NEWS
The Thin Green Line FOUNDATION
May 2010

Delivering on our promise – 'We are with you'

The Thin Green Line Foundation (TGLF) in coordination with the International Ranger Federation (IRF) has continued to deliver on its promise and objective of both supporting families of rangers killed in the line of duty and minimizing rangers' deaths in the field.

Support of Rangers in South America, Uganda, DRC, Kenya

Prior to the International Ranger Congress in Bolivia in November 2009 TGLF was able to support the families of the following rangers killed in South America:

Hector Saez 2003, Drowned on boat patrol, Argentina Lanin National Park.

Jose Bareiro 2003, Drowned on boat patrol, Argentina, Lanin National Park.

Martin Duarte 2008 Colombia, murdered by fire arm, Macarena National Park.

Marta Hernandez 2004, Colombia, assassinated at gun point by paramilitary, Tyrona National Park.

Don Clemente Cruz, Bolivia, Parque Amboró, drowned on anti-poaching patrol.

Myself an Ayrton and Marcelo, rangers from Brazil, also assisted in building a sand bank to prevent flooding at the home of Clemente's wife, Lucia, and their children. We enlisted the help of the local council and army there. Many thanks to all involved in that.

This takes the number of rangers' families directly supported to 29 in seven countries with a further 22 to be supported in DRC and Kenya some time this month.

Our condolences to all of the above families who have lost their loved ones to conservation and the protection of nature. We are with you.

Some financial support was given to each family in the form of support for schooling, rent, housing, medicines, setting up businesses and payment of bills.

There are many other rangers' families to support in South and Central America as in the rest of the world, with an estimated 1000 rangers killed in the last 15 years.

Thanks to all the IRF and ranger families in these countries for assisting in the process of supporting these grieving families , especially Hector Valquez (ranger Colombia) and Julia Miranda (Director of Colombian National Parks), Ana Carola (IRF representative South America), Daniel Paz Bareto, Ricardo Druk, Salvador Vellido (rangers, Argentina).

Brother and Father of Colombian ranger Martin Durante (killed at gunpoint) with Director Colombian National Parks, Julia Miranda, Sean Willmore (TGLF) and Colombian Ranger- Hector Valasquez, after a ceremony to recognise and support Martin's family. Martin's family decided the support TGLF could offer would go towards the further education of Martin's 16 year-old daughter.

Carlos A. Hernández Jiménez, husband of murdered Colombian Ranger Marta Hernandez – with Colombian rangers and officials. Marta was gunned down in her front door by paramilitary.

Mosquito nets for Uganda and DRC

The TGLF recently made payment for $5000 USD to Ugandan Wildlife Authority and to African Wildlife Fund to purchase 1000 mosquito nets for the protection of rangers in Uganda and in DR Congo from mosquito born malaria and dengue fever. Many rangers have lost their lives or been severely debilitated in their duties due to the high incidence of malaria. While TGLF under its constitution cannot support families of rangers killed by malaria, as it is hard to prove where it was contracted, we can prevent further ranger deaths, and are happy to be able to provide this support to our colleagues in central Africa.

May 2010

NEWS

The Thin Green Line FOUNDATION

Support for Families in DRC

In October 2008 TGLF was able to send $10,000 USD emergency money to support rangers and their families as they were pushed out of Virunga National Park by 5000 rebel soldiers. The money was used to provide medicines, clean water and security in the emergency camp.

Further to this many of you will know that DRC has the highest incidence of rangers' deaths recorded and we have been working with the widows and especially head of Virunga National Park Emmanual De Merode and ranger Jobogo Mirindi to implement a safe and sustainable way of supporting the many widows (150+) of rangers killed in Virunga National Park. At the moment we can finance support for 20 more families and as funds are collected we can support more. Here the support will be in the form of housing, school fees, and starting sustainable businesses, possibly fair trade crafts or similar.

Bullet proof vests for Guatemala

Thanks to Tim Baily from US Parks Service and all involved for supplying two surplus bullet proof vests which were given to Tikkal National Park in Guatemala, where two rangers had been shot previously. TGLF will attempt to facilitate the distribution of more surplus equipment to help keep rangers safe on the frontline of conservation.

New President IRF on TGLF Board

A big welcome to International Ranger Federation President Deanne Adams as a Director on the Board of TGLF. Also a big thank-you to David Zeller the previous IRF president and TGLF Board Member, who made an invaluable contribution to TGLF setup and progression. The Policy of TGLF is that the IRF president shall having a voting position on the TGLF Board.

