



## 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](mailto:Bill_Halainen@nps.gov)). Summaries in Spanish for each article were prepared by Rick Smith ([rsmith0921@earthlink.net](mailto:rsmith0921@earthlink.net)).

### **Emergency Services And Law Enforcement**

#### **Peru – Bosque de Pomac Historic Sanctuary Two Police Officers Killed While Evicting Squatters**

*Summary:* Two policemen died and four were seriously injured on Tuesday, January 20th, while evicting hundreds of peasant families from the sanctuary, located in northern Peru. The families had been illegally occupying the reserve for more than a year. The eviction was ordered by the court.

*Resumen:* Dos policía murieron y cuatro fueron gravemente heridos el jueves, 20 de enero durante un operativo para desalojar a cientos de familias campesinas del refugio localizado en el norte de Perú. Las familias han ocupado la reserva ilegalmente por más de un año. El desalojamiento fue por orden de la corte.

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Two policemen died and four were seriously injured on Tuesday, January 20th, while evicting hundreds of peasant families from a nature preserve in northern Peru's Lambayeque region. According to a television report, the dead policemen were shot when they were moving into the interior of the Bosque de Pomac to expel the people illegally occupying the reserve for more than a year. Apparently, the eviction operation, which was carried out in compliance with a court order, was unfolding amid an uneasy calm when a group of residents in the zone unexpectedly attacked the police with assault rifles. The attack sparked a furious shootout for more than 10 minutes between the cops and the settlers... The Supreme Court issued a ruling ordering the Indians' eviction from the more than 1,200 hectares (3,000 acres) they had invaded in the Bosque de Pomac, located some 800 kilometers (500 miles) north of Lima. The site is part of a protected area for different flora and fauna, where many species are in danger of extinction, and it is also a rich archaeological treasure trove.

[The article above came from the *Latin American Herald Tribune*. You can read more about the reserve on its official site, which offers the information in Spanish and English:

[http://www.mincetur.gob.pe/TURISMO/Plan\\_Copesco/proyectos/pomac/ubicacion.html](http://www.mincetur.gob.pe/TURISMO/Plan_Copesco/proyectos/pomac/ubicacion.html) ]

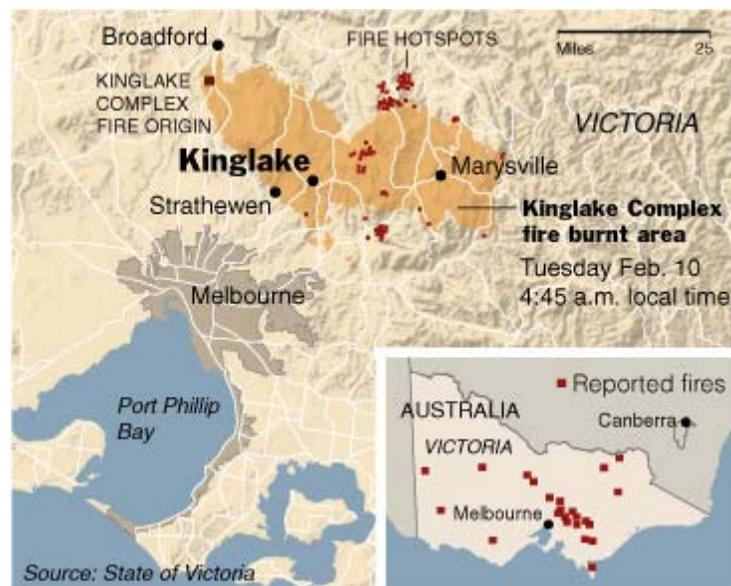
## **Australia – Victoria State Australia Fire Toll Could Exceed 200**

*Summary:* Wildfires, some of them intentionally set, have so far burned over 800,000 acres, destroyed more than 750 houses, and killed nearly 200 people – a number that may rise to more than 200. Most of the fires have occurred in Victoria in the south of Australia. Although extremely high temperatures and winds were responsible for unusually severe conditions, it appears that arsonists also were a factor. Many of the deaths are therefore being treated as murders and a major investigation is underway.

