



INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION

Request for Proposals

World Ranger Congresses

2012/2013 and 2015/2016

Proposals are due May 15, 2010

Purpose: To call for nominations for Congresses for 2012/2013 *and* 2015/2016

The International Ranger Federation (IRF) is a federation of national, state, and territorial ranger associations whose express objectives are to:

- further the professional standards of Rangers throughout the world;
- advance the aims of IUCN's World Conservation Strategy in all our common efforts;
- share knowledge and resources;
- establish global communications among Ranger organizations;
- foster professional exchanges among Rangers and twinning agreements between member associations;
- arrange and conduct regular international meeting;
- undertake joint activities to directly support each other's operations where necessary and feasible;

The IRF hosts a World Ranger Congress (WRC) approximately every three years. World Ranger Congresses have been held since 1995 with the first WRC in Zakopane, Poland. Other WRC:

- 1997 San José, Costa Rica
- 2000 Kruger National Park, South Africa
- 2003 Wilson Promontory National Park, Victoria, Australia
- 2006 Sterling, Scotland
- 2009 Santa Cruz, Bolivia

The World Ranger Congress provides the opportunity for rangers of many countries to share their experiences, learn from each other and from special speakers about current issues in protected area management, and to increase ranger skills.

The hosting country for a World Ranger Congress is expected to be financially viable and accountable. They are expected to gather resources from ranger associations, park agencies, partners, sponsors, and NGOs to plan and deliver a WRC that pays for its expenses and delivers a small positive income to serve as start-up costs for the next Congress.

The Congress organizers (volunteer ranger association, park agencies, and paid contractors) are responsible for planning and delivering the meeting venue, accommodations, program, and ranger sponsorships; for recruitment of potential delegates, communication to potential and registered delegates, and regular business communication with the IRF liaisons.

A World Ranger Congress is comprised of approximately 300 delegates. When hosted in a region that is predominated by a language other than the official IRF business language of English, dual translations must be budgeted and offered. The Congress venue should be within 3 hours of an international airport.

Please address the following questions in your proposal for hosting a World Ranger Congress in either 2012/2013 or 2015/2016:

- 1) Which ranger association is hosting this Congress? Explain why the association believes they have the capacity to organize this event: for example, what experience do the association or members have with organizing such events? Who are key individuals who will be ensuring success of the Congress?
- 2) Where is proposed location of the Congress meetings and accommodations? (Country, city or park) Is there potential meeting space and lodging to accommodate 300 delegates?
- 3) Is there a mix of accommodation prices and types available (such as camping, cabins, hotel rooms)?
- 4) What is the closest international airport? What options are there for delegates to get from the airport to the meeting location and accommodations?
- 5) What are nearby attractions for field trips and pre/post tours?
- 6) What dates are being considered for this Congress (take into consideration availability of accommodations, meeting sites, off-season savings for lodging and flight costs)
- 7) What type of support can be expected from the park agencies in the country?
- 8) Have you established contacts with potential partners or contractors that could be congress organizers? If so, please identify them and give their experience, website and references.

Organisers of past Congresses also suggest that a Congress organising committee plan on:

- A congress planning officer who can work full-time on the congress for a minimum 1 year out, OR a small group of people to divide the labour time (of 1 year) between themselves.
- A full planning committee would need to start at a minimum 2 years out.
- The technical side of Congress organisation is best served by professional companies who do this as their everyday business. The Rangers Association would therefore not only need the support of their national or local park agency but also must have access to an event management company (of good reputation).

Please provide answers to these questions to President Deanne Adams (irfdeanne@aol.com) by **May 15, 2010**. The proposals will be reviewed by the World Ranger Congress Steering Committee and the International Executive Committee. We may ask for further details at that time. A final decision on locations will be made by the International Executive Committee by July 15, 2010, based on further business details for each proposal.