



Hi to all Thin Green Line supporters, members, sponsors and family...

Happy New Year! We're looking forward to making some big strides in 2011 to further our work supporting rangers, their families and communities for conservation around the globe.

We've been busy making sure your support hits the ground.

Check out what we've been up to since our last update, including:

- Farms set up in Congo
- Payments and projects in Cambodia (pictured right)
- Mosquito nets for Uganda and Congo
- Payments in Latin America
- Filming in India
- Fund-raising events in Australia and abroad



Payments in Congo, Cambodia, Argentina, South Africa

After an exhaustive process navigating the "systems in DRC" TGLF was pleased to join forces with John Kahekwa's Pole Pole Foundation (which means step by step) to support 12 widows of rangers killed in DRC (Congo). John, a former ranger, has assisted TGLF in setting up 12 small farmlets near Kahuzi Biega National Park DRC (Congo), home of the lowland mountain gorillas. As in Virunga National Park on the other side of Lake Kivu, the rangers here face constant threat from "rebel" forces and many are killed and injured in the line of duty. We have much more work to do here in DRC, but for these widows and children of rangers who have fallen, this new project has given them some hope in a place that offers little.

For these rangers' families there is no workers' compensation. When the widows heard they were to receive some support to set up small farms (on already cleared land), put kids back to school and gain some cash, according to John they all spontaneously danced with joy. Through your support this project has been made possible.

In the last six months TGLF has been able to support the families of fallen rangers in Cambodia (Ranger Koe Sai) Argentina (Daniel Kurday who survived a

shot to the back but was made a paraplegic) and South African rangers Marvin Williams and Bonga Skotsho who will soon receive support.

Most recently 2 rangers in Rwanda were killed by commercial poachers and a female ranger Esmart Paund was pursued and hacked to death in Zambia, leaving behind four children. Her male colleague Stanley Ngandwe - was also attacked and left for dead but miraculously survived.

From their Boss William Soko: "I wish to bring to your attention that one female Wildlife Police Officer was hacked to death while on duty in my Sector. She and her friend had apparently arrested two suspects with over 700kgs assorted dry game meat. Little did they know that one poacher was hiding in the shrubs. He sneaked on the male officer and hacked him in the head three times. When they thought he was dead they simply chased the female officer and hacked her to death. It was really gruesome. I took her remains for burial in North Western Zambia. The male officer miraculously survived and is still in hospital."

To help us continue to support families of rangers killed, please go to:

www.thingreenline.org.au/donations



Rangers killed since our last update

Over 1000 rangers have been estimated to have lost their lives in the line of duty in the last 15 years. Now more rangers and their families have paid the ultimate price in protecting nature! We honour all of them and with your support hope to financially support those without assistance:



Muhindo Mburungani

Democratic Republic of Congo
Shot by FDLR poachers/militia

Augustin Shamukungu DRC

Rocket propelled grenade from poachers

Yalala Bateterana DRC

Rocket propelled grenade from poachers

Magombani DRC

Rocket propelled grenade from poachers

Achille Vilavu DRC

Murdered by militia/poachers

Marvin Williams South Africa

Car accident on patrol

Bonga Skotsho South Africa

Car accident on patrol

Esnart Paund Zambia

Murdered with machette

Gilberto Vincente Mozambique

Assassinated by machine gun

Alejandro Lima Apaza Peru

Brent McGinn USA

Plane crash

Laurie Axelsen USA

Plane crash

Donato Bejarano Bolivia

Shipwreck

Narciso Solíz Bolivia

Shipwreck

Eladio Tacuchaba Bolivia

Shipwreck

Mason McLeod USA

Plane crash

Neal Spradlin USA

Plane crash

Seth Spradlin USA

Plane crash

Mauricio Guillen Coronado Peru

On patrol

Michel Kachupa DRC

murdered by poachers

Mbusa Valava DRC

Homicide by rebels

Silas Gapolisi Rwanda

Homicide by poachers

Jean de Dieu Musabyimana

Rwanda

Homicide by poachers

A gruesome account of murder in our wildlife reserves

Unknown assailants murdered Gilberto Vicente, the manager of the Special Maputo Wildlife Reserve on Sunday night. According to the police, the Toyota Hilux in which Vicente was traveling was ambushed by six men, each armed with an AK-47 assault rifle. Eight shots were fired, instantly killing Vicente, and seriously injuring his companion, Carlos Nunes, who is now undergoing medical treatment at Maputo Central Hospital.

The gang made no attempt to steal anything from the car, and after the murder made off at high speed in their own vehicles.

The police suspect that this was a contract killing, since Vicente was a thorn in the flesh for organised groups of poachers.

