



THE INTERNATIONAL RANGERS FEDERATION'S YEAR IN REVIEW 2020



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ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION

The International Ranger Federation (IRF) is a worldwide, non-profit membership-based organization, established to develop, advance, and promote the Ranger profession. The IRF recognizes Rangers and protected and conserved area workers whether state, regional, community, Indigenous, or private, as essential on-the-ground planetary health professionals, that are responsible for safeguarding nature, and cultural and historical heritage, and protecting the rights and well-being of present and future generations. The IRF is the standard bearer for the Ranger profession globally and the voice of Ranger Associations and Rangers everywhere.

WWW.INTERNATIONLRANGERS.ORG

MISSION

The Federation's mission is to develop, advance and promote throughout the world community, the Ranger profession and its critical role in the conservation of natural and cultural resources.

9TH WORLD RANGER CONGRESS

12-16

AN, N

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REMARKS FROM THE IRF PRESIDENT

It was just over a year ago that more than 500 rangers from around the world spent a very productive week in Nepal at the 9th World Ranger Congress (9th WRC). None of us present would have anticipated the number of challenges we'd be navigating just one year later, particularly a global pandemic and its unprecedented impact across protected and conserved areas, sending shockwaves through the ranger workforce. In spite of this, we saw the ranger community unite to support one another in these unprecedented times. A great example of this was the Wildlife Ranger Challenge in Africa, where US\$ 10 million in support was provided to rangers across the continent. The Thin Green Line Foundation also ran campaigns to raise support for rangers through their Emergency Support programs.

The year 2020 tragically also became the deadliest on record for rangers, with over 137 reported deaths listed in this year's Roll of Honor. Alarmingly, 31% of these deaths were due to homicides. These figures, which only account for documented cases, starkly underscore the unacceptable conditions under which rangers continue to perform their vital duties.

Throughout the year, we witnessed significant milestones inspired by the Chitwan Declaration. Notably, the launch of the Universal Ranger Support Alliance and the launch of the IRF's global Ranger Code of Conduct development stand out. Additionally, the IRF's registration as a legal entity, enabled by the ratification of our constitution at the 9th World Ranger Congress, mark a pivotal advancement in our growing legacy.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the associations, organizations, and individuals who tirelessly support and fortify the global ranger community.



Chris Galliers
IRF President

2020 AT A GLANCE



137

rangers died during service between July 2019 to June 2020, with 31% of all deaths caused by homicide.



OVER **10** MILLION

USD raised in support of rangers by the Wildlife Ranger Challenge.



IRF has over

30

new member organizations across

7

regions.



730

Publications on the Force For Nature Ranger App



8

conservation organizations unite to launch the Universal Ranger Support Alliance



50+

Participants gather for 2 Ranger Roundtable Focus Sessions



1,742

rangers across **40** countries contributed to a study on ranger perceptions on their work.



IUCN's International Ranger Awards, in partnership with IRF and others, open for nominations

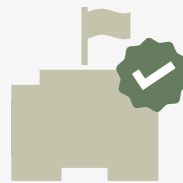


2+

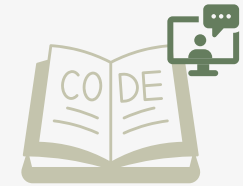
policy documents, briefs and research papers produced and shared .



3 new social media channels created and launched.



IRF became a registered legal entity in Australia.



1820

individuals contributed to the development of the Global Ranger Code of Conduct



1st

'All India Forest Employees Association' created, uniting ranger associations across India's diverse provinces



1st

ever "Day of the Protected Areas of Latin America and the Caribbean" held in LAC



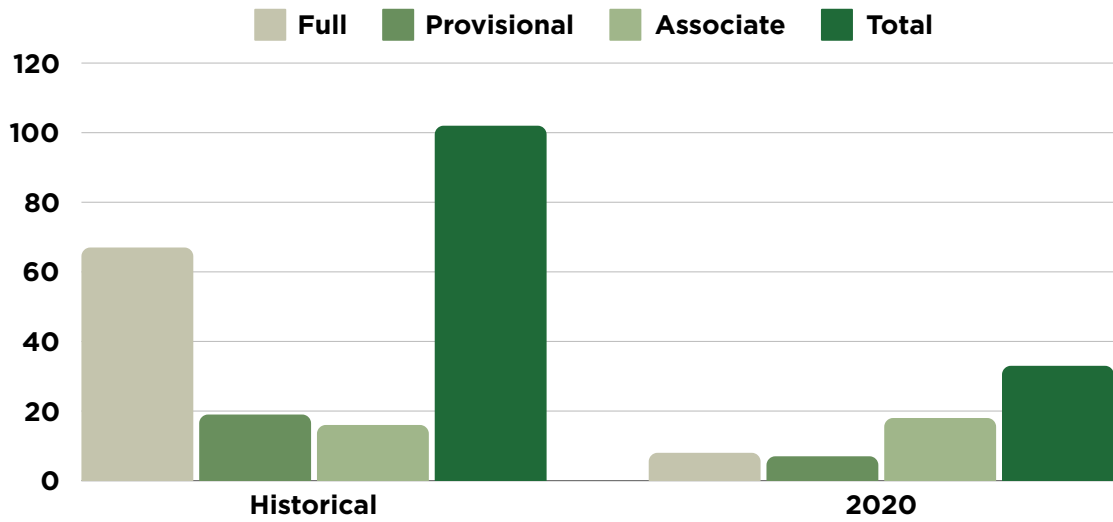
915

rangers responded to a survey on the impact of COVID-19 on their work



& so much more!

NEW IRF MEMBERS 2020



MAP OF RANGER ASSOCIATIONS (AT A GLANCE)



[VIEW OUR INTERACTIVE MAP >](#)



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GLOBAL SPOTLIGHTS OF 2020

RANGERS RESPOND IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19, HIGHLIGHTING THEIR DIVERSE AND VITAL ROLES

In 2020, a global pandemic emerged, causing devastation across the world. Many rangers have been at the frontlines of the pandemic response, tasked with raising awareness on pandemic prevention, addressing food insecurity by delivering food rations to hard-to-reach communities, and responding to an uptick in illegal logging and wildlife crime in many parts of the world.