*Resumen:* Incendios, algunos de ellos prendidos intencionalmente, han quemado más de 350,000 has., destruyeron 750 casas, y mataron a 200 personas, una cifra que puede incrementar. La mayoría de los incendios ocurrieron en el estado de Victoria en el sur de Australia. Aunque las temperaturas muy elevadas y los vientos fuertes produjeron condiciones muy severas, parece que los incendiarios fueron también un factor. Muchos de los muertos, entonces, son tratados como víctimas de homicidio y una investigación significativa ha sido lanzada.

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The toll from Australia's wildfires could exceed 200 dead, a top official said last Tuesday, as investigators warned it will take months to identify the bodies and determine whether arsonists were responsible for the worst blaze which killed scores of people. Police have so far confirmed 181 deaths as the fires ripped across the southern state of Victoria on Saturday, February 7th. But the state's premier, John Brumby, said more than 50 people remained missing as of Tuesday afternoon. "These are people who the coroner believes are already deceased but are not yet identified," Mr. Brumby said. "So this is going to be a significant number, it will exceed 200 deaths."



Officials declared crime scenes across huge tracts of land where dozens of victims died in their cars or huddled in their houses during the worst wildfires in Australian history. The Victorian state police commissioner, Christine Nixon, told a local radio station on Tuesday that one of the fires, which killed at least 21 people in the eastern region of Gippsland, was deliberately set, and police "believe there may be more..."

Police said it was still unclear whether arsonists were responsible for the deadliest blaze, a 60-mile-long fire front that killed at least 147 people and decimated several hillside towns northeast of Melbourne. Officials set up a task force to examine how many of the fires were lit by arsonists, who could face murder charges if arrested. Dannye Moloney, who is heading the force, said the team of 100 top investigators would also try to determine the circumstances of each death, but he warned the process could take months...

State and federal officials began trying to find shelter for hundreds of people left homeless in the disaster. More than 900 houses were destroyed and some 7,000 people have appealed for assistance from the Australian Red Cross, local media reported....

**NOTE:** See also “News About Rangers” below for information on how the fires have affected Parks Victoria staff.

[The article above came from the U.S. *New York Times*:  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/11/world/asia/11australia.html?\\_r=1&hp](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/11/world/asia/11australia.html?_r=1&hp) ]

## **Species Management**

### **France – Mercantour National Park/Italy – Alpi Marittime Natural Park Biodiversity Inventory Underway For Two Neighboring Parks**

*Summary:* A park in France and a park in Italy that border each other are working together to create an inventory of all species.

*Resumen:* Un parque en Francia y uno en Italia están cooperando para producir un inventario de todas las especies.

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Emmanuel Icardo from Parc National Du Mercantour has sent this report to us about a biodiversity inventory being conducted in his park and Alpi Marittime Natural Park in Italy. Emmanuel also added this note: “French rangers are not yet members of the IRF (unfortunately), but are currently working on running a French ranger association.”

The Mercantour/Alpi Marittime All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory and Monitoring Project consists of a systematic inventory of the biodiversity of Mercantour National Park (France) and the Alpi Marittime Natural Park (Italy). Signed into existence in 2006, this transborder project draws on the European taxonomy community, seeking to produce the most reliable and exhaustive description possible of this biodiversity, and especially of the least studied taxa (entomofauna, non-vascular vegetation, fungi, etc.). This project contributes to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio, 1992) by striving to reduce our shortfall in taxonomy and to rapidly enhance our knowledge of a biodiversity threatened with extinction.

After two seasons of investigations by individuals or small groups on the pilot sites located in valley Roya (Mercantour) and in the Alpi Marittime, it is our goal, beginning in 2009, to focus this project on investigations by teams of researchers and to work on a larger scale. These teams will be formed based on areas of specialization, investigative methodology and work themes, and will work on a set of zones that are representative of the area. The two parks will place seasonal field technicians at the disposal of these teams in order to ensure that their investigations proceed smoothly. Data collection will be followed by classification of the specimens, sequencing of part of their DNA (bar-coding), and their inclusion in a collection at the MNHN.