Vicente had earlier worked on the restocking of the Limpopo National Park, in Gaza province, with large mammals (imported from South Africa), and was preparing to do the same in the Maputo Special Reserve.

Sadly as this newsletter was being developed we

found out we lost a further three rangers in DRC (along with 5 soldiers) who were killed by a rocket propelled grenade launched by FDLR militia (Rwandan based genociders) in retaliation to the rangers dismantling their illegal charcoal production (which causes mass deforestation) camps in the park. The names of these brave rangers are

1. Augustin Shamukungu Ranger Patrol Commander
2. Yalala Bateterana Field Ranger
3. Magombani Driver

With your support we will support these rangers' families and work to prevent further ranger deaths. We relayed this to Virunga National Park Director Emmanuel De Merode who said: "many thanks for all your concern. Unfortunately, the situation has not eased, and we suffered another attack yesterday with two more casualties, one critically injured with a bullet in the head."

To support these families please go to www.thingreenline.org.au/donation



Families of the slain grieving

July 31 International Rangers Day Gala Dinner

250 Thin Green Line supporters, some rangers, sponsors, and families filled the Lord Somers Camp for a night of recognition, ceremony, fine food and music.

While being served a scrumptious organic meal, our Honorary International Rangers for 2010:

Mark Stone

Catherine Haylock

Brett Vogel

Phillip Birchall

Phillip Wise, and

David Zeller

were recognised for their extraordinary efforts to support the work of TGLF over the last year. These names have been added to our list of recipients from 2009.

The Inaugural Ndouvu Business Award recipients were recognised for their outstanding contributions to TGLF's formation and success, and presented with their handcrafted recycled timber plaques. Recipients included:

Snowgum; Copy Captain; D2P; Parks Victoria; Mornington Peninsula Shire; Indigenous Gardens RRR radio; Digital Pictures; Labsonics; Balnarring Village Hardware; Victorian Rangers Association, and Canon Australia.

Deakin University Environment Club was also recognised with the Inaugural Young Conservationist Award for their outstanding support at all TGLF events and stalls and educating their peers on TGLF's efforts!

CEO of Parks Victoria, Mark Stone (an ambassador and great supporter of TGLF) gave an impassioned speech and reminded everyone present of the difficult task rangers faced in places such as Africa and Latin America, and that it was a fantastic opportunity for all to get involved in supporting them through The Thin Green Line Foundation.

As desserts hit the back of throats and speeches wound up, the bagpipes heralded and one and all filed out pied-piper style, with candles in hand to honour rangers fallen in the line of duty.

Outside on the grass area in front of lowered flags, 500 ranger silhouettes, complete with names and

*'...come together
and celebrate...
we are together and
growing in numbers'*

location of each fallen ranger were honoured as guests placed their candles at the foot of each card. A minute's silence to remember the rangers who had given everything to conservation touched everyone present, and as the minute lapsed the bagpipes added to the emotion with a stirring rendition of Amazing Grace from the tower above.

With the awards, and important ceremony completed, Max the bagpiper led everyone to a third area to begin the celebrations. The stage was set for the outside music concert with local favourites Loveproof melding in with the bagpipes to get the party going.

The Thin Green Line Foundation's philosophy is that we do need to come together to support the rangers and address important conservation and world issues, but at the same time we can also come together and celebrate that fact - that we are together and growing in numbers.

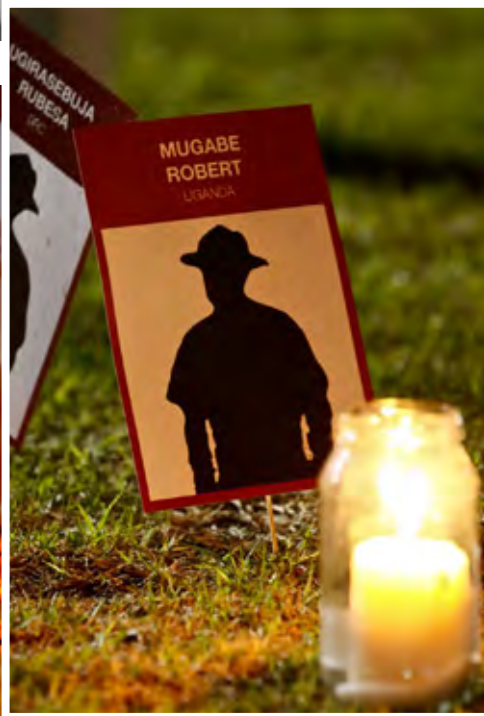
With that in mind we were treated to great performances from Loveproof, Jordie Lane and The Basics. Such was the solidarity between crowd and musicians, the night ended with all guests on the under cover stage and an impromptu jam session as the rain came down. Those who were there will not forget it!