But despite these critical contributions, many rangers continue to work under extremely harsh health, welfare, and safety conditions with inadequate support, training, and insurance. The pandemic has also taken a significant toll on the sector.

IRF has launched a global survey to understand the impact of COVID-19 on the ranger workforce, with results slated to release next year.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

IRF REGISTERED AS A LEGAL ENTITY IN AUSTRALIA

At the 9th World Ranger Congress, IRF's Constitution was adopted, enabling us to register ourselves as a legal entity. In September 2020, IRF was registered as a legal entity in Australia. This is significant in our effort to grow IRF's relevance and effectiveness in delivering on its mandate. This key step in formalizing IRF's governance has led to the scheduling of our first-ever Annual General Meeting (AGM), slated for 28-29 August, 2021.

WELCOMING IRF'S NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICER

In October 2020, IRF proudly welcomed Carlien Roodt as its new Executive Officer. In this pivotal leadership role, made possible through funding support from the Thin Green Line Foundation, Carlien is at the helm of IRF's logistical and operational strategies, ensuring seamless facilitation of Board Meetings and spearheading dynamic communication initiatives. She brings more than 18 years of ecology and wildlife conservation management and hospitality experience.



[LEARN MORE >](#)

IRF REVAMPS COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS

In 2020, alongside the appointment of our new Executive Officer, IRF enhanced its communication strategy by launching additional social media channels to engage a broader audience and revitalizing our primary platform, Facebook.

Our channels:



FACEBOOK >

IRF's primary communications channel.



LINKEDIN >

Captures key ranger-related updates.



YOUTUBE >

Hub for flagship videos from IRF and partners.



MAILCHIMP >

Newsletter sent to subscribed ranger associations.

FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND PARTNERSHIP FOR RANGERS ESTABLISHED IN RESPONSE TO THE CHITWAN DECLARATION

URSA is a coalition of conservation organizations supporting and promoting IRF to build a network of well-supported, professional, and capable rangers, who can act effectively as custodians of the natural world. We help them advocate for the creation of inclusive and effective teams at the forefront of protecting nature, people, and the planet. Our time-bound support prioritizes recognition, resources and representation for rangers around the world.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

Formally launching URSA

On World Ranger Day 2020, the IRF joined six other organizations to launch a new alliance to support professionalization of rangers in protected and conserved areas across the world.

The world's rangers play a vital, but often undervalued role in managing protected and conserved areas, cultural sites and biodiversity. Yet a 2019 global survey of more than 7,000 rangers revealed that many are underpaid, uninsured, inadequately trained, working on temporary contracts, lacking even basic equipment and accommodation and spending weeks away from home. At the International Ranger Federation's 2019 World Congress in Chitwan, Nepal, more than 550 Rangers from 70 countries agreed upon the Chitwan Declaration, detailing the needs and priorities for rangers to do their work more professionally, safely, and responsibly — ultimately mandating the creation of URSA.

Shaping an evidence-based approach

As a starting point to determine the alliance's main focus areas, a series of white papers are being developed to guide the development of a clear and achievable action plan. The papers align closely with the Chitwan Declaration and include analysis on ranger professionalization, gender equity in the ranger workforce, the role of rangers in conservation, the role of ranger associations in strengthening the ranger workforce and empowering rangers through technology and innovation.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

The URSA Action Plan will be developed following the development of a series of White Papers aligned with the Chitwan Declaration covering:

Gender Equality in the ranger workforce

Role of ranger associations in strengthening ranger workforces

Role of ranger associations in strengthening the ranger workforce

Empowering rangers through technology and innovation

Building capacity and performance of rangers in and around protected areas

Building healthy relationships between rangers and communities

Ranger professionalization

Employment conditions

“Rangers work in very remote and difficult working environments, endangering their lives to protect the world’s wildlife and natural resources. We are committed to bringing about universal and lasting change for the ranger profession, to ensure rangers have the resources needed to safeguard the world’s wildlife and protected areas. Local and Indigenous community livelihoods and wellbeing are intrinsically linked to the health of nature, so supporting rangers in turn also helps strengthen communities.



CHRIS GALLIERS

President
International Ranger Federation

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UNIVERSAL RANGER SUPPORT ALLIANCE PARTNERS

URSA

SUPPORTING RANGERS
TODAY.
CONSERVING THE WORLD FOR
TOMORROW.



KICKSTARTING THE INITIAL STAGE TO CREATE THE WORLD'S FIRST GLOBAL RANGER CODE OF CONDUCT

In 2020, the International Ranger Federation alongside the Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA) took major strides in the development of the world's first global Ranger Code of Conduct (CoC). Throughout the year, we worked with partners to oversee a global, iterative consultation process with rangers, ranger associations, ranger employers, national and regional government bodies, human rights organizations and other relevant stakeholders.

The first phase of the consultation garnered 177 responses from 51 countries, representing 663 people and the second phase received 620 responses from 41 countries, representing 1,157 people. All comments and responses were collated, translated, reviewed and addressed by the CoC development team, with all comments and corresponding actions noted for future records.

CoC's objective

The ranger profession needs strong principles to guide behaviour and professionalise the ranger workforce. Rangers need a Code of Conduct to maintain high standards of practice and ethics. This document provides a common definition for a ranger and working templates for ranger values and codes of conduct. This was a clear request of the 2019 Chitwan Declaration from the World Ranger Congress.

Intended use

The intention is for the CoC and Values to be implemented by ranger groups and institutions, with the documents adapted as needed to local contexts. The templates are a guiding resource, providing core principles for groups that want to develop their own standards. They are not enforced definitions or codes but there is strong encouragement to follow them as good practice guidelines that enable an effective and professional ranger workforce.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

[SEE GRAPHIC SUMMARY >](#)

Ranger Definition

There is a wide range of working titles in use globally, all of which fit the definition of the term "ranger". We have identified a number of additional titles, listed in the appendix. For this document, the term ranger will be used to refer to any of the relevant working titles.

