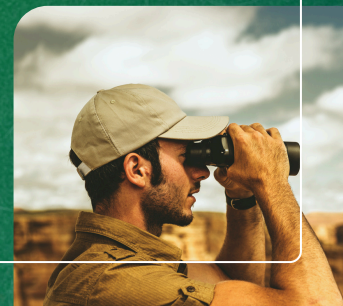
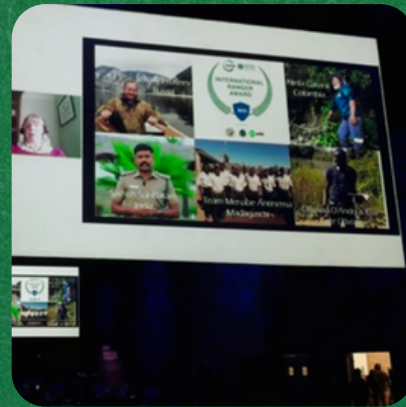




# THE INTERNATIONAL RANGERS FEDERATION'S YEAR IN REVIEW 2021



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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.INTERNATIONALRANGERS.ORG](http://WWW.INTERNATIONALRANGERS.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.



# REMARKS FROM THE IRF PRESIDENT

*With COVID-19 continuing to send shockwaves throughout the ranger workforce and with ongoing challenges brought on by the climate and biodiversity crises, this year was particularly challenging for our global ranger community.*

*Despite these challenges, IRF continues to advance its mission to strengthen regional ranger associations and serve as the voice of rangers globally. This year, we saw inspiring progress on a number of action areas stemming directly from the Chitwan Declaration, from the launch of the Universal Ranger Support Alliance's Action Plan, the publication of a first-of-its-kind report on gender equality in the ranger workforce and the launch of the first-ever Ranger Code of Conduct. In a testament to the growing – and long overdue – recognition of rangers in global fora, IRF also welcomed the inclusion of rangers in the IUCN World Conservation Congress' Marseille Manifesto.*

*This year, I was profoundly inspired by the dynamic momentum unfolding at regional levels. From the groundbreaking first-ever Female Ranger Congress in Latin America to the second edition of the Wildlife Ranger Awards, and the widespread adoption of the IRF Ranger Code of Conduct across Bhutan and numerous other South Asian countries, it's evident that the ranger community is uniting with unprecedented strength, overcoming challenges together.*

*To keep this Year in Review as concise as possible, we've had to omit several highlights – a clear reflection of the abundance of remarkable achievements within our global ranger community.*



**Chris Galliers**  
IRF President

# 2021 AT A GLANCE



**120**

in the 11-month period since World Ranger Day 2021



**OVER 750,000**

people reached on World Ranger Day 2021



IRF has over

**160**

member organizations across

**7**

regions.



**1288**

publications on the Force for Nature's Ranger App



**FIRST**

ever IRF Annual General Meeting held



**250+**

participants gathered for virtual Ranger Roundtable webinars



**915**

rangers from 60 countries contributed to a global survey on the impact of COVID-19 on the workforce



Rangers included in the IUCN World Conservation Congress Marseille Manifesto



**5+**

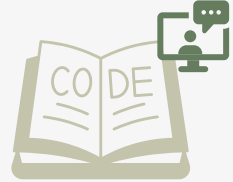
policy documents, briefs and research papers produced and shared.



**1** URSA Action Plan Launched alongside 8 white papers



More than 10 rangers celebrated in the first-edition of the IUCN International Ranger Awards



**10+**

translations of the global Ranger Code of Conduct



**5**

episodes in the #RangersDeserveMore video series launched



**526+**

Women rangers across LAC participate in a survey as part of the first Latin America Female Ranger Congress



