



GUARDAPARQUE

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

Law Enforcement And Emergency Services

Kenya – Mount Kenya National Park Elephant Tramples Mother And Daughter To Death

Summary/Resumen: An American woman and her year-old daughter were killed by an elephant evidently protecting its calf while they were on a hike in the park earlier this month with other family members./
Una norteamericana y su hija de un año fueron matados durante una caminata en el parque con los familiares por un elefante que evidentemente estaba protegiendo a su cría

An American woman was hiking with family and her one-year-old daughter in a Kenyan nature reserve in early January when suddenly their unarmed guide froze in his tracks – around a corner was an elephant. The guide shouted to turn back, but it was too late. The elephant — which was protecting a calf nearby — gored the young American mother, tossed her in the air and dragged her body into the forest. The baby, who was flung out of her carrier, also died. The 38-year-old New York native and her husband had decided to take the guided hike with their baby after being told by the owner of the Castle Forest Lodge, located just outside the park, that it was safe for such a young child. The family blamed the lodge staff for not warning them about potential dangers and for failing to provide adequate emergency help after the tragedy. Because Castle Forest lies just outside the boundary of Mt. Kenya National Park, the family was with a hotel guide who was not allowed to carry a gun, said a spokeswoman for the Kenya Wildlife Service. Only park rangers can carry guns. The elephant's aggression likely came from the fact that the calf was present. Deaths caused by animals are common enough in Kenya that the government has a set rate to pay families in the case of such killings — about \$2,600, a large sum for rural Kenyans. The government pays \$660 for injuries caused by animals. This attack recalled a 2000 elephant attack on a British tourist while she was jogging inside the Il Ngwesi ranch, 60 miles north of the lodge. The woman, who survived with a crushed pelvis, had also been accompanied an unarmed guide. She was awarded \$1 million in compensation by a Kenyan court in a case that forced organizations dealing with wildlife tourism to review security measures.

Source – ABC News, USA: <http://abcnews.go.com/Travel/wireStory?id=9507524>

United States – Death Valley National Park Rangers Rescue Four Lost Hikers

Summary/Resumen: Four hikers who were two days overdue from a hike in the park were found after a major search by rangers./ Cuatro mochileros fueron encontrados por los guardaparques después de haber sobrepasado su fecha de regreso por dos días.

On the evening of January 6th, rangers received a report of two missing hikers who were reported to be on a route through Sheep Canyon – a hike that had recently been featured in the popular U.S. *Backpacker* magazine. Interviews with family and friends of the missing hikers revealed that there were actually four members of the party, and that all four were two days overdue. Three search teams deployed on the morning of January 7th and found numerous sets of footprints matching those associated with their vehicle, which was parked at the mouth of the canyon. Around noon, an observer on an airplane from Lake Mead National Recreation Area, a nearby U.S. national park, spotted a large white “X”, a signal fire, and a person waving at the plane. One of the search teams located the other three individuals trapped in Willow Canyon shortly thereafter. A Navy Seahawk helicopter from China Lake Naval Weapons Center successfully hoisted all four of the hikers out of the canyon and delivered them to a medical center. Initial reports were that one member of the party injured an ankle, and that the others were suffering from minor exposure and dehydration.

Source – U.S. National Park Service *Morning Report*

Everglades NP Court Awards Park Damages In Vessel Grounding Case

Summary/Resumen: The United States filed suit against a man for causing serious destruction to a biological community when he grounded his big boat on a shoal in park waters, then tried to use full power to get it off. The man has agreed to pay the NPS almost \$300,000 US in damages./ El gobierno de los EEUU presentó cargos en contra de un hombre que en su barco chocó con un bajío en las aguas del parque y trató de sacar el barco a utilizar el poder máximo de los motores. El hombre pagará \$300.000 (US) para los daños.

A civil lawsuit between the United States and David Marlow was recently settled with Marlow agreeing to compensate Everglades National Park for damages caused by his vessel running aground in Florida Bay. Marlow agreed to pay \$295,000 in the suit filed by the Department of Justice on behalf of the park. On February 13, 2006, Marlow was operating his 72-foot vessel, the *Rebel Yell*, en route from Sned Island on Florida's Gulf Coast to Miami. The vessel ran aground on Arsenic Bank in the southwestern portion of Florida Bay within the park. Attempts to power the vessel off the shoal resulted in significant damage to the sea grass environment on the shallow bank. These beds serve as nurseries for lobster, crabs, shrimp and other recreational and commercially important fish and invertebrates. The lawsuit was filed under the Park System Resource Protection Act, which allows the U.S. National Park Service to seek compensation for injuries to park resources and use the recovered funds to restore and monitor such resources. The park will engage in a dynamic restoration program at this site that will include filling in the large holes and planting sea grass. Florida Bay encompasses approximately 300,000 acres of the 1.5 million acres within the park. The entire bay bottom was designated as wilderness by Congress in 1978 and is included in the 1.3-million-acre Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness.