Rangers play a critical role in conservation; they are responsible for safeguarding nature, and cultural and historical heritage, and protecting the rights and well-being of present and future generations. As representatives of their authority, organisation, and community, they work, often for extended periods, in protected and conserved areas and wider land- and seascapes, whether state, regional, communal, indigenous, or private, in line with legal and institutional frameworks. They should be dedicated and knowledgeable, and should always act in a professional manner.

Rangers provide a combination of services, which include: conserving and restoring natural and protected and conserved areas integrity.



Ranger Values

Rangers should strive to uphold the following values in their work and personal life.

Rangers should act as role models and ambassadors for their profession, the environment, and the people who depend upon these resources. Often, they are the "face" of nature. They should be proud, dedicated and passionate about their vocation, ready when duty calls, and compassionate towards nature and the people they interact with.

Natural and Cultural Values

Human well-being is directly linked to nature. Rangers must respect and conserve the natural and cultural values of the areas where they work, encouraging all others to do the same. They should understand that present and future generations have the right to know, enjoy and benefit from nature.

Principles and Accountability

Rangers should adhere to human rights and ethical principles. They are not corrupt, and should not engage in unfairness, impartiality, and tolerance. They should not discriminate, abuse, intimidate or harass. Rangers respect gender, age, ability, race, socio-economic or ethnic status, sexual orientation, and religious beliefs or lack thereof.

Excellence

Rangers should act in line with applicable laws, professional standards, values and guidelines. They are accountable for their actions and are transparent in performing their duties.

their duties to the highest standards. They should aim to continually develop their knowledge and skills and share these with colleagues and other stakeholders.

Collaboration, Loyalty and Leadership

The ranger workforce is more effective through teamwork and collaboration. Rangers should be disciplined and loyal to colleagues and their seniors, the organisations and communities they serve, and the environments they protect, unless this compromises their integrity, or leads to other adverse effects. Rangers and institutions should inspire colleagues and others by upholding ranger values, leading by example, treating everyone equally, supporting and mentoring, and enabling open and effective dialogue to create an organisational culture true to these values.

Respect

Rangers should treat the public, colleagues, communities and other rightsholders and stakeholders with respect and courtesy while upholding the law. They should maintain a sound and positive relationship with indigenous peoples and local communities, building trust through clear dialogue and transparent, appropriate action. Rangers should respect and value community and individual rights, culture, customs, knowledge, and livelihoods.

Safety

Rangers should treat information with respect and disclose it only where necessary in the proper course of their duties. Rangers should act with the utmost respect for their own safety, and the safety of others, and not take unnecessary risks. Rangers maintain operational security to protect themselves, their colleagues, and the organisation.

Fortitude

Rangers should be courageous in their duties in the face of danger, criticism, or threats. Sometimes courage involves removing oneself from a dangerous situation. They should act appropriately if the actions of superiors, colleagues or other stakeholders do not align with the ranger values or code of conduct.

RANGER ROUNDTABLE SERIES LAUNCHED

Established in July 2020, the Ranger Roundtable is a collaboration between three convening partners: the International Ranger Federation, The Thin Green Line Foundation and the Universal Ranger Support Alliance. Together, we host online discussions designed to raise the professional profile of and support for Rangers as essential frontline planetary health workers. Originally, it emerged in response to the immediate impacts of COVID-19 on Rangers, their communities and Protected and Conserved Areas, as well as ongoing efforts towards the Chitwan Declaration.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

Ranger Roundtables are organized under two forums:

Focus sessions >

The Roundtable Focus Sessions bring together leaders from the Ranger sector and global development, health and conservation organizations. This forum is breaking down traditional silos and opening new collaborative solutions to the Planetary Emergency. These are private, invitationonly events which focus on global issues like climate change, biodiversity loss, zoonotic diseases and emerging nature-based markets and investment and connecting the dots between Rangers and Natural Capital accounting.

Webinars >

The Webinars are designed specifically for Rangers, Ranger organizations and supporters as we work together on the professionalization of the Ranger sector in alignment with the Chitwan Declaration. These public events take place at key points through the year, including during World Ranger Month (July). The Webinars serve a vital function in keeping Ranger to Ranger conversation alive between the World Ranger congresses including around World Ranger Day (July 31). They give voice to World Ranger Congresses, facilitate peer to peer knowledge transfer, spotlight important challenges and support Rangerled collaboration on solutions.

These multi-partner online discussions aim to elevate the professional profile and support for rangers as vital frontline conservation workers. Initially, the series responded to the immediate impacts of COVID-19 on rangers, their communities, and Protected and Conserved Areas, while also advancing efforts to fulfill the Chitwan Declaration.



First Ranger Roundtable focus sessions kick off

1st Ranger Roundtable Focus Session | 23 July 2020

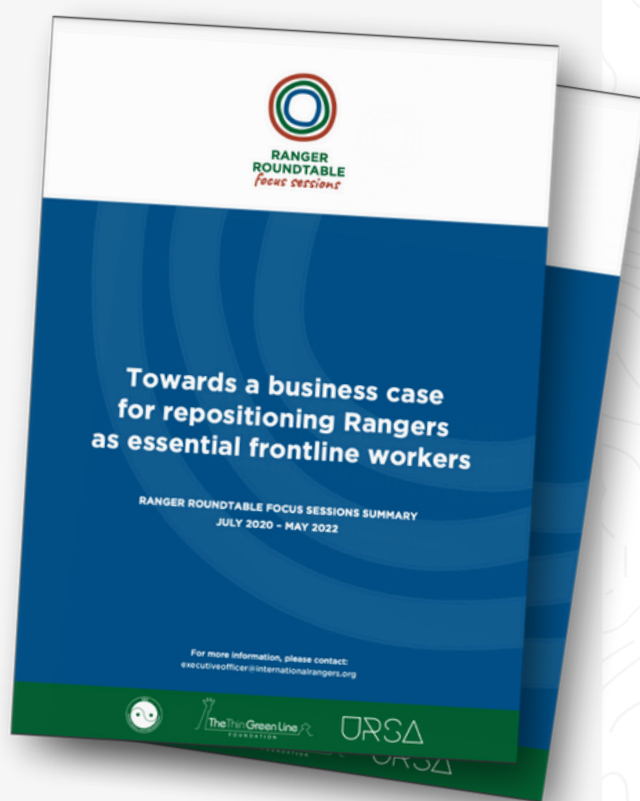
On 23 July 2020, representatives from across the global Ranger sector; including government bodies as well as conservation, intergovernmental and philanthropic organizations united to discuss the Impacts of COVID-19 on the ranger workforce.