Gala Dinner July 31st, Festival November 6th

TGLF will hold a gala dinner on July 31st in coordination with the Victorian Rangers Association to raise funds for TGLF and its work.

Leading Australian musicians will perform and 300 guests will celebrate and support the work of the rangers around the world on World Rangers Day. (Check website for details shortly)

The 2nd Thin Green Line Festival will be held on November 6th on Parks Victoria's Coolart Wetlands. If you're in Australia this is a must see event with over 20 bands, world films, circus performances and more. We will be encouraging all of you around the world to join in this music celebration by hosting your own grassroots music event with fellow rangers, friends and communities to support and celebrate the work of rangers across the globe and support the much needed work of TGLF in its efforts to support families of rangers killed (check TGLF website for details shortly).

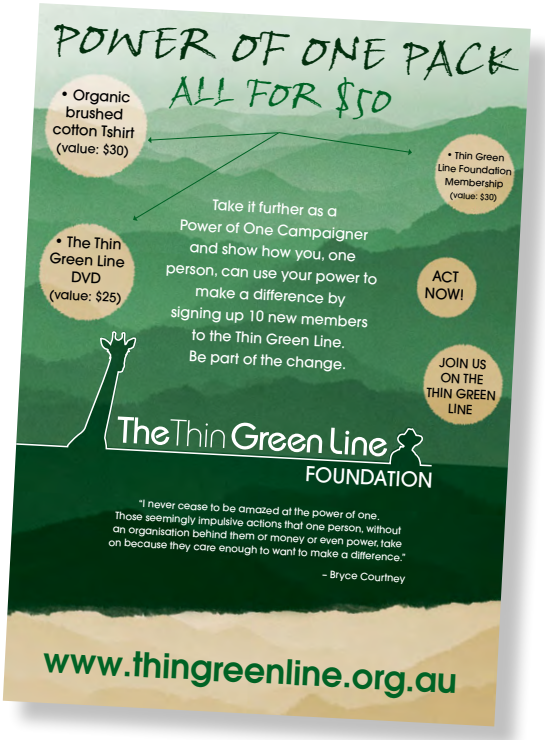
Above: Sean and Brazilian Rangers Ayrton and Marcelo with the family of Clemete Cruz, ranger killed in Bolivia.
A one metre build up of sand was deposited by fast flowing floods.

Below: Meeting with the widows and orphans of rangers in DRC.

May 2010

NEWS

The Thin Green Line FOUNDATION



Support for IRF congress from PV, VRA

Many thanks to all at Parks Victoria and The Victorian Rangers Association for supporting my trip to South America to both attend the IRF congress in Bolivia and to travel and implement TGLF's programs with the families of the rangers mentioned above, who were killed in the line of duty.

Google Earth Honour role

Thanks to Marcelo Segalerba fo Brasil/Uruguay for organising a Google Earth Honour role to honour our fallen colleagues. TGLF will work with Marcelo to implement this, which will hopefully be online in a few months with our new TGLF website.

Kids books – *Ranger in Danger* Series

Our new *Ranger in Danger* kids book series is now available online:
www.thingreenline.info/merchandise

There are 27 different endings, educating and engrossing kids on the work of rangers worldwide. Features some of your IRF colleagues as the heroes, while the child reading IS the *Ranger in Danger*.

Merchandise

Please pass on to your contacts our merchandise and website donations page: www.thingreenline.org.au

Great merchandise includes our *Power of One Pack* including organic T shirts. DVD documentary, membership sticker and calico bag, or the set of *Ranger in Danger* books.

All funds help TGLF continue their work. And just to clarify, 100% of donations received and 100% of DVD sales go directly to the families of rangers killed and TGLF's proactive projects to prevent ranger deaths. The administration of the foundation is funded by sponsors, writing of books, speaking opportunities etc.

Thanks to all our sponsors (listed at www.thingreenline.org.au/sponsors), donors, communities, individuals and especially fellow rangers that support TGLF's work in supporting the families of our fallen colleagues and preventing further ranger deaths.

Bit by bit, paso e paso, "pole pole", we are making a difference together.

Kindest Regards

Sean Willmore, Managing Director/ Founder
The Thin Green Line Foundation
sean@thingreenline.info