CLIMATE CHANGE PROCLAMATION

We, the delegates here assembled at the International Ranger Federation Congress in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, November 2009, representing park rangers from 43 nations on six continents, do hereby present this proclamation to countries gathered in Copenhagen at the 2009 United Nations Convention on Climate Change:

That, as principal guardians of the world's premier natural and cultural protected areas, we are uniquely positioned and qualified to play a key role in protecting the values of the same worldwide;

That, climate change presents a real and serious threat to human life, and natural, cultural and physical heritage institutions;

That, if the current situations that cause climate change are not reversed in the short term, particularly for those countries that most contribute to this problem, these protected areas that are under our custody shall continue towards an inevitable decline and destruction;

That, we believe the results of the Kyoto protocol on climate change were disappointing and inadequate, and therefore, we urge the countries participating in the convention to take effective steps to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases with an effective compliance and monitoring work plan;

That, protected areas have an influence beyond their boundaries; as rangers work with local communities within and near protected areas, rangers are in an ideal position to assist, monitor and help mitigate the effects of climate change;

That, it is we rangers that witness and will have to manage many of the current and future damaging consequences of climate change on protected areas;

That, we fully recognize the importance of effectively managed and financially supported protected areas as an essential tool in mitigating the impacts of climate change;

That the work of the ranger as an essential factor in helping to reduce these impacts should be recognized and supported; and

In conclusion, we strongly urge the governments of the world to act definitively in the implementation of the concrete and necessary actions needed to solve this problem.