The data acquired as part of this inventory will quickly be made accessible to the public on the site of the National Inventory of Natural Heritage site (<http://inpn.mnhn.fr>) and information about the project will be regularly updated on the PNM's site (<http://www.mercantour.eu/>), and on the site devoted to the project (<http://www.atbi.eu/mercantour-maritime/>).

The ATBI+M is currently funded by the MEEEDDAT [French Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Infrastructure], the Albert II of Monaco Foundation and the Government of Monaco.

## **Parks And Protected Areas**

### **Thailand – Khao Phra Viharn National Park National Park Reopens To Visitors**

*Summary:* The park reopened last Tuesday, February 10th, after being closed for seven months due to a border dispute between Thailand and Cambodia.

*Resumen:* Este parque volvió a abrir el jueves, el 10 de febrero, después de haber sido cerrado por 7 meses debido a una disputa sobre el límite entre Camboya y Tailandia.

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Khao Phra Viharn National Park in Si Sa Ket reopens today, seven months after being closed due to a border dispute between Thailand and Cambodia. It is hoped the reopening will breathe new life into the local tourism industry while easing the strained relationship between the two neighbors. The national park in Kantharalak District has been closed to the public since last July 14th following a military stand-off, dealing a severe blow to tourism-related businesses. Provincial authorities and business operators had pushed for the reopening to no avail until last week when Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwan and army commander Gen Anupong Paojinda agreed to their request...The official reopening will take place in early April...

Park visitors, however, will not be permitted to cross the border into Cambodia to see Preah Vihear temple, an 11th-century Hindu monument that has been the cause of a sovereignty dispute between the two neighboring countries for decades. Preah Vihear, perched on a 525-meter-high cliff on the Dongrak mountain range that defines the Thai-Cambodian border, sparked a short border clash last July after UNESCO's listing of the temple as a World Heritage Site. Cambodia's detention of three Thai nationals who refused to leave the temple to protest the listing prompted some 150 Thai paramilitary troops to cross into the disputed area and some 800 troops to be dispatched to the area in show of force. Cambodia responded by dispatching hundreds of its own troops as well, leading to a several border clashes that left two Cambodian soldiers dead and several Thais wounded.

Despite numerous bilateral talks since the flare-up, Thailand and Cambodia continue to keep troops posted in the temple's vicinity. Thailand insists that the territory around the temple is still disputed. Ownership of the 11th-century temple has been a bone of contention between the two countries for decades. The temple was awarded to Cambodia in 1962 by the International Court in The Hague, but the surrounding border area is still disputed. Many Thais were angered by UNESCO's decision to list the temple as a World Heritage Site before the dispute over the adjacent area was settled.

[The above was taken from two sources. The first paragraph is from *The Bangkok Post* and can be found at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/11332/park-reopens-to-tourists> ; the second on the causes for the closure comes from Monsters and Critics.com and can be found at [http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/asiapacific/news/article\\_1458506.php/Thailand\\_reopens\\_national\\_park\\_near\\_disputed\\_temple](http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/asiapacific/news/article_1458506.php/Thailand_reopens_national_park_near_disputed_temple) ]

## Park Management

### World Parks and Protected Areas

#### World Conservation Congress Reports On Protected Areas Posted

*Summary:* The article lists a number of key points concerning parks and protected areas that came out of last October's IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona. A link is provided at bottom for more details on the Congress.

*Resumen:* Este artículo contiene muchos puntos claves sobre los parques y las áreas protegidas que fueron productos del Congreso Internacional de UICN el octubre pasado en Barcelona. Un enlace aparece al fin de nuestro resumen para más detalles.