Many thanks to Cath Haylock, our voluntary Administration coordinator, Deakin Uni Environment Club, Vic Rangers Association and all who helped to make the night a great success.

We raised \$3,000 for the cause and recognised our fallen rangers and generous supporters.

A special thanks to all our sponsors and raffle supporters - see website full list of supporters.

NEWS
The Thin Green Line
FOUNDATION





CAMBODIAN RANGERS APPEAL

Like many Park rangers around the world, the rangers of Cambodia are severely underpaid. Earning just \$35 per month, they cannot even feed their families which costs \$50 per month. They protect some amazing places like Virachey National Park, but face Cambodia's own army (heavily armed) and corrupt police. These rangers are under trained and under resourced. TGLF will work with The IRF to improve the situation from a government level but also aim to properly remunerate, train and equip these rangers. If you wish to see wild areas like Virachey National Park in the next 20 years then we need these rangers to be supported. Please give to our special Cambodian Rangers appeal at www.thingreenline.org.au/donations

Urgent! Email the Cambodian Ambassador in your country, protesting against the clearance of 28,000 hectares of Virachey National Park for rubber



plantation(often they are just after the timber and the planation never happens!). They are hiring people now to clear the forest! Please support th rangers and the local indigenous community and let the Cambodian government know know you prefer it as an ecotourism destination, and this clearance will make you go elsewhere with your eco tourist dollars. They are due to start this week!! For Australia the Cambodian ambassadors email is cambodianembassy@ozemail.com.au, others please contact your closet ambassador.

INDIA SURFING 28 STATES

The Thin Green Line was recently invited by two young gun film makers, Jonno and Stefan to feature in their new film Surfing 28 states in India. You may have seen their first boys' own adventure Surfing 50 states (of the USA) or their very touching documentary about an orphanage in Mexico for street/gang kids, called Somewhere near Tapachula. This time they've combined the two philosophies and are having the adventure but showing some organisations doing good work in India. TGLF was lucky enough to be invited to feature in the film. I was lucky enough to be able to use my accrued points to make the trip and have legendary ranger DD Borro organise our trip to Kazaringa National Park in the far north-east Indian state of Assam. Hosting the majority of the remaining endangered One-horned Asian rhino, tigers, buffalo and elephant, the Park is a jewel in India's crown, but for the same reason is under constant threat from poachers. The boys were treated to some great sights but importantly got to meet the rangers living for up to a month at a time on platforms in and around the swampland, conducting daily patrols. These rangers go home for a week and then leave their families again to spend time in the Park. There we met rangers who had been gouged by the rhinos they protect, jumped at by tigers and who take on armed poachers on a daily basis.

Check out www.surfing28states.com to see more!



Paresh Parob

DD BORO AND PARESH – HEROES

While in India I caught up with one of the stars of the Thin Green Line Documentary and good friend, Paresh Parob. Paresh had recently been relocated from his park because he arrested a corrupt politician who had his henchmen clearing a new road through the park to illegally bootleg liquor across the border. Paresh had arrested the four workers when the politician showed up at the office and told Paresh to mind his own business and to know his place. The politician sent his four men out and went to leave himself, but Paresh literally collared him and threw him to the floor and said he was under arrest. Threats and bogus charges of attempted murder were laid against Paresh, and many calls to 'just let it slide' followed. But Paresh would not compromise and he

refused to drop the charges. The politician was jailed, but sadly Paresh was moved from the area.

Not to be outdone, DD Boro of Kazaringa National Park arrested an armed politician who was illegally harvesting fish from the National Park. A 15 minute wrestle with the AK47-wielding politician and former separatist leader ensued. Lucky DD secured the weapon and arrested the politician, who had form for violence and even terrorism. Likewise, DD was asked to drop the charges but he refused and despite death threats he took this corrupt polly to court. He was jailed for a month. Once again though, DD was moved for his own safety. The politician would not carry out the threat himself but had many who would. This did not worry DD, but his superiors insisted on his move.



MOSQUITO NETS FOR UGANDA AND DRC

Last year, because of your support, we were able to send over \$10,000 worth of mosquito nets to Uganda and DRC to prevent rangers dying or becoming seriously ill from Malaria, Dengue fever and other mosquito-borne viruses. We have just received these photos (above) of the nets being distributed across Uganda. Around 2000 mosquito nets were bought... so \$5 each... A \$5 donation can save these rangers' lives, keep them healthy and protecting our world's wild areas, and allowing them to return safely to their families!

