



GUARDAPARQUE

November, 2011

Volume 5

Number 7

Guardaparque is a publication prepared monthly (when possible) and issued by the International Ranger Federation (IRF), an organization of non-governmental and governmental ranger organizations from around the world. If you have a submission for **Guardaparque**, please send it to Editor Bill Halainen (Bill_Halainen@contractor.nps.gov).

Law Enforcement And Emergency Services

United States – National Parks

Father And Son Sentenced For Stealing Artifacts

In 2007, national and state rangers searching a house under a court order found nearly 40,000 native artifacts that had been collected throughout the region, many from parks and other protected areas. They also found and seized computers, GPS units, maps and photographs showing the occupants of the house searching for and collecting the artifacts, which included beads and other burial objects, such as abalone breastplates and pendants, projectile points, mortars, pestles, metates, and stone tools. Two of the residents, a father and his adult son, were indicted in October 2008 on four related felony charges. In July 2010, after extensive negotiations, the father agreed to surrender approximately 30,000 non-U.S. artifacts to the California Native American Heritage Commission. These artifacts, mostly burial goods, were then returned to the appropriate tribes by the commission. In July 2011, the father was sentenced to three years probation, including six months home arrest as a condition of his probation, a \$3,600 fine. In October 2011, the adult son was sentenced to 30 days in prison, three months home arrest, and one year of supervised release.

Taiwan – Taroko National Park

Injured Climber Rescued After Seven Days On Mountain

A smart phone helped rescuers locate the manager of a Taiwan-based smart phone maker who had an accident while mountain climbing in the park earlier this month. The 33-year-old man was flown from the mountain after rescue teams reached him seven days after he fell into a ravine. He was weak, but in generally good health. The man used his phone to call an emergency phone number and provide his coordinates. Strong wind, torrential rain and rugged terrain hampered rescue attempts.

For additional details, go to the GMA News website at

<http://www.gmanews.tv/story/238605/technology/smartphone-saves-htc-executives-life-in-climbing-accident>

Species Management

India – Corbett National Park Park And Nearby Areas Report High Tiger Mortality

Corbett National Park, which has the highest density of tigers per acre of any reserve in India, is dealing with the highest number of unexplained animal deaths in its 75 year history. The tiger reserve was established in 1936 and named after Jim Corbett, a hunter who became a conservationist.

TRAFFIC India, a wildlife trade monitoring network, has recorded 39 tiger deaths in the country in 2011, 19 of which occurred in Corbett's tiger reserve. Park managers have attributed most of the deaths to natural causes and are awaiting details of some other cases.

Efforts to save India's tiger population in special reserves have paid off in recent years. Project Tiger in its 2010 All Tiger Estimation Report recorded India's tiger population at 1,706, an improvement from 1,411 tigers in 2006. Some observers are concerned, though, that the high number of tourists visiting parks like Corbett each year is disturbing tigers' migratory patterns inside the park and causing some to stray into nearby villages, where they come in to conflict with locals and become easy prey for poachers. The encroachment of villages onto land designated as "buffer zones" for parks also is a concern, some environmentalists say.

For the full story, which appeared in the U.S. *Wall Street Journal*, go to this link:

http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2011/11/15/corbett-turns-75-records-highest-tiger-deaths/?mod=google_news_blog

India – Rajiv Gandhi National Park (Orang Sanctuary) Rhinos Put At Risk As Rangers Go Unpaid

One of the few remaining sanctuaries for the Asian one-horned rhinos is in the midst of a staffing crisis as rangers and park staff have not been paid for up to five months. Now 25 of the 68 home guards present at the sanctuary have refused to return to duty.

The Orang Sanctuary in Lower Assam, India -- also known as the Rajiv Gandhi National Park -- is home to the Great Indian one-horned rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*). There are thought to be only about 3,000 left in the wild and 2,000 of them are found in the Assam region. The Orang Sanctuary is believed to have 68 individual rhinos after successful conservation since 1972, when only 35 were recorded. The number of rhinos reached a high of 97 in 1991, when poaching started reducing their numbers. This was countered with more active patrols and numbers started to grow again from a recent low of 48.

It's not just the home guard rangers who have not been paid recently – 49 casual workers who are employed on anti-poaching tasks have not been paid for the last five months, either. The total forest ranger compliment of the park is 200 personnel and local media report that none of the regular wardens have been paid. Morale, not surprisingly, is reported to be at a near all-time low.

With unpaid rangers and others refusing to return to duty, the inevitable has happened and poaching is on the increase. Local investigators have discovered a newly formed poaching gang operating in the park. The park is also subject to poaching gangs coming in from the neighboring Nagaland province, with regular armed conflicts between forest rangers and poachers. During the last two years, 49 people have been arrested for poaching in the park and eight poachers have been killed.