Source – U.S. National Park Service *Morning Report*

Species Management

Worldwide – Parks and Protected Areas IUCN Launches “Species Of The Day” Website

Summary/Resumen: A web site has been created by IUCN that each day lists another of the world’s many endangered species. The objective is to educate people about the tremendous threats to species everywhere./ Un sitio de web ha sido creado por la UICN que cada día pone en foco una de las múltiples especies en peligro de extinción en el mundo. El objetivo es el educar a la gente sobre las amenazas a estas especies.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is increasing awareness of the enormous variety of life on our planet and raising the profile of threatened species by launching the IUCN Red List ‘Species of the Day’ on its website at <http://www.iucn.org/>.

IUCN’s mission is to help the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges: “Biodiversity is the backbone of all life on earth, and its conservation lies at the very core of IUCN’s work. ‘Species of the Day’ has been launched as part of IUCN’s involvement in the International Year of Biodiversity. With mounting scientific evidence of a serious extinction crisis, it’s time to take action. Jane Smart, Director of IUCN’s Biodiversity Conservation Group, said that, ‘The latest analysis of the IUCN Red List shows the 2010 target to reduce biodiversity loss will not be met. It’s time for governments to get serious about saving species and make sure it’s high on their agendas for next year, as we’re rapidly running out of time.’”

Each day throughout 2010, a different species will be featured on the IUCN website. It will include information on the species range, threats to the species, and conservation priorities. The 365 species selected represent the entire range of taxonomic groups and cover all regions. The website will first feature some of the better known species; such as the polar bear. It will move on to cover lesser well known plants, fungi, invertebrates, and more. Both charismatic and obscure species will be featured, providing an insight into the astonishing level of biodiversity that exists on our world.

On January 6th, for example, the Asian elephant was featured: “The Asian elephant, *Elephas maximus*, is listed as ‘Endangered’ on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. It is found in isolated populations in 13 tropical Asian countries. The Asian elephant is smaller than its African savannah relative; the ears are smaller and the back is more rounded. The numbers of Asian elephants have been decimated by habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation, driven by an expanding human population. This causes elephants to become increasingly isolated, often coming into conflict with local farmers. Crops are damaged and lives lost; up to 300 people a year are killed by elephants in India. Poaching for ivory is also a threat and because only males have tusks, populations can become extremely skewed towards females, thus affecting breeding rates. The most important conservation priorities for the Asian Elephant are: conservation of their habitat and maintaining habitat connectivity by securing corridors; management of human–elephant conflicts; improved legislation and law enforcement with enhanced field patrolling; and regulating/curbing trade in ivory and other elephant products.”

For more information on the IUCN Red List see: www.iucnredlist.org .

Source – International Union for Conservation of Nature

Parks And Protected Areas

Uruguay – Chamanga Protected Area Fifth Protected Area Established In Uruguay

Summary/Resumen: A fifth area has been added to Uruguay's national park system./Una quinta área protegida ha sido agregada al sistema de áreas protegidas (SNAP) de Uruguay.

Chamangá, a new area, has been added to Uruguay's National System of Protected Areas (SNAP). The area contains natural and cultural values, especially cave paintings, that have been the subject of studies and investigations. A management plan will be developed to define park standards and install a special advisory committee for the area. This new area joins four existing sites in Uruguay.

Source – Report forwarded by IRF President Deanne Adams

Ecuador – Yasuni National Park Oil Extraction Threatens World's Most Diverse National Park

Summary/Resumen: A new report says that the park could contain the world's most diverse collection of animal and plant life. But it sits above a huge reservoir of oil, and there are concerns that drilling may occur there./ Un Nuevo informe dice que este parque podría contener la más diversa colección de la flora y fauna en el mundo. Pero está situado también sobre un embalse vasto de petróleo y se teme que se ocurra exploración allí.

Yasuni National Park in Ecuador could contain the world's most diverse collection of animal and plant life, according to a new report published in the *PLoS One* journal. Poison frogs, fruit bats, and rare jungle plant life are all endemic to the national park, which climate modelers believe will remain moist despite a drier climate. Biologists are concerned about this area, as it sits on one of the largest oil and natural gas reserves in South America. The report is most concerned with the northeast corner of the park, which sits almost directly above the heart of the deposit. The government of Ecuador is asking for millions of dollars each year from rich countries in order to pay to keep the oil in the ground.

