

Zakopane Declaration

We, the delegates here assembled in Zakopane, Poland, at the first International Ranger Federation Congress, representing rangers from 35 nations on 6 continents, do hereby declare our commitment to the following concerns:

- ◆ That, as principle guardians of the world's premier natural and cultural protected areas, we are uniquely positioned and qualified to monitor their health, assess their problems and extrapolate current trends into probable futures;
- ◆ That, unless circumstances change, these natural and cultural areas under our charge will in many cases continue to slowly but inexorably decline;
- ◆ That the rangers charged with protecting these areas play a distinctive role in identifying problems associated with this decline and proposing practical solutions to them;
- ◆ That these rangers also have a fundamental role in explaining the importance of natural and cultural resources to the public, thereby awakening in them the essential desire and interest in conserving them for future generations;
- ◆ That these rangers are involved in complex and highly important tasks in preservation of natural and cultural resources, but lack recognition of the importance of these tasks from the governments that employ them;
- ◆ That the majority of these rangers live in

very difficult conditions, lack adequate institutional support and resources, receive meagre salaries and take significant personal and professional risks to protect these invaluable sites, which constitute core elements of the world's natural and cultural heritage;

- ◆ That they all too often sacrifice their lives in their commitment to protection of this heritage;
- ◆ **And that, for all these reasons, we are firmly committed to seeking greater recognition for rangers, and attention to their work, to their well-being and to the critical status of the heritage that they protect and defend, and will exert ourselves in a concerted effort to resolve these problems, enlisting the support of the people and governments of this earth.**

Zakopane, Poland 26th May 1995

The Federation is governed by a Council consisting of a representative elected by the member associations in each of the continents:-

Africa, Asia, Australia, Central & South America, North America and Europe.

The Officers consist of a Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor.

Further information can be obtained by writing to:-

The Secretary
International Ranger Federation
P. O. Box 37, Sterling, FX8 25L. Scotland



International Ranger Federation

History and Aims

Ranger associations around the world recognise that international unity is critical to the protection of the world's increasingly threatened natural and cultural resources. In 1992 ranger associations in the United States and Britain signed an agreement establishing the International Ranger Federation.

The Federation aims to :-

- ◆ further the professional standards of rangers throughout the world
- ◆ advance the aims of the I.U.C.N's World Conservation Strategy in all our common efforts
- ◆ share knowledge and resources
- ◆ establish global communications among ranger organisations
- ◆ foster professional exchanges among rangers
- ◆ arrange regular international meetings
- ◆ undertake joint activities to directly support each other's operations where necessary and feasible

Membership

All national associations of professional rangers or equivalent staff are invited to affiliate to the Federation. Associations should represent rangers whose duties include:-

- ◆ protection and preservation of wild lands and their resident flora and fauna
- ◆ protection and preservation of historical and cultural heritages
- ◆ provision of recreational opportunities in natural settings
- ◆ interpretation of natural, historical and cultural themes
- ◆ administration of protected areas

All member associations have an equal voice in International Ranger Federation activities. In countries where ranger associations do not exist the Federation invites application from qualified persons to act as Federation Representative until such time as a national organisation is established.

Member associations are expected to commit an annually agreed percentage of their national membership income for the purposes of networking Federation material and information.

Affiliated associations are expected to adopt the International Ranger Federation Code of Ethics.

Quarterly Newsletter

The Federation circulates a regular newsletter to member associations for networking to individual members information on:-

- ◆ Federation activities
- ◆ News from members associations
- ◆ Articles of international interest from individuals
- ◆ Dates of future events, courses, seminars etc.
- ◆ Opportunities for exchanges
- ◆ Key addresses

The Federation is also establishing a communications database to facilitate exchanges of expertise.

A World Ranger Congress is organised every two or three years in a different continent and particular attention is directed at assisting rangers from the developing countries to attend.