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Eight thousand of the world's conservation leaders gathered in Barcelona last October at the IUCN World Conservation Congress. One of the main themes of the congress concerned protected area issues. As reported in a recent IUCN newsletter, some of the key messages from the Congress of relevance for protected areas included the following:

- The world is currently facing a species extinction crisis. The 2008 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, launched at the Congress, showed that rates of species extinction are at unparalleled levels. As one example, the recently released assessment of mammals showed that more than one in four mammal species are currently threatened with extinction. Effectively managed protected areas were noted as a major part of the solution to this extinction crisis.
- The escalating impacts of climate change on biodiversity and on people was a recurring theme throughout the Congress. Delegates stressed the critical role of protected areas in addressing climate impacts, in particular through maintaining stores of carbon and through protecting and enhancing vital ecosystem services.
- Increasing evidence of the benefits of protected areas was presented to the Congress. As one example, a study of over 120 "no take" marine protected areas presented to the Congress demonstrated without question that such areas restore marine species and ecosystems.
- The launch of the 2008 World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) at the Congress noted that the rate of protected area establishment continues to grow. This was also reinforced in the major new protected area publication launched at the Congress: *The World's Protected Areas: Status, Values and Prospects in the 21 Century*. However, these areas face many challenges, including climate change, increasing global demand for agricultural and forest commodities, and the impacts of infrastructure projects, including transportation, mass tourism, and oil, gas and hard rock mining. Congress delegates underlined that for protected areas to better respond to these challenges they must be better managed, better connected, and better financed.
- Many activities and events at the Congress noted that there have been positive developments in relation to the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities with protected areas but that much additional work remains to be done; The adoption of the new IUCN Programme which places biodiversity at the core of the programme and emphasizes the One Programme Concept in delivering results has a number of implications for the future work of IUCN on protected areas.
- Overall the Congress was very successful for both protected areas and also for WCPA, with the adoption of the WCPA mandate, the unopposed re-election of Nik Lopoukhine as WCPA chair for another four years, and a very productive WCPA members meeting. A number of WCPA themes and task forces also took the opportunity of the WCC to hold meetings of their members who were present.

[This information was taken from a longer IUCN newsletter that can be found at [http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/wcpa\\_focus/wcpa\\_events/wcpa\\_wcc08/index.cfm](http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/wcpa_focus/wcpa_events/wcpa_wcc08/index.cfm)]

## News About Rangers

### **Democratic Republic of Congo – Garamba National Park Rangers, Wardens And Park Staff Killed, Injured And Abducted In Rebel Attack**

*Summary:* Several rangers and wardens, park workers and family members were killed, injured or abducted in a rebel raid in early January. The names are listed.

*Resumen:* Varios guardas y otros empleados fueron matados, heridos o secuestrados durante una acción de los rebeldes. Los nombres aparecen debajo.

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On Friday, January 2nd, Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels raided a Congolese army base in the Garamba jungles to get food. During the overnight raid, the rebels attacked a park ranger station in Magero town, a few kilometers from the Sudan border. About 50 LRA rebels were involved. A battle followed with the FARDC (the Congolese army).

During the fight, a number of rangers, members of their families and other workers were killed, injured or abducted. The African Parks Foundation has listed their names, which are reprinted here:

#### Killed

Takipi Mawotama (ranger)  
Bakpe Miso (ranger)  
Atandroa Mokobe (ranger)  
Makili nZambia (general worker)  
Mbili Moke (general worker, electrician)  
Wife of principal warden Ligilima  
Wife of warden Shematsi  
Silu (daughter of ranger officer Tamwasi)  
Guapa (Nagero villager)  
Atolobako Vukoyo (ranger officer, abducted by the LRA and found dead on January 19th)

#### Wounded

Atakuru Surandi (chief ranger officer)  
Aguma (Nagero villager)  
Ayezema Madrandele (worker)  
Ngbapay (Nagero villager)  
Vene (ranger's wife)  
Bernard lyomi (chief warden)

#### Missing and Probably Abducte

Azangia Nakengia (ranger)  
Atakuru Manyanga (son of a ranger)  
Aumbo Mandima (son of a ranger)

[This information was taken from two web site – AllAfrica.com  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200901050014.html> and The African Parks Network  
[http://www.african-parks.org/apffoundation/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=193&Itemid=129](http://www.african-parks.org/apffoundation/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=193&Itemid=129) ]

## **Australia – Parks Victoria Park Staffs Deal With Impacts Of Fires**

*Summary:* The head of Parks Victoria has sent a message about the impacts of the fires on his staff. They are holding up well, but several have lost homes. A number of former staff members have died in the fires.