The always-moist conditions of this area have allowed species here to thrive for tens of millions of years, say biologists at Duke University. Other areas in the Amazon slowly shifted to a dryer climate over that time period, which researchers say led to the die-off of rare species still found in the Yasuni National Park. Another piece of conservation in this area comes in the form of uncontacted tribes, some of the last vestiges of native Amazonian culture.

This may not be enough to stop the drills. As Ecuador's top export, the amount of crude oil underneath the Yasuni National Park is estimated to exceed a billion barrels, which has a total market price that exceeds the whole country's GDP. President Rafael Correa says that he wishes to leave the Yasuni National Park untouched, but he cannot without compensation from the international community. While drilling is estimated to bring \$700 million into the country each year, Correa offered to accept half that amount each year to leave the oil in the ground. Two years have passed without any serious bids or Correa's initiative. Despite this, Correa is still working to preserve the Yasuni National Park through a global carbon market. With the failure to establish said market at the Copenhagen climate summit, it is unclear what is to ultimately become of the Yasuni National Park.

Source – Eco Factory website: <http://www.ecofactory.com/news/oil-extraction-threatens-worlds-most-diverse-national-park-012810>

Cameroon – Mount Cameroon National Park Congo Ecosystems Boosted By New Protected Area

Summary/Resumen: A new national park that includes more than 58,000 hectares of land has been established in Cameroon./ Un nuevo parque nacional de más de 58.000 has. ha sido creado en Camerún.

A mountain and an area of rainforest in the Congo Basin have been awarded protected status by the Cameroon government. Mount Cameroon and the region surrounding it have been designated a national park, with more than 58,000 hectares of land being included in the new park. The World Wildlife Federation has welcomed the announcement and commented that it will help animal and plant populations in the region recover from poaching and habitat destruction. Atanga Ekobo, manger of the WWF Coastal Forest Project, which includes the area surrounding Mount Cameroon, was optimistic about the national park's future: "It will also encourage the sustainable use of natural resources by introducing and promoting alternative sources of income to the local communities."

According to the organization, Mount Cameroon is an important refuge for wildlife, much of which is not found anywhere else in the world. The United Nations has designated 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity and is running a number of conferences to raise awareness about the subject over the coming 12 months

Source – International Environmental Technology web page: http://www.envirotech-online.com/news/environmental-analysis/7/breaking_news/environmental_analysis_news_congo_ecosystems_boosted_by_cameroon_protection/7909/

Canada – Gwaii Haanas Protected Area World's First Mountain Top to Sea Floor Protected Area Created

Summary/Resumen: The government of Canada and the Haida Nation have signed an agreement that adds a marine conservation area to an existing heritage site and creates the first natural area in the world that is protected from the very tops of the mountains to the bottom of the ocean./ El gobierno canadiense y la nación aboriginal Haida han firmado un acuerdo que agrega un área marítima conservacionista a un sitio terrestre de patrimonio. Esta es la primera área natural en el mundo que protege desde las cumbres de las montañas hasta el piso del mar.

Parks Canada and the Haida Nation have signed a momentous agreement that commits the government of Canada and the council of the Haida Nation to share in the planning, operations and management of the waters surrounding the Gwaii Haanas protected area in southern Haida Gwaii. This new Gwaii Haanas Marine Agreement is an important step towards the government of Canada's proposal to establish these waters as a National Marine Conservation Area Reserve that would complement the existing Haida designation of the area as a Heritage Site. This would be the first natural area in the world that is protected from the very tops of the mountains to the bottom of the ocean.

The Gwaii Haanas Marine Agreement expands upon the internationally recognized partnership that began with the signing of the Gwaii Haanas Agreement (1993 – land area). The proposed boundaries of the Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area Reserve follow those of the Haida Heritage Site extending about ten kilometer offshore from Gwaii Haanas, encompassing approximately 3,400 square kilometers of the Hecate Strait and Queen Charlotte Shelf Marine Regions. The addition of the Gwaii Haanas marine area to the existing national park reserve will result in over 5,000 square kilometers of protection from mountain top to sea floor – a first for Canada and the world.

The Gwaii Haanas Marine Agreement confirms the partners who will manage, protect and conserve the marine area for the benefit, education and enjoyment of the people of Haida Gwaii, Canada and the world. Haida traditional activities will continue and while conservation will be the focus, marine activities such as commercial fishing and recreational activities that meet conservation objectives will be permitted within the boundaries of the Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area Reserve.

Source – Parks Canada press release: http://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/cp-nr/release_e.asp?id=1487&andor1=nr

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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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