SOUTH AMERICA: MARCELO'S EMPLOYMENT

TGLF has contracted legendary ranger Marcelo Segalerba to forward TGLF's objectives in Latin America and with International TGLF objectives. We can only afford to contract him for 3 months – if you would like to help us employ a ranger to roll out TGLF work in Latin America and contract another ranger for Africa, please donate at: www.thingreenline.com/donation or contact Sean on sean@thingreenline.org.au

MERCHANDISE

Fundraising Calendar

Our new personalised calendars, endorsed and with forewords by Tim Flannery and Bryce Courtenay (TGLF Ambassadors) are now available.

These calendars are printed on demand on recycled stock, so there is no waste. They are personalised on order with your nominated dates, birthdays and name.

Featuring photos by Sean Willmore in his work with rangers, their widows and children, this is a calendar worth showing off!

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/thethinggreenline> to get yours now!

Books

Ranger in Danger series for 7-12 year olds. Six titles.

These action-packed stories (based on real life) put the reader into the ranger's boots. With 20 different endings per book, the new ranger in danger has to decide his or her own destiny, as well as that of the planet. Based in 6 different adventurous locations around the world, environment and culture have never been more fun or dangerous!

Special offer: Buy all six (recommended retail \$12.95 ea) and pay only \$70 (save 11%) and have them signed by Sean Willmore - Includes a free bonus organic cotton TGLF carry bag!

Kids TGLF Tee Shirts

Our organic brushed cotton Tee is now available from Infant size to 10 year old. Contact Sean at sean@thinggreenline.info to order your special kids tee shirt for only \$20 plus postage. TGLF logo on front and "would you risk your life for my planet's tomorrow?" scribed on the back.

Kids POO Packs (POO = Power Of One)

Kids Tee Shirt, signed Ranger in Danger book of your choice, DVD Documentary, sticker, bag and membership - ONLY \$50

POO Packs

Valued at \$100 - get the lot for \$50 - includes Organic cotton TGLF Tee Shirt (cap sleeve or loose fit sleeve), DVD, organic cotton TGLF bag, sticker and TGLF membership.



DONATION PROGRAMS

Go to www.thinggreenline.org.au/donations for a full list of donation options.

Choose where your support goes, for example:

- supporting women in conservation
- employing ex poachers as rangers
- buying solar cookers for communities to prevent timber poaching, and
- supporting families of rangers killed in the line of duty



NICKY BOMBA GIG CONFIRMED

Nicky Bomba will be joined by some of his well known Aus music friends, Angel (Congalese refugee band) and Mornington Peninsula band Mako to support The Thin Green Line Foundation, April 14 at The Prince Bandroom, St Kilda. Tickets \$25, on sale shortly at www.princebandroom.com.au and Balnarring Village Hardware.

Check thin green website and facebook for updates.

ANGUS AND JULIA STONE SIGN UP TO SUPPORT TGLF

A big thank you to Julie Lowe, Nicky Bomba and the crew at Peatsridge Music Festival who organised for Angus and Julia Stone and other Artists to sign and raffle off a Thin Green Line embossed guitar. Over \$1200 was raised for TGLF's work!



COLLINGWOOD PREMIERSHIP SIGN UP TO SUPPORT RANGERS

The Australian Rules premiership side for 2010, Collingwood, generously signed one of TGLF's t-shirts which was auctioned for \$850, all funds going to TGLF. Many thanks to TGLF supporter and friend Jenny Macaffer and her nephew footballer Brent Macaffer and the entire Collingwood Football Club for their efforts in making this happen.

NEW TGLF OFFICE

TGLF has its first official office (out of my house! ...well just!). My carport has been converted into a very cool office. Many thanks to my good friends, builder Brett Vogel (who also helped with work in Portugal, Uganda and DRC), electrician Denny Evans, Rosco (P.J Coltrain) for sanding floors, Jenny Atherton for office set-up, Sean Thomas for painting and all the volunteers who made it happen.

TGLF OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Many thanks to Cath Haylock who has done a great job volunteering as our administrative coordinator. Good luck with the new addition to the family Cath, due any moment. Stepping into her place is Jenny Atherton who brings a wealth of office management experience.... We can only do the work of TGLF with this kind and generous support, people like Cath and Jenny. Thanks to all our volunteers who lend a hand!!!!

Get your friends to join our TGLF Facebook page: Search for The Thin Green Line Foundation on Facebook or go to the direct link.
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=6024334598>

SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

Many thanks to our formal sponsors and supporters. Go to www.thingreenline.org.au/sponsors to see a full list.

To help us continue to support families of rangers killed, please go to:
www.thingreenline.org.au/donations