



INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION

WORLD RANGER DAY – 31 JULY 2011

MEDIA RELEASE

World Ranger Day will be observed on the 31st of July to honour the work of park rangers in the world's protected areas and highlight the dangers rangers face in the line of duty.

In the 12 months to July, at least 58 rangers were killed at work – 32 of those murdered by poachers, illegal loggers, and armed militias.

“World Ranger Day is about sending the message that we need to protect the protectors of the world's natural and cultural treasures,” said Deanne Adams, President of the International Ranger Federation (IRF), the main body representing rangers worldwide.

Ms Adams said the main theme of World Ranger Day is this: “We can do nothing to bring back the fallen rangers, but we can honour their memory and ensure their sacrifice is never forgotten.”

The first World Ranger Day was held in 2007 on the 15th anniversary of the founding of the IRF, and the IRF is pushing for the day to be included on the United Nations' list of International Observances.

“Rangers should be duly recognised for the important role they play in managing national parks and other protected areas. They do this work on behalf of everyone, and many put their lives at risk for the environment in the process,” said Ms Adams.

Another major participant in World Ranger Day is The Thin Green Line Foundation. Created in 2007 following the release of the documentary film on the work of rangers called *The Thin Green Line*, the Foundation helps the families of rangers killed or injured on the frontline of conservation.

Many events held to mark World Ranger Day will be fundraisers to aid the work of The Thin Green Line Foundation, including screenings of *The Thin Green Line* at Paignton Zoo in England

Other activities range from guided tours of the Kiskunsag National Park in Hungary, tree plantings in Maungawhau, New Zealand, and a ceremonial reading of the Ranger Roll of Honour in Italy.

World Ranger Day is promoted by the 54 member associations of the IRF, The Thin Green Line Foundation and individuals who support the work of rangers and the IRF.