*Resumen:* El Director de los parques de Victoria ha enviado un mensaje detallando los impactos de los incendios sobre su staff. Dice que están aguantando el desastre pero algunos han perdido sus residencias. Algunos de su staff retirado han perecido debido a los incendios.

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Mark Stone, the chief executive of Parks Victoria, sent this note to IRF member Tegan Burton about the impacts of the terrible fires in Victoria on their parks and park staff. Here's the text:

*Thank you for your kind thoughts. The team at Parks Victoria is holding up well.*

*We have been blessed in that no staff have been injured. Unfortunately, many have lost relatives including their mums, dads and sisters. Several former staff members have perished and many close colleagues from our park communities have also lost their lives. Six staff have lost their homes and all staff at Kinglake lost their cars when our office and depot was destroyed.*

*Many Parks Victoria staff have discovered bodies in the hardest hit areas, including the discovery of nine bodies on a walking track. I have been out in the Kinglake area and the actual impact on the ground is unfortunately even more graphic than the news footage.*

*On the positive side, there are a number of heroic stories where staff have saved each other and also directly saved the lives of community members. There are also many fires that have been controlled and therefore prevented further mass destruction. Our immediate challenge is to contain four major fires and prevent one in particular from getting into the valuable Melbourne water catchment. That will test us for the next few days. We have great support from our interstate and New Zealand colleagues and we will be utilizing the skills of these staff over the coming weeks.*

*Your kind words and thoughts are very much appreciated and I will ensure they are forwarded to the rest of the Parks Victoria team.*

If you would like to send a message of support, please direct it to his assistant, Diane Kinsey, at: [dkinsey@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:dkinsey@parks.vic.gov.au) .

## **Costa Rica – Manuel Antonio National Park en Quepos Six Rangers Assaulted In Armed Theft**

*Summary:* Six rangers were assaulted in the theft of money from the park. The attackers are believed to have been foreigners.

*Resumen:* 6 guardaparques fueron agredidos en un robo de las entradas del parque. Los delincuentes fueron presumiblemente extranjeros.

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IRF member Daniel Paz Barreto has sent this report on an assault on rangers that occurred on January 4, 2009. His message is in Spanish; the translation into English is by past IRF president Rick Smith:

Cuatro sujetos armados asaltaron ayer a seis guardaparques del Parque Nacional Manuel Antonio en Quepos, y se llevaron unos \$9 millones y sus tarjetas personales. El atraco ocurrió pasadas las 5 de la tarde cuando los funcionarios se disponían a abandonar el parque. Los sujetos los encañonaron y los obligaron a entregar el efectivo, que correspondía al pago de entradas al parque, manifestaron los afectados a oficiales de la Fuerza Pública local.

Además explicaron a las autoridades que por el acento de los delincuentes, presumen que serían extranjeros. Una vez que sustrajeron el dinero, se dieron a la fuga sin dejar rastro. Allan Herrera, oficial de la Fuerza Pública de Quepos, informó que se realizaron varios operativos en las principales calles de acceso, sin obtener resultados. Hoy a primera hora, la policía y agentes del Organismo de Investigación Judicial (OIJ) continuarán con la búsqueda de los responsables del asalto.

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Four armed suspects assaulted six park rangers from Manuel Antonio National Park en Quepos and made off with nine million colones and the personal identification cards of the rangers. The robbery took place after 5:00 in the afternoon as the rangers were leaving the park. The suspects seized the rangers and made them turn over the cash, which corresponded to the entrance fees paid at the park, the rangers told officials of the local police. They also told the authorities that because of the accent of the thieves, the rangers presumed that they were foreigners. Once they had the money, they left without leaving a trail. Allan Herrera, a Quepos police official, said that the police carried out several investigation in the principal streets of the city without results. This morning, agents of the Judicial Investigation Agency will continue the search for those responsible for the assault

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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@nps.gov](mailto:Bill_Halainen@nps.gov) .

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