



## European Ranger Federation

### Statutes of the European Ranger Federation e. V.

#### Preamble

The rangers of Europe work for the conservation and safeguarding of biodiversity and the preservation of our natural and cultural heritage.

The European Ranger Federation is a continental organization of governmental and non-governmental associations and groups of rangers as well as of individual rangers of the sovereign European states under the umbrella of the worldwide operating International Ranger Federation (hereafter also referred to as „IRF“) and is bound by the common goal to preserve nature and to maintain the high quality care of nature by rangers.

#### Art. 1 Name, legal status, head office, fiscal year, official languages

- (1) The organization is named „European Ranger Federation“. It is a non-profit organization with registration in the German register of associations and bears the suffix for the legal form of incorporated associations' in Germany (e. V. = eingetragener Verein). The abbreviation for the European Ranger Federation is „ERF“(hereafter also referred to as „ERF“).
- (2) The head office of the ERF is Nonnweiler (Germany).
- (3) The fiscal year is the calendar year.
- (4) Official languages of the ERF are German and English.

#### Art. 2 Goals of the European Ranger Federation

- Promoting nature conservation according to the Federal Nature Conservation Act and National Nature Conservation Acts of the federal states of Germany at a national and European level and as the case may be in accordance with the relevant European legislations for the protection of biodiversity and the natural environment.
- Promoting environmental consciousness, training and the enhancement of knowledge as well as capacities for the care of nature in Europe by rangers
- Further development of the professional standard of rangers in Europe
- Promoting the understanding and goodwill in the general public and the responsible governmental and non-governmental institutions for the relevance and necessity of a high quality care of European nature conservation by rangers to promote, safeguard and develop the natural and cultural heritage all over Europe
- Promoting the goals of the IUCN World-Conservation-Strategy in all common efforts
- Teaching and transmitting professional expertise and resources
- Implementing and improving communication structures between European ranger organizations

- Promoting professional knowledge-sharing among rangers and partnerships between member organizations
- Arranging and leading regular international events on a European level
- Supporting all members of the membership association in specialist questions where it seems necessary and possible
- Cooperating with European institutions, national governments, international and national non-governmental organizations and institutions to receive their attention and to promote initiatives for a high quality care for nature by rangers as well as to make progress with the tasks and goals of the European Ranger Federation.
- Maintain the link between IRF and the European Ranger Associations.

### **Art. 3 Non-Profit**

- (1) The ERF acts selflessly and exclusively and directly pursues non-profit goals in terms of the part „tax privileged purposes“of the German tax code (§§51ff) in its respectively valid version. It acts as an NGO and does not pursue self-financing goals in first place.
- (2) The funds of the ERF may only be used for statutory goals. Members do not receive direct income from the funds of the ERF.
- (3) Members must not hold shares of the ERF’s assets when they retire, when the ERF ceases to exist or is abolished.
- (4) No person must be favored with expenses that do not conform with the aims of the ERF or to excessively high refunding.
- (5) The ERF does not deal with questions concerning industrial law or issues applying to business.

### **Art. 4 Members and voting rights**

The European Ranger Federation is a continental association of governmental and non-governmental associations and groups of rangers as well as of individual rangers of the sovereign European states under the umbrella of the worldwide operating International Ranger Federation IRF (hereafter also referred to as IRF). Since the IRF is the global umbrella organization of rangers, European IRF members automatically are members of the ERF with their corresponding membership status.

#### (1) Members

- Regular membership  
Governmental and non-governmental Associations are regular members of the ERF.  
Regular members have voting rights and can put up individual members as candidates for positions within the Federation.
- Provisional membership  
Provisional members of the ERF are individual rangers or ranger groups from places without a formally registered ranger association.  
Provisional members have no voting rights.
- Associate membership is open to groups and individuals who further the cause of the association or the park or protected areas.  
Associate members have no voting rights.