For more information, go to the *Wildlife News* webpage: <http://wildlifeneeds.co.uk/2011/rhinos-put-at-risk-as-park-rangers-go-unpaid/>

Parks And Protected Areas

United States – National Park Service Two New National Parks Created

Two new parks were added to the National Park Service this fall – Paterson Great Falls National Historic Park and Fort Monroe National Monument. The United States now has 397 national parks.

Both of the new areas are mainly historic sites. The National Park Service has a responsibility for protecting the country's important historic areas, which make up the majority of sites in the system.

Fort Monroe is one of the country's oldest military bases and is important in the history of slavery, the Civil War, and the U.S. military. Paterson Great Falls tells significant stories about industrialization and immigration in the United States.

For more about Fort Monroe, click on this link: <http://www.nps.gov/fomr/index.htm>
For more on Paterson Great Falls, go to this site: <http://www.nps.gov/pagr/index.htm>

Democratic Republic of Congo – Virunga National Park Mount Nyamulagira Eruption Draws Visitors

Virunga National Park is inviting tourists on an overnight trek to a spectacular eruption of Mount Nyamulagira in eastern Congo. The volcano began erupting on November 6th and has several lava fountains spewing up to 650 feet (200 meters) into the air.

Rivers of incandescent lava are flowing slowly north into an uninhabited part of the park and pose no danger to its critically endangered mountain gorillas. The park has set up a camp in a safe area close to Nyamulagira, sometimes called Nyamuragira, where visitors can spend the night. The eruption could last days, or months. An eruption of nearby Mount Nyiragongo in 2002 destroyed most of Goma city and forced 350,000 residents to flee.

To see some great images of the eruption, go to the Global Post web page:
<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatches/globalpost-blogs/africa-emerges/africa%E2%80%99s-most-active-volcano-erupts>

News About Rangers

Zambia – Sioma Ngwesi National Park Two Rangers Killed By Poachers

The October 21st deaths of two Zambian Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) rangers, Libakengi Chibenge and Sitali Musolole, coincided with Zambian President Michael Sata dissolving ZAWA's board of directors.

According to reports, Sata "claims that ZAWA respects animals more than human beings – but in so doing has clearly given the green light to poachers. In an even more dramatic move, he pardoned more than 600 prisoners, most of whom had been jailed for wildlife-related offences. Deputy Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, Richard Musukwa, was at pains to assure parliament that the unfortunate incident was not in any way related to a statement made by President Michael Sata over ZAWA and his recent pardon of some prisoners over poaching-related offences. But it's hard to avoid making the connection between the president's outrageous decision and the deaths of these rangers.

For more details on this case, go to these two web pages:

<http://dailymaverick.co.za/article/2011-10-31-zambian-president-our-wildlife-is-fair-game>

<http://www.davidshepherd.org/news-events/news/poachers-claim-lives-of-wildlife-officers-as-baby-elephant-rescued-in-zambia/?mid=51>

**United States – National Park Service
Ranger Lisa Hendy Receives National Ranger Award**

Ranger Lisa Hendy has received the 2011 Harry Yount National Park Ranger Award for excellence as a ranger. This award, the highest honor bestowed on a U.S. National Park Service ranger, is named after the first park ranger, hired in Yellowstone in 1880.

“We count on rangers to tackle the toughest assignments; to protect the nearly 300 million people who visit parks annually,” said National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis. “Each year, we ask those rangers to single out one among them that epitomizes the ranger ethic and we give that person the Yount Award. This year we honor Lisa Hendy, supervisory park ranger at Grand Canyon National Park.”

Hendy can respond to any type of emergency call. She fights structural and wildland fires, provides advanced life support as a paramedic, rappels over the edge of the canyon to rescue people, performs mountaineering and climbing patrols, carries out law enforcement duties, serves on the helicopter crew, performs technical and swift water rescue, searches for lost hikers, plans special events, and monitors archeological sites. A fellow ranger said that no matter what happens, if Lisa is on the scene, everything will be OK

Hendy, a ranger since 1995, has worked at Grand Canyon National Park the last seven years. Prior assignments include Yellowstone, Rocky Mountain, and Arches National Parks.

Hendy praised her fellow rangers and thanked all those who have taught her along the way.

“Rangers are skilled enough to navigate the country’s most rugged wilderness and most volatile waterways,” she said. “They are the medics you want when you have slipped over the edge and the rescuers you need when you are in trouble. They save lives. They also do anything else needed to protect the park and the people in the park. They rehabilitate trampled campgrounds, mend fence line on the boundaries, teach children how to release a trout without hurting it, stir backcountry compost toilets, and direct traffic through wildlife jams. I am grateful daily to be a member of this family we call rangers.”

For more information, go to this web page: <http://www.nps.gov/aboutus/harry-yount-award.htm>

* * * * *

Prepared and published by the International Ranger Federation as a service to rangers around the world.

Contributing to this issue were IRF association members Roger Cole, Jeff Ohlfs,

Submissions should be sent to Bill Halainen at Bill_Halainen@contractor.nps.gov .