más del parque nacional Virunga.

Back on January 8th, as previously reported, ranger Safari Kakule was killed by Mai Mai rebels while on patrol in the park. Word has now come of another ranger death. On March 30th, ranger Kambale Katambiriki was also gunned down while on patrol and Mai Mai rebels are again suspected. Katambiriki had been a ranger since 1996. He was 32 years old, married to Kabuo Salambongo, and had seven children – all under the age of 10. The last child, Chawite, was born earlier on this year.



The above photo is from a series of images of Katambiriki's funeral that appears on the Gorilla.CD website.

Source: Gordon Miller, past president, IRF, plus international web pages.

For more information and images, go to: <http://gorillacd.org/2009/04/11/ranger-katambiriki-1977-2009/>

New South Wales – Blue Mountains National Park Rangers Injured In Search and Rescue Operations

Summary/Resumen: Two rangers were injured during rescue operations in New South Wales, but neither too seriously./ . Dos guardaparque fueron heridos, no seriamente, durante un operativo de rescate en New South Wales.

IRF member Tegan Burton has forwarded this report from Jules Bros, a ranger in the Kanangra Area:

Two New South Wales rangers were injured during winch operations in thick bushland of Blue Mountains National Park during search and rescue operations for the missing (and now infamous) British backpacker, Jamie Neale. NPWS officers from the Blue Mountains Region, along with Police Rescue, Rural Fire Service (RFS), Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA) and State Emergency Services (SES) personnel spent a week combing the rugged World Heritage Area southwest of the iconic Three Sisters, looking for Neale.

Both injuries were sustained from branch falls during low winch operations in the thickly vegetated cool temperate rainforest gullies. The BK 117 Polair helicopter was used for these winch operations. During extraction operations, the strong 'rotorwash' caused a coachwood tree to break in half and a branch fell, hitting ranger Vanessa Richardson on the arm and breaking it below the elbow. She was unable to be winched using the 'horse collar' due to her injury, so a paramedic was winched down from the rescue helicopter, 'Careflight'. Pain relief was administered intravenously and the arm stabilized before she was taken by helicopter to a hospital. Fortunately the ranger was wearing a fire helmet at the time or the injury sustained would have been fatal as the branch first struck her head.

The other injury was also caused by a falling branch during winch operations. The ranger was struck on the side of the head whilst crouching below the hovering helicopter. He sustained a laceration to the head and bruising and was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

An investigation is underway and may result in recommendations for changes to winch operations in due course.

International Opportunities

United Arab Emirates – Jebel Hafit National Park Opening For Superintendent

Summary/Resumen: This new park will be hiring a superintendent. Information is provided on how to apply./ Este nuevo parque está por emplear a un director. La información sobre como someter su solicitud se ve abajo.

The Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage in the United Arab Emirates will probably post a job for the permanent superintendent of Jebel Hafit National Park within the next couple of months. This is a new park that is just getting started. Those interested could look it up on www.ADACH.ae, click on English, click on ADACH, click on Joining ADACH. For information, interested parties can send an email to retired U.S. park ranger Dick Martin at qsmamo@frontiernet.net or call him at 530-547-4961. He is traveling at present, so will not be checking his email every day. He will get back to you, though.

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Prepared and published by the International Ranger Federation as a service to rangers around the world. Submissions should be sent to Bill Halainen at Bill_Halainen@contractor/nps.gov .

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