- Sponsoring membership  
Groups and individuals supporting the aims of the ERF, the park or nature reserve are sponsoring members.  
Sponsoring members have no voting rights.
  - Honorary membership  
Individuals and groups who made an important contribution to the ERF, a member association or to conservation can be appointed as honorary member.  
Honorary members have no voting rights.
- (2) Voting rights may only be transferred to other present members entitled to vote by written power of attorney. One member can only dispose of up to five (5) signed deputy voices.
  - (3) Members are obliged to contribute to achieving the aims of the European Ranger Federation according to their resources.
  - (4) Membership applications must be directed to the committee in written form or via e-mail. The committee decides on the membership application.
  - (5) The membership ends with departure, exclusion or death.
  - (6) A member's departure is possible with the end of a calendar year. It takes effect with a written announcement to the president keeping a period of three (3) months to the end of a calendar year.
  - (7) If a member has seriously violated the ERF's aims and interests or is in arrears with its payment for eighteen (18) months despite having been reminded, it may be excluded by the committee with immediate effect. Before decision making the member has to be given a chance to explain its position.  
Appealing against the decision is possible within a period of four (4) weeks after its communication. The next General Assembly decides on the appeal.

#### **Art. 5 Dues**

Members pay dues in accordance with the decision of the General Assembly. Determining the amount and its settlement date is decided by a simple majority of the members present in the General Assembly. The General Assembly can pass a Membership Dues Rule, which determines type, amount and settlement of the contribution.

#### **Art. 6 Organs of the European Ranger Federation**

Organs of the ERF are

- (1) The General Assembly
- (2) The European Executive Committee (hereafter also referred to as EEC)

#### **Art. 7 General Assembly**

- (1) The General Assembly takes place during the European Ranger Congress every third year.
- (2) Its tasks include:
  - Checking the statutes and decision making about possible necessary changes
  - Confirming the president and electing five (5) members of the EEC.  
Candidates can only be nominated by members of the ERF.
  - Approving membership subscriptions

- Approving planned actions for the following year in respect to the present strategy
  - Approving annual accounts by e-mail or mail
  - Discharging the EEC
  - Appointing honorary members
  - Approving the extensive strategy
  - Deciding on members' applications
  - Election of two (2) auditors
  - Dissolution of the ERF and taking measures related to that
- (3) An extraordinary General Assembly has to be convened if the Federation's interests afford this or if the convention of 30 % of the ERF's members is demanded in written form including details on aim and reasons.
- (4) The convention of the General Assembly is sent written or via e-mail by the EEC, respecting an invitation time limit of at least eight (8) weeks and announcing the agenda at the same time. The time limit starts one day after sending the invitation. The invitation is considered as being received by the member, if it was sent to the address last announced in written form by the member.  
Decisions can also be made in written form. Therefore all members receive a draft resolution via mail (or via e-mail) within a time limit of four (4) weeks ahead of voting. Votes that are not received by the EEC till the end of the time limit are considered as abstentions.
- (5) In principle, the General Assembly as the highest decision-making body of the Federation is responsible for all tasks, if special matters have not been assigned to another executive body of the Federation. In particular, the annual report including the financial statement. Decision making on the approval and discharge of the EEC has to be presented to the General Assembly in written form.  
It appoints two (2) auditors, who neither belong to the EEC nor to a committee appointed by the EEC and may not be employees of the Federation, to check the accounting including the annual report and to delivering the result to the General Assembly.
- (6) Every statutory convened General Assembly is quorate, regardless of the number of present members.
- (7) The General Assembly makes its decisions by simple majority. Changes of the constitution and the Federation's dissolution require a three-quarter majority of the votes handed in.  
In the event of a tie, the request is considered as rejected.  
Every member has one vote.
- (8) General Assemblies are not open to the public. Non-members can be permitted by request through resolution of the General Assembly.
- (9) A transcript has to be made to document the resolutions of the General Assembly, which has to be signed by the ERF's president and the secretary.

## **Art. 8 The European Executive Committee**

### Constitution:

- (1) The chair's designation is president. They preside over the EEC and guarantees that the responsibilities of the EEC to lead the Federation are carried out.

- (2) The second chair's designation is vice president. They support the president in performing his duties.
- (3) The president is elected during the World Congress Membership Meeting at the World-Ranger-Congress, which takes place every third year, under the title „European Representative of the IRF“. Within a time-limit of at least three (3) months they should be confirmed by all representatives of the member associations of the ERF as the ERF's president. This confirmation could be sent via mail or via e-mail. Finally the confirmation has to be documented in written form and has to be signed by the president and the secretary.
- (4) The EEC consists of five (5) elected members besides the president.
- (5) According to the IRF's statutes the term of office of the president shall be three years and they may be re-elected only once for a consecutive period of three years.
- (6) The term of office of all other members of the EEC shall be three years including the possibility of non-limited re-election.
- (7) Members of the EEC stay in office till new members are elected.
- (8) In case of resignation, incapacity, expulsion or death of a member of the EEC, the EEC may elect a substitute member for the rest of the current term of office. The introduction of new members of the EEC has to be ratified at the first following General Assembly.
- (9) Elected EEC members have to be members of the IRF and belong to a European member organization of the IRF.
- (10) The EEC may receive an adequate refunding for its activities.
- (11) The IRF may claim to send a member of the International Executive Committee IEC to the meetings of the EEC with an advisory but non-voting voice.

### Tasks:

The EEC's responsibility is to execute the current business of the Federation.

In particular it has the following tasks:

- Putting the decisions of the General Assembly into practice
- Convening and preparing the General Assembly
- Convening an extraordinary General Assembly if necessary
- Writing and presenting an annual report and a statement of account
- Preparing a budget proposal
- Inviting members at least eight weeks before the opening day of the General Assembly
- Preparing an agenda for the General Assembly
- Recommending an extensive strategy
- Deciding on memberships
- External representation
- Finalizing the annual budget
- Preparing and presenting the Annual Report to the General Assembly
- Deciding on venue and date of the next General Assembly
- Recommending two financial auditors to be elected at the General Assembly
- Initiating and approving of working groups and further mechanisms to reach the goals set in the ERF's strategy

- Writing and adapting documents on the course of action for ordinary and extraordinary General Assemblies with participation of the members and reporting to the General Assembly

#### General Manager:

The EEC may appoint a general manager for the business of the current administration. The general manager is empowered to join the EEC's meetings with an advisory voice.

#### Standing orders:

- (1) The EEC shall draw up its own standing orders and the work of the president and the EEC shall be governed by those standing orders.
- (2) The president of the ERF acts as the legal representative of the Federation towards external parties.

#### Resolution:

- (1) The EEC makes its decisions by simple majority. EEC meetings are quorate, if at least four members are present.
- (2) EEC meetings and the EEC decisions made have to be documented in written form and have to be signed by the president and the secretary.
- (3) In case of urgency, decisions of the EEC can also be made in writing (via e-mail or online) or by telephone, if all members declare their agreement to this procedure by telephone or in written form. The EEC's decisions made in written form or by telephone also have to be documented in written form and have to be signed by the president and the secretary as such of regular meetings.

#### **Art. 9 Amendment of the statutes**

- (1) The decision on the amendment of the statutes requires a three-quarter majority of the present Federation members.
- (2) Amendments of the statutes can only be voted on in the General Assembly, if the invitation (in line with the statutory period) to the General Assembly pointed out this agenda item and the previous statutory text has been attached as well as the intended new one.
- (3) Amendments of the statutes demanded by inspecting, legal or financial authorities because of legal reasons may be carried out by the EEC on its own initiative. Those amendments of the statutes have to be communicated immediately in written form to all members of the Federation.

#### **Art. 10 Privacy**

- (1) The following data of members is collected in context of the membership management: surname, first name, address, e-mail-address etc. This data is processed and recorded on behalf of the membership.
- (2) As a member of the Federation, the Member Association has to forward the data of its members (surname, first name, address, office etc.) to the Federation.
- (3) Beyond that, the Federation only publishes data of its members internally or externally after corresponding decisions of the General Assembly and excludes data

of members who opposed publication, in accordance with appropriate privacy legislation.

**Art. 11 Dissolution of the Federation**

- (1) The dissolution of the Federation may only be decided at a General Assembly convened specifically for this purpose, attended by at least half of all the members of the Federation and with a three-quarters majority of those present. In the event that the first General Assembly does not constitute a quorum, a second General Assembly with the same agenda may be convened within four weeks. This may then pass the dissolution with a three-quarters majority, irrespective of the number of members present.
  
- (2) In the event of dissolution of the Federation or a discontinuation of tax-privileged purposes the assets of the Federation accrue to a legal entity under public law or to another tax-privileged entity to be used for nature conservation. The General Assembly decides with the same majorities applicable for dissolution to which organization the assets of the Federation accrue in the event of dissolution or discontinuation of tax-privileged purposes.