Dr. Jane Goodall opened the Roundtable by emphasizing the pandemic's ripple effect: tourism decline has slashed National Park revenue, leading to ranger layoffs and job losses. She stressed that wildlife relies on rangers, who in turn need our support to perform their crucial duties safely. The session also included speakers from the Indian Forest Service, Kenyan Community Rangers Association, and an Indigenous ranger from Brazil.



2nd Ranger Roundtable Focus Session | November 2020

In November 2020, we united again for the second-ever focus session, this time tackling how rangers might be repositioned in global policy, public perception, national contexts and across different sectors. This conversation was chaired by Dr. Bruno Oberle, IUCN Director General, and Chris Galliers, IRF President.



[LEARN MORE >](#)

RANGER ROUNDTABLE PARTNERS



INTERNATIONAL
RANGER
FEDERATION

ORSA



NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE FIRST EDITION OF THE IUCN INTERNATIONAL RANGER AWARDS

In November 2020, IUCN Protected Areas and World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN-WCPA) proudly announced the launch of the “International Ranger Awards,” developed in collaboration with the International Ranger Federation, Global Wildlife Conservation, and Conservation Allies.

These awards will recognise the remarkable work of rangers in protected and conserved areas around the world. Each Awardee will receive a unique uniform patch and their employing/supporting organization will receive US\$10,000 to support their work (e.g. purchasing essential supplies or equipment, providing training, providing insurance supporting the family of a deceased ranger, and more).

[LEARN MORE >](#)





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WORLD RANGER DAY 2020: DEADLIEST YEAR FOR RANGERS ON RECORD

July 31 is World Ranger Day and honors the dedication, and crucial work rangers do every day around the globe. The day offers an opportunity to show support to rangers for the services they provide. It was initiated in 2007 by the International Ranger Federation and the Thin Green Line Foundation to mark the 15th anniversary of IRF's founding.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

At a glance

This year, we mourn the highest number of ranger fatalities ever recorded, with 137 deaths, bringing the total to 1013 over the past decade. Asia and Africa are the most dangerous regions, with homicide and animal attacks being the leading causes of death. We stand with the ranger community, remembering their sacrifices and celebrating their vital contributions to conservation.

Recognizing rangers' contributions to pandemic prevention & response

World Ranger Day also highlighted rangers' crucial role in global health and pandemic prevention. Sadly, many rangers were directly impacted by COVID-19, with some losing their lives. Globally, rangers have been essential in pandemic response, distributing vital goods and delivering key information to remote areas. Their contributions have been invaluable.

Stepping up for rangers

Many organizations, civil society groups and individuals united to support rangers negatively impacted by COVID-19. A great example of this was the [Wildlife Ranger Challenge](#) in Africa, where US\$ 10 million in support was provided to rangers across the continent. The Thin Green Line Foundation also ran campaigns to raise support for rangers through their Emergency Support programs.

Launch of the Universal Ranger Support Alliance

As shared in a highlight earlier in this report, on World Ranger Day 2020, IRF also joined Fauna & Flora International, Force for Nature, Global Wildlife Conservation, Panthera, the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, the Worldwide Fund for Nature, and the Zoological Society of London to launch the Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA). The alliance's vision is to contribute towards a network of well-supported, professionally competent, mandated, motivated, responsible and representative rangers working effectively as custodians of biodiversity and the life systems upon which we all depend.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



