



MISSION

To provide a dynamic, practical support structure to the South African National Parks (SANParks).

VISION

The Honorary Rangers are a collection of dedicated people who contribute to South African National Parks (SANParks) in their private capacity in the same way as renowned charity groups contribute to various other social causes. Our contribution is manifested in many ways, such as raising valuable funds, creating vital public awareness and supplying much needed manpower and equipment to supplement various conservation, tourism and environmental education needs within SANParks. Without our assistance the parks would be so much poorer and in some areas would struggle to survive.

PROFILE

Volunteers

The Honorary Rangers is a completely self-funded group of volunteers, representative of all the people of South Africa.

Equity

Active Programmes have been implemented to promote greater equity and representivity, especially in respect of historically disadvantaged individuals and communities.

Resources

At no cost, the Honorary Rangers:

- Provide or commission professional expertise for specific projects
- Organise fund raising and sponsorships for various projects
- Provide assistance with fixed duties to alleviate the administrative burden of full-time SANParks personnel

TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS OF RANGERS

Criteria

A prospective Honorary Ranger must:

- Be at least 18 years of age and a permanent resident of South Africa (younger than 18 are eligible for the Junior Honorary Rangers)
- Serve as an applicant for one year before membership can be recommended. During that year the applicant must:
 - Pass the orientation course
 - Pass the communication and interpersonal relations course
 - Attend a minimum of 70% of the regional meetings
 - Actively participate in the activities of the region

Compulsory courses

All members of the Corps are required to pass at least the following courses:

- Orientation course in their region
 - Role of Honorary Rangers and overview of SANParks
- Applicable Eco Zone course
 - Arid
 - Coastal
 - Fynbos
 - Grassveld
 - Savanna
- Applied communication course

Other specialised courses

The following specialised courses are offered to Honorary Rangers as part of their ongoing training and in some cases to members of the community:

- Field interpretation
- Alien plant species
- Earth Science
- Hospitality management
- People and conservation

Refresher courses

- Honorary Rangers are assessed annually and are required to keep abreast of the latest developments insofar as SANParks is concerned.
- They are also required to actively participate in projects and to perform such duties as are required from time to time.

MAJOR PROJECTS AND RECENT SUCCESSES

Infrastructure

- Erecting accessible nature trails
- Electrification of various caravan parks and rest camps
- Building of bird hides
- Building of lapas, nurseries and game bomas
- Upgrading and restoration of facilities
- Provision of equipment to field rangers and other staff
- Trail boards
- Vulture restaurants and cold rooms for storage of vulture rations
- Fence erection and removal

Tourism services

- Interpretation services
- Law enforcement
- Information brochures
- Game drives
- Staffing information desks
- Gate duty

Research and Conservation

- Alien plant invader eradication
- Translocation of game
- Breeding station for bio-control agents for the alien biota section in the KNP

Fundraising

- Using corporate contacts for sponsorships
- Donations of equipment
- Birding weekends
- Golf days
- Art performances
- Game capture weekends
- Counter-poaching tins

Environmental education

- Education projects
- Awareness campaigns
- Environmental training courses
- Lectures at schools
- Taking school groups to national parks
- Programmes with the Delta Environmental Centre
- Counter poaching and alien plant species exhibits

Administrative

- Stocktaking
- Manning reception at gates or at reception offices
- Patrolling parks and counter-poaching
- Reporting back to SANParks with areas of concern

CODE OF CONDUCT

- Honorary Rangers are bound by a strict code of conduct. They must also:
 - Have a passionate love of nature
 - Treasure our African natural heritage
 - Have a sense of community spirit
 - Be willing to give freely of their time and expertise to promote the vision and mission of the Corps and the SANParks.
- Uniform
 - Honorary Rangers must wear the correct uniform and insignia while on duty.
- Perform duties only in National Parks
 - Honorary Rangers are not permitted to perform duties in private or municipal reserves.

STRUCTURE

National

At national level, the Corps consists of the following committees:

- National Executive Committee
- National Training Committee
- Administration Offices situated at Groenkloof, Pretoria
- Alien Invader Task Group
- Ranger Support Services and Counter-Poaching
- Strategic Projects (Constituency building and re-engineering)
- National Projects
- Fundraising
- Junior Honorary Rangers
- Trunk Call
- Shows and Exhibitions

Regional

- For practical reasons and local involvement, the Corps is divided into 24 regions countrywide
- Regional Projects are planned and implemented by Regional Committees and Task Groups