



# 9<sup>th</sup> WORLD RANGER CONGRESS 2019 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

WORLD RANGER DAY  
JULY 31

1<sup>st</sup> June 2015

**TO** Member Associations, International Ranger Federation  
**FROM** President, International Ranger Federation  
**SUBJECT** Call for Proposals – 9<sup>th</sup> World Ranger Congress 2019

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## **Purpose:**

To call for proposals for the 9th World Ranger Congress, to be held in 2019.

## **Background:**

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 meetings; and
- 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. Since then the WRC has been held:

- 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
- 2012 Arusha, Tanzania

**The next WRC will be held in Estes Park, Colorado, United States of America, May 21 – 27, 2016.** The WRC provides the opportunity for rangers from around the world to get together and build relationships. It also provides the opportunity for rangers to increase their skills by sharing their experiences, learning from each other and hearing from special speakers about current issues in protected area management. These Congresses develop resolutions on contemporary issues that directly affect rangers or their work. Such resolutions, representing the united voice of rangers, are presented at global conservation forums. They also provide the opportunity to raise the profile of rangers in the host country and to stimulate actions to improve the situation of rangers where there is a need.

**World Ranger Congresses are organized by member associations of the International Ranger Federation and we now invite you to submit a proposal to host the next WRC.** The Congress organisers are responsible for the planning and delivery of all aspects of the Congress, including: selection of the venue, including accommodation; design of the program; ranger sponsorships; recruitment of potential delegates; communication to potential and registered delegates; financial management; reporting on congress outcomes, recommendations and resolutions at the conclusion of the Congress. They are also required to communicate regularly with the IRF Executive Committee. They may be assisted by volunteers, local park agencies and/or paid contractors.

The hosting association is expected to be financially viable and accountable. They are expected to gather resources from ranger associations, park agencies, partners, sponsors, and NGOs in their region 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.

World Ranger Congresses usually attract approximately 300 – 350 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.

The World Congress Membership Meeting, the IRF's business day where elections etc are conducted, is held during a World Ranger Congress and needs to be factored in to the Congress program. One night's accommodation prior to and one night's accommodation after the Congress for IEC members, and meeting rooms for the IEC during the Congress will need to be planned for.

Organisers of past Congresses suggest that the Congress organising committee:

- Establish a congress planning officer position who can work full-time on the congress for a minimum of one (1) year prior to the congress OR a small group of people to divide the labour time (of 1 year) between themselves.
- Establish a full planning committee that begins work at least 2 years prior to the congress.
- Consider employing a professional congress organizer to manage the technical side of organizing a congress. In order to achieve this, the hosting association would need the support of their national or local park agency.

### **Call for Proposals**

Please address the following questions in your proposal for hosting the 9<sup>th</sup> World Ranger Congress, 2019:

- 1) What is the name of the ranger association proposing to host the Congress?
- 2) Describe how your association has the capacity to organize this event: for example, what experience does your association, or your members, have in organizing such events? Who are the key individuals who will be ensuring the success of the Congress?
- 3) Where is the proposed location of the Congress – country, city, park? Is there potential meeting space and lodging to accommodate 300 delegates?
- 4) Is there a mix of accommodation prices and types available (such as camping, cabins, hotel rooms)?
- 5) What is the closest international airport and how far away is it from the proposed venue? What options are there for delegates to get from the airport to the Congress venue?
- 6) What are nearby attractions for field trips and pre/post congress tours?
- 7) What dates are being considered for this Congress (take into consideration availability of accommodation, meeting sites, off-season savings for lodging and flight costs)?
- 8) What type of support can be expected from the park agencies in the country?
- 9) 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.
- 10) The issuing of required 'entry and stay' visas to delegates by the host country can be problematic. What system can you put in place to manage your country's requirements for issuing visas?

**Please send your proposal to the IRF Secretary via [secretary@internationalrangers.org](mailto:secretary@internationalrangers.org) by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015.**

All proposals will be reviewed by the IRF Executive Committee. Further details may be requested during the review process. A final decision will be made by the IEC by 30<sup>th</sup> January 2016, with the successful organization invited to give a presentation on their proposal at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Ranger Congress in May 2016.