IN MEMORIAM

WORLD RANGER DAY | RANGER ROLL OF HONOUR 2020

Alex Pajibo	Liberia	Death in Service	Ibrahim Magaji	Nigeria	Homicide	Héritier Ndagijimana Ndahobari	DR Congo	Homicide
Hemant Kumar	India	Elephant attack	John Paul	Nigeria	Homicide	Lumumba Anuani Bihira	DR Congo	Homicide
Shannon Barron	USA	Heart attack at work	Simon Benku	Nigeria	Homicide	Djamaï Badi Mukandama	DR Congo	Homicide
Sohan Singh Rawat	India	Tiger attack	Gime Ángel Calderón Villasante	Peru	Heart attack at work	Joseph Kasole Janvier	DR Congo	Homicide
Maura Alejandra Hernandez Sierra	Colombia	Aneurism at work	K. Mahendran	India	Elephant attack	Agustin Mugisho Kulondwa	DR Congo	Homicide
Bashir Ahmed Naik	India	Homicide	Keshob Karmakar	India	Accident	Jean-Louis Kambale Mutsomani	DR Congo	Homicide
Annegowda	India	Elephant attack	Alex Wayo	Ghana	Accident	Jules Kambale Teremuka	DR Congo	Homicide
Kanysh Nurtazinov	Kazakhstan	Killed by poachers	Timothy Tembo	Zimbabwe	Homicide	Ruphin Masumbuko Malekani	DR Congo	Homicide
Kimo Miji	India	Japanese encephalitis	Mabharani Chidhumo	India	Homicide	Mahesh	India	Drowned
François Kiwambisile	DR Congo	Homicide	Sharmila Jayaram	Sri Lanka	Motor vehicle accident	Shivakumar	India	Drowned
Ajay Santosh	India	Drowning	Maithee Wickramasinghe	Australia	Elephant attack	Suparp Sinwan	Thailand	Death in service
Rahul Damodhar Jadhav	India	Drowning	Mat Kavanagh	Australia	Motor vehicle accident	Cristian Gonzales Tanchiva	Peru	Covid 19
Bishan Ram	India	Tiger attack	Bill Slade	Benin	Firefighting	Damião Cristiano de Carvalho, Jr.	Brazil	Killed by illegal miners
Suraiman Karemame	Thailand	Killed by poacher	N'Serma Kataman Severin	Brazil	Drowned	Kan Chaiprasert	Thailand	Killed by poachers
Mudiyanselage C.K. Basnayake	Sri Lanka	Elephant attack	Elma Normandia	India	Death in service	Deepu Singh Rana	Thailand	Killed by poachers
Mamata Patil	India	Motor vehicle accident	Lakhan Karmakar	India	Stroke while on duty	Lathuram Bordoloi	India	Elephant attack
Bienvenido 'Totò' Veguilla, Jr	Philippines	Killed by timber poachers	Raúl Hernández Romero	Mexico	Homicide	C. Chandru	India	Drowned
Nonthachai Klailamtharn	Thailand	Heart attack at work	Kshitiy Kumar Jyotishi	India	Motor vehicle accident	Polita Arevalo Flores	Peru	Death in service
Gad Durami	Nigeria	Yellow fever	Yamid Alonso Silva Torres	Colombia	Homicide	Manuel Cuñata Berrugate	Panama	Covid 19
Unnamed	Burkina Faso	Homicide	Swans van Wyke	South Africa	Killed by lions	Marshal Ncube	Zimbabwe	Motor vehicle accident
Bhoop Ram	India	Motor vehicle accident	Musa Benjamin Phiri	Zimbabwe	Drowned	Yogendra Malviya	India	Wildlife rescue accident
Gaudencio Arana	Philippines	Homicide	KU Divakaran	India	Firefighting	Abraham Valencia Sánchez	Mexico	Covid 19
Bipul Hazarika	India	Motor vehicle accident	AK Velayudhan	India	Firefighting	Dhanna Lal	India	Leopard attack
Nizamuddin Ahmed	India	Motor vehicle accident	Vattaparambilveetil Shankaran	India	Firefighting	Luis Guillermo Bravo Ulloa	Chile	Natural causes
Prasanta Dutta	India	Motor vehicle accident	Saw Maw Aye Than	Myanmar	Homicide	Philip Bayor	Ghana	Accident
Priyom Mech	India	Motor vehicle accident	Malik Aman	Pakistan	Firefighting	Alberto Cucul Cho	Guatemala	Homicide
Răducu Gorceaia	Romania	Killed by timber poachers	Dramane Sanou	Burkina Faso	Death in service	Tom Booz	USA	Covid 19
M A Manjunath	India	Death in service	AS Bijumon	India	Elephant attack	Bhuvan Ram	India	Trampled by elephant
Alberto Torres	USA	Heart attack on patrol	Germain Vyasaki Kambale	DR Congo	Homicide	Ricardo Cabrera	Argentina	Motor vehicle accident
Liviu Pop	Romania	Killed by timber poachers	James Owen Hall	USA	Motor vehicle accident	Jaime Vásquez Caverio	Peru	Covid 19
Thakur Das	India	Motor vehicle accident	Mambo Suruandi Lucien	DR Congo	Motor vehicle accident	P K S Pamarathana	Sri Lanka	Motor vehicle accident
Rakesh Negai	India	Tiger attack	Baandhu	India	Tiger attack	Pongsiri Thongdee	Thailand	Leptospirosis
Wissanu Kluamuangpak	Thailand	Drowned	Brikudr Bora	India	Rhino attack	Halfan Mwale	Tanzania	Snake bite
Ronaldo Corpuz	Philippines	Homicide	Leroy Bruwer	South Africa	Homicide	Unknown Ranger	Representing those Fallen Rangers not reported to date	
Ravi Baiga	India	Domestic elephant attack	Jenny Geddes Gomez	Ecuador	Covid 19			
Ramdarsh Sharma	India	Wild elephant attack	Juan Francisco Farjat	Argentina	Homicide			
Paulo Paulino Guajajara	Brazil	Killed by timber poachers	Chintia Baiga	Argentina	Tiger attack			
Anare Kocawa	Fiji	Motor vehicle accident	Gustaph Matjila	South Africa	Heart attack at work			
Mosesse Vulwalu	Fiji	Motor vehicle accident	Jallah Ngarfuen	Liberia	Motorcycle accident			
Kambale Kasuki Jean Aimé	DR Congo	Homicide	Zachary Robba	Australia	Shark attack			
Hendri Saputra	Indonesia	Drowning	Edgar Mwanza	Zambia	Elephant attack			
Janikrao Warlu Masram	India	Elephant attack	Irfan Ahmad Shah	India	Motor vehicle accident			
Kaiya Ram Chhetri	Nepal	Elephant attack	Mahadev Nayaka	India	Drowned			
Bhemappa Illala	India	Died from poisonous bite	Uru-eu-wau-wau	Brazil	Homicide			
Manghlu Tharu	Nepal	Tiger attack	Nan Sanchaimonkol	Thailand	Motor vehicle accident			
Babul Chandra Chaudhary	India	Motor vehicle accident	Albert Odar	Uganda	Motor vehicle accident			
Bhagawath Suresh Naik	India	Drowning	Senadheera Pradeep Bandara	Sri Lanka	Motor vehicle accident			
Munjam Balakrishna	India	Drowning	Kadhafi Abedi Iyalu	DR Congo	Homicide			
Teresa Ordeñez Romero	Bolivia	Death in service	Junior Fazili Justin	DR Congo	Homicide			
Carlos Rojas Lobos	Chile	Motor vehicle accident	Jeannot Muhindo Isevihango	DR Congo	Homicide			
Ramiro Cordero	Dominican Republic	Homicide	Moise Paluku Kalondero	DR Congo	Homicide			
Unnamed	Senegal	Drowning	Jacques Muhindo Katembo	DR Congo	Homicide			

Please note: these names represent those reported and confirmed Ranger deaths up to 30 June 2020. The complete figure is unknown and those Rangers are represented by the Unknown Ranger. This list also includes those with similar roles/duties as Rangers that have different titles but does not include severely injured Rangers, of which there are many; our thoughts and respects are also with them.

