

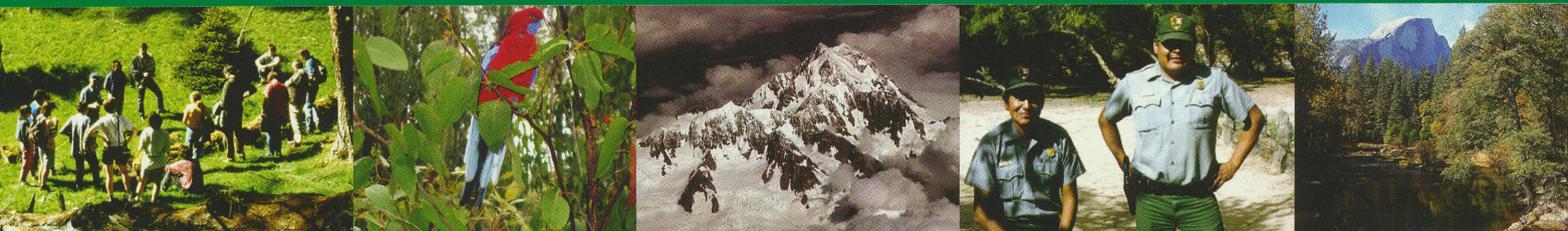
THE WORLD FAMILY OF RANGERS

sharing our skills for the future



**INTERNATIONAL
RANGER
FEDERATION**

S U P P O R T E D B Y T H E T U R N E R F O U N D A T I O N



WHAT IS A RANGER?

A defender of wildlife and natural systems - A guardian of protected areas - A custodian of cultural stories. You may think about a forest walk with an English Countryside Ranger, learning how to identify birds, mammals and amphibians. You may recall the Argentine ranger with the gaucho hat removing non-native plants. Or you may know a Kenyan ranger whose family worries he may someday face a poacher's bullet.

Educator, ecologist, game warden.

Do these rangers have anything in common?

WHY A FEDERATION?

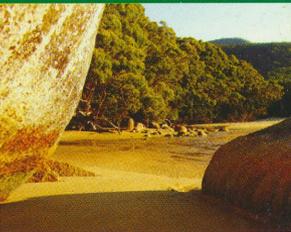
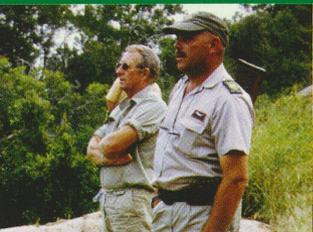
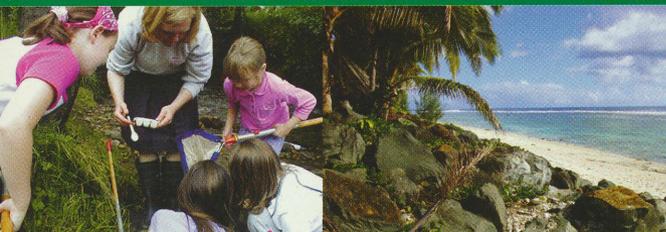
In 1992 a small group of rangers from Scotland, England and the United States, met during an international conference at Loch Lomond, Scotland and later in the Peak National Park in England, to form the International Ranger Federation (IRF). They felt a kinship with the rangers of Africa and Australia, of Slovenia and Uruguay, of Costa Rica and China. In visits to parks around the world they saw the common work of rangers – monitoring the condition of resources, teaching people about the value of special places, including the urban environment, and defending protected areas from those who would abuse them. They saw that rangers in many countries cope with risk to their lives; many feel isolated and discouraged, without help or hope of getting more resources. This small group envisioned a world community

of rangers. Working together, they would share knowledge, resources and expertise in the common goal of taking care of the special places that people all over the world have set aside for protection – places that provide refuge, inspiration and hope for the future. In just a few short years the IRF has grown from three countries to around forty member countries in all regions of the world!

THE FEDERATION AND THE RANGER COMMUNITY

Just like other members of our human family, the park ranger needs to be nurtured in order to remain healthy, to be energized – and to continue protecting parks. Just as rangers preserve wild communities that nourish the human spirit, the IRF creates a human community that provides support for rangers by establishing a global network of shared knowledge and resources.

The power of the IRF rests with local and national ranger associations around the globe. Individual rangers become a part of IRF through their ranger association which joins the larger federation. The IRF, a voluntary organization, is built on the premise that the best support rangers can get is within their own organisational system. Thus much of the work of the IRF has been to assist countries in forming their own ranger associations.



CONGRESSES

IRF hosts the World Ranger Congress in a different continent once every three years. The IRF has hosted four such Congresses in Europe, Central America, Africa and Australia, with several hundred rangers attending each. The Congresses result in a strong sense of community and shared values, increased morale, and a feeling of hope for better care of protected areas. That hope is based on concrete actions that the IRF has taken - from providing training, to acquiring and distributing equipment, to sharing skills and experience through the IRF newsletter and proceedings.

PROTECTING THE PROTECTORS

Rangers in protected areas provide 'frontline' park protection. Consequently, they face a variety of risks while performing their duties. In the Galapagos National Park, rangers have been faced with destruction of their homes and threats to fragile ecosystems. In many African countries rangers have lost their lives defending wildlife from poachers. In the Americas, rangers are threatened by crime against resources and people. Among other things, IRF supports 'good governance' through the enacting of enforceable laws protecting rangers from assaults while performing their duties, with strong penalties for violators. IRF is committed to raising awareness of these issues.

RANGERS AS EDUCATORS

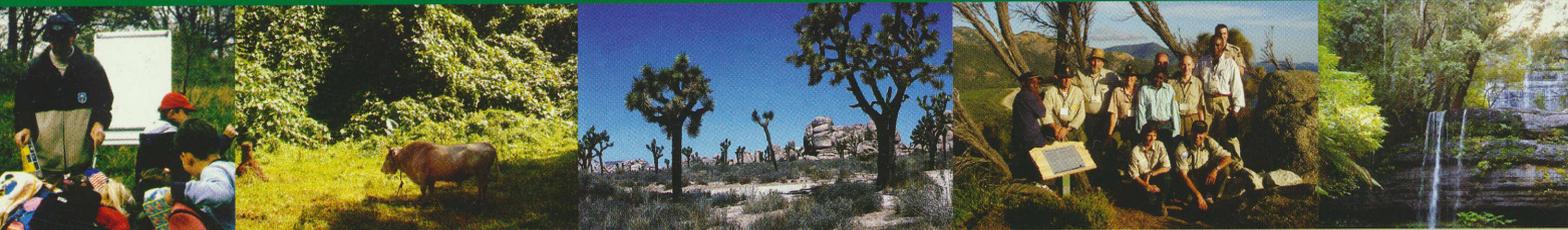
Rangers have a critical role in protecting their natural and cultural resources through education and interpretation. Working with local communities is crucial if areas are to be sustainable. The IRF provides a network for improving and developing good practice.

YOUTH AND OUR FUTURE

The IRF recognizes the importance of young people in the future of our special areas and works with partners in youth and junior ranger projects.

PARTNERSHIPS

The creation of the IRF has now given rangers around the world mutual support and the will to find the resources and expertise that they need to protect the parks and protected areas of this planet. The Federation also provides a voice for rangers in the international community of protected area management and with many agencies and non-government organizations such as the IUCN and UNESCO. The Federation is dedicated to raising the professional standards of rangers throughout the world. Well trained, well equipped and dedicated rangers give hope for the security of our increasingly threatened natural and cultural protected areas.



FEDERATION SERVICES

The Federation publishes a quarterly bulletin, 'The Thin Green Line' which is sent to member associations, partners and supporters.

The website www.int-ranger.org provides contact details of officers and member associations. Bulletins and proceedings from past congresses are also available. A forum provides facilities for individuals to seek advice or exchange experiences.

An exchange bureau provides advice on ranger exchanges.

The International Ranger Federation Consultancy, a limited company, provides a number of services, including, on site ranger training, research and analysis, advice on establishing ranger services, provision of training manuals, the organization of ranger conferences and seminars and the arrangement of study tours. Further details are available on the website www.ranger-irfc.com

CONTACT

If you would like to know more about the Federation and how you can support it or you are a professional ranger association wishing to affiliate, please contact:

**The Administrator
International Ranger Federation,
National Park Centre,
Fieldhead, Edale,
Hope Valley,
Derbyshire,
England S33 7ZA**

Tel. 00 44 (0) 1433 670046
Fax 00 44 (0) 1433 670210
Email alison@int-ranger.net
Website www.int-ranger.org

* The IRF defines a Ranger as 'the person involved in the practical protection and preservation of all aspects of wild areas, historical and cultural sites. Rangers provide recreational opportunities and interpretation of sites while providing links between local communities, protected areas and area administration'