To report any Ranger deaths or injuries please email: info@thingreenline.org.au | Support the families of Rangers killed in the line of duty at www.thingreenline.org.au/donate | The International Ranger Federation website is www.internationalrangers.org

[READ #WRD2020 MESSAGE FROM IRF PRESIDENT >](#)

MARKING WORLD DAY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK THROUGH A JOINT STATEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

On 28 April 2020, IRF marked World Day for Safety and Health at Work through a joint statement with the International Labour Organization.

The statement read: *While many workers continue to work from the safety of their homes, one cadre of professionals —wildlife rangers — continue on their daily patrols, which have been deemed to essential services in most parts of the world. As such, this sector has faced a number of painful losses. In one such case in April, Galapagos National Park in Ecuador lost one of its best to COVID-19, ranger Jenny Geddes Gomes, who joins the hundreds of thousands of people worldwide who have lost their lives to this pandemic. Like many other rangers across the globe, Jenny served diligently protecting one of the most precious places on our planet and her loss is felt from Ecuador, across the global ranger community.*

We will finally emerge from the current global crisis but the lessons learned should not be forgotten. Unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, where ecological thresholds are exceeded must stop if we want to prevent such pandemics; and rangers, together with the people living around the protected and conserved areas will be critical to this fight and they need our continued support.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



The Force For Nature Ranger App

A **free** online community connecting Rangers around the world, for social interaction, knowledge exchange and training

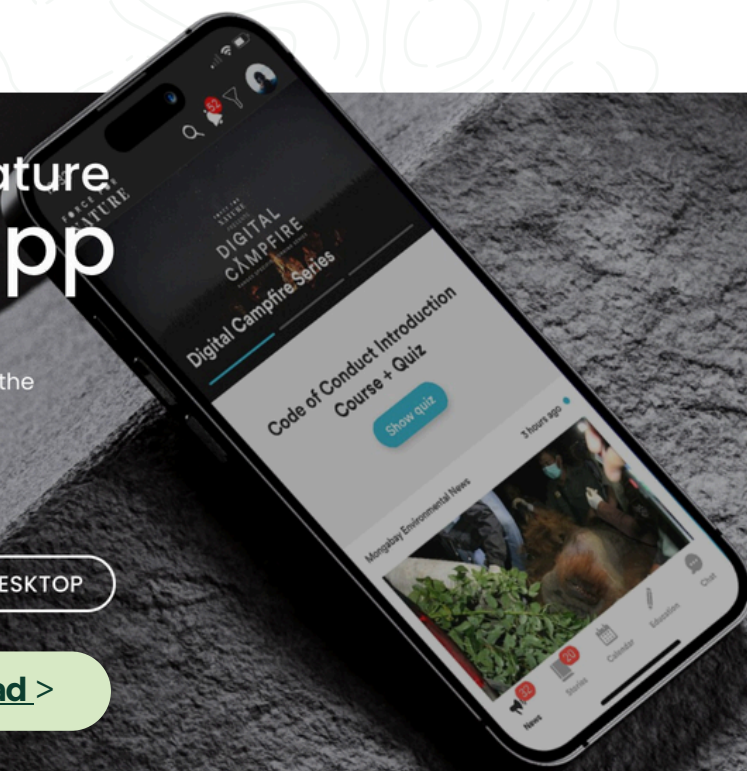
Download:

IOS

ANDROID

DESKTOP

[Click here to download >](#)



INTRODUCING THE FORCE FOR NATURE RANGER APP

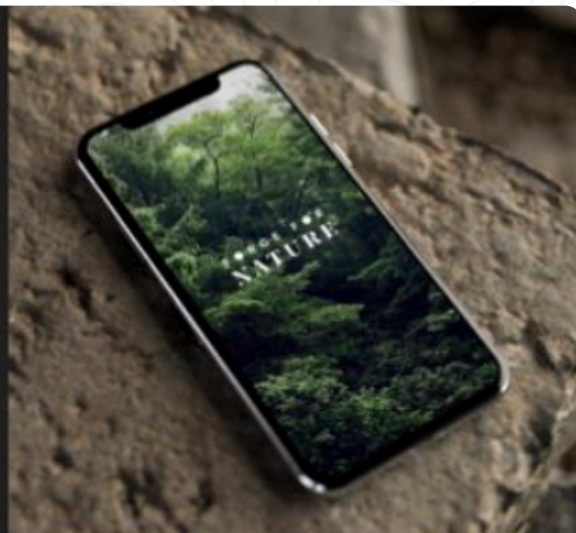
The Force for Nature Ranger App connects tens of thousands of Rangers to each other, with more than 80 countries already represented.

In November 2020, IRF introduced the Force for Nature Ranger App, a tool designed to connect the global community of rangers, help unify knowledge and improve welfare and support. The aim of the App is to increase the effectiveness of rangers by connecting the community and providing opportunities for support and knowledge. So far, 2020 saw more than 730 publications on the app.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

WHAT YOU CAN DO ON THE APP

- Post your stories, share & comment
- Connect with new colleagues
- Read conservation & Ranger news
- Stay in contact with IRF
- Explore education topics
- Discover projects around the world
- Chat with Rangers
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REGIONAL SNAPSHOTS

WHAT DO RANGERS FEEL? NEW STUDY CONSIDERING REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES FROM ASIA, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA PUBLISHED IN PARKS JOURNAL

The study "What Do Rangers Feel?" surveyed 1,742 rangers across 40 countries, revealing that many face life-threatening situations, limited family time, and feel under-equipped. Despite these challenges, their main motivation is being close to nature.

Published in PARKS journal in May 2020, with direct involvement of IRF and regional associations, this study is valuable as it provides a large-scale insight into ranger perceptions, highlighting critical issues and informing future policies for better working conditions and conservation efforts.

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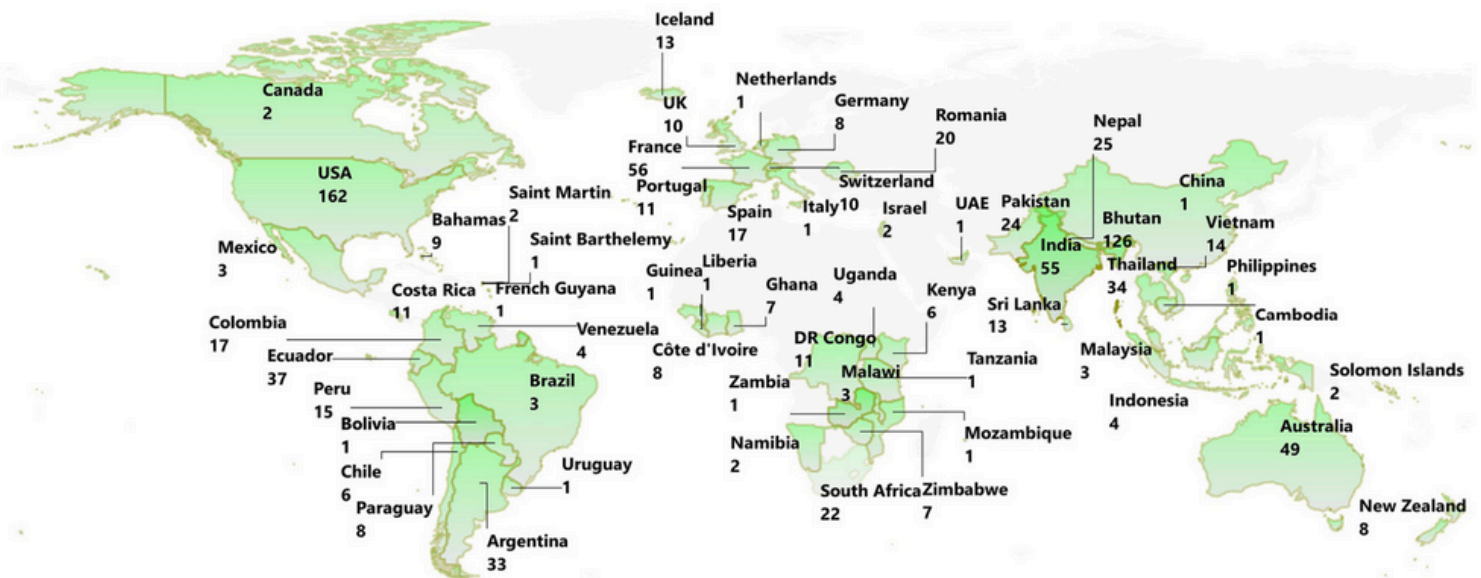


REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS SUPPORT GLOBAL SURVEY OF THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON RANGERS

Regional associations played a key role in helping facilitate a global survey assessing the impact of COVID-19 on rangers and their work in protecting and conserving protected areas in the world. 915 survey responses were generated from individual rangers from 60 countries, covering all regions represented by the IRF.

The complete study will be launched in a special issue of the PARKS Journal in March 2021.

The countries where surveys were conducted with number of responses for each country:



ASIA

WELCOMING THE ‘ALL INDIA OFFICERS FEDERATION’

In the past, all ranger associations across India were largely unconnected across multiple organizations scattered throughout different provinces. This has changed with the creation of the “All India Officers Federation,” which brings all organizations under one banner. By fostering collaboration and communication among the various ranger associations, the federation aims to enhance their operational efficiency, share best practices, and address common challenges more effectively.

Looking ahead to the Asian Ranger Forum 2023

One of the primary areas of focus for the new federation is to begin planning the historic Asian Ranger Forum 2023, the first-ever meeting to unite rangers across the region. In 2020, initial discussions about the Forum took place, including scoping potential locations and identifying key committees.

BHUTAN FOREST EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION DEVELOPMENT KICKS OFF

Rangers across Bhutan are being united under the banner of the country’s first-of-its-kind forum for rangers: the Bhutan Forest Employee Association. On World Ranger Day 2020, His Excellency Yeshey Penjor, Minister for Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, recognized all rangers, and called for unity and further support through the association.

[VIEW HIS MESSAGE](#)



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AFRICA

THE WILDLIFE RANGER CHALLENGE LAUNCHED IN RESPONSE TO HEIGHTENED RISKS CAUSED BY THE PANDEMIC

The Wildlife Ranger Challenge is the world's largest celebration of solidarity, support and fundraising for the ranger profession, launched in 2020 in response to the global pandemic. More than a 100 teams of rangers spanning the African continent compete every year in a series of challenges through June-September, culminating in a 21km race across their respective protected areas in September. It is coordinated by Tusk and the Game Rangers Association of Africa.

On World Ranger Day 2020, more than 50 ranger teams across Africa came together to launch The Wildlife Ranger Challenge in a bid to support rangers across Africa's protected areas who are enduring cuts in salaries and resources due to the devastating economic impact of Covid-19 and yet are still working tirelessly to safeguard the continent's iconic wildlife.

From Djibouti to Singapore, Bhutan to New Zealand, in October 2020 over 2,000 supporters from 80 countries ran in solidarity with 2,000 Wildlife Rangers across 20 countries in Africa, securing over \$10,000,000 USD in donations, with a match from the Scheinberg Relief Fund.

Support means greater security, stability and resourcing for 9,000 Wildlife Rangers across 21 African countries, protecting over 45 endangered species. 4,000,000 KM2 of ecosystem and 64,000 local livelihoods.

[READ MORE](#)



RHINO CONSERVATION AWARDS 2020

Coinciding with World Ranger Day, the Rhino Conservation Awards honors people and organizations who work constantly to reduce the threats and increase the sustainability of conservation efforts in Africa. The awards also come as the global economic crisis brought on by the Coronavirus has deprived countries and conservation efforts of vital wildlife tourism revenue, especially from parks and lodges. This has added to the importance of paying tribute to the courage of those working to ensure the survival of endangered species, said the patron of the awards, Prince Albert II of Monaco.

This year, IRF President, Chris Galliers, served as a judge, offering this comment in the lead up to the ceremony:

“What a privilege it is to be part of these awards where one gets to see and appreciate the incredible work being undertaken by committed, selfless individuals who are making a difference. This year has seen an incredible list of worthy candidates and having been involved since the inception of the awards, this has been the hardest to adjudicate on so far. Thanks to all those who took the time to write-up the nominations of these special people who deserve recognition as in most cases, they themselves would not have done so as the work that they do is passion driven and for a greater good.”

Winners include:

- Samuel Loware of Uganda Wildlife Authority, Best Field Ranger
- Don English of South African National Parks, Best Game Ranger
- SANParks Kruger National Park Airwing, Best Conservation Practitioner
- Lynne Taylor, Best Conservation Supporter

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THE RHINO CONSERVATION AWARDS 2020 ARE IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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Department:
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PRINCE ALBERT II
OF MONACO
FOUNDATION



LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

UNITING FOR THE FIRST-EVER “DAY OF THE PROTECTED AREAS OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN”

In 2019, during the Third Latin America and the Caribbean Protected Area Congress, a critical event for the LAC region held every ten years, **17 October** was declared as **the Day of the Protected Areas of Latin America and the Caribbean**.

In 2020, for the very first time, the region united to celebrate this special day, recognizing the invaluable role of protected and conserved areas, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). These areas are essential for the well-being of people and sustainable development. The day also shone a spotlight on the indispensable work of rangers in maintaining the health of these protected areas, highlighting the urgent need for their continued support and professional development.

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**DÍA DE
LAS ÁREAS
PROTEGIDAS**
LATINOAMÉRICA
Y EL CARIBE **17 OCT**

NORTH AMERICA

MEETING WITH ALL MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

In 2020, IRF's North America Representative, Andy Wright, took active steps to meet all member associations comprising the North America region. During these conversations, each association shared their aspirations, upcoming plans and provided feedback on their experience so far. A common thread across all conversations was a desire to strengthen the sense of community across North American rangers.

WELCOMING FLORIDA PARK SERVICE RANGER ASSOCIATION AND ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANGER ASSOCIATION

In 2020, IRF welcomed the Florida Park Service Ranger Association (FPSRA) as full members and the Rocky Mountain Ranger Association (RMRA) as provisional members.

The Florida Park Service Ranger Association (FPSRA), established in 1989, supports those who serve Florida State Parks, both past and present. The association provides financial assistance, fosters a family atmosphere, and promotes a spirit of unity and service. They organize various events such as the Annual Gathering and Family Fun Day, which help maintain fellowship among members and support park service projects.

The Rocky Mountain Ranger Association (RMRA), founded in 2018, supports rangers and conservation professionals in the Rocky Mountain region. It focuses on professional development through training and education, community engagement to raise conservation awareness, and advocacy for policies that protect natural resources and ranger welfare.



EUROPE

WELCOME TO NEW JUNIOR RANGERS ON THE AZORES ISLANDS

In January 2020, the Portuguese Ranger Association (APGVN) and the regional government of the Azores Islands launched an exciting new Junior Ranger program. Kudos to everyone who made this possible! This initiative spans all nine Azores islands, showcasing the incredible commitment of the Governo dos Azores and the APGVN. It's the fruit of engaging ERF presentations and workshops by APGVN members, coupled with positive exchanges among various European Ranger associations. The goal? To expand Junior Ranger programs across more regions and protected areas throughout Europe.

What is the Junior Ranger Program?

The Junior Ranger Program is an exciting initiative that immerses young nature enthusiasts, aged 7-18, in the world of wildlife conservation. Through hands-on activities like wildlife exploration, nature protection projects, and assisting Rangers, participants gain invaluable skills and a deep connection to the environment. The program also offers international exchanges and camps, fostering a global community of young conservationists. This unique experience not only educates but also inspires the next generation to become passionate stewards of our planet.

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EUROPEAN RANGER CONGRESS CANCELLED

Due to travel restrictions caused by the pandemic, the European Ranger Federation regrettably had to cancel the 5th European Ranger Congress 2020, initially slated for 11-16 May at Bayerische Eisenstein, Germany. ERF is closely monitoring the situation and will announce a rescheduling plan in early 2021.

AUSTRALIA & OCEANIA

RESPONDING TO DEVASTATING FIRES

Many Australian rangers saw their life's work destroyed in a day as fires ravaged protected ecosystems. Recovery efforts, often led by ranger teams, focused on providing food and water for wildlife and nesting boxes for displaced birds and mammals.

Revegetation was prioritized to help native flora re-establish before weeds and pests invaded the fire-affected areas. Clearing damaged infrastructure and contaminants is also essential, with tasks varying by region and continuing through the seasons.

Tammy Leggett of the South Australian Rangers Association noted, "The bush will recover but it will take some time. This is the most intense fire season most people have seen. It will take some time to assess - the fires have burnt so hot that it's too soon to determine the full impact."

Jolene McLellan from the Council of Oceania Ranger Associations emphasized the crucial role of rangers in disaster response, stating, "Rangers have unfortunately been witness to heart-breaking situations, including seeing places they thought would never burn go up in flames, including rainforest and World Heritage areas. Rangers strategically plan how they can reduce the threat of devastating wildfires. Developing 10-year strategy plans and conducting hazard reduction burns are some examples of what rangers will do in an effort to reduce the intensity and damage from future wildfires. Many of the states work with First Nations people and land and sea rangers on these initiatives."

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INDIGENOUS RANGER FUNDING EXTENSION SIGNALS IMPORTANT STEP

In March 2020, the Government of Australia's Minister for Indigenous Australians, Ken Wyatt, and Minister for the Environment, **Sussan Ley MP** announced federal Indigenous ranger funding will be extended all the way out to 2028.

This investment recognizes the long term planning that goes in to looking after the region's precious resources, particularly in managing fire, fighting feral animals, tackling noxious weeds and caring for culturally important areas. More than 700 Indigenous rangers are employed in more than 100 ranger teams across Australia.

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Indigenous Rangers address the audience during a panel at the 9th World Ranger Congress. © Ranjan Ramchandani



NEWSLETTERS IN 2020

[December 2020 Newsletter >](#)

This 'Year in Review' report only scratches the surface on IRF and the global ranger community's annual spotlights. It is intended to capture only a select number of updates from throughout the year and does not intend to serve as an 'all encompassing' document of all our activities.

*If you have any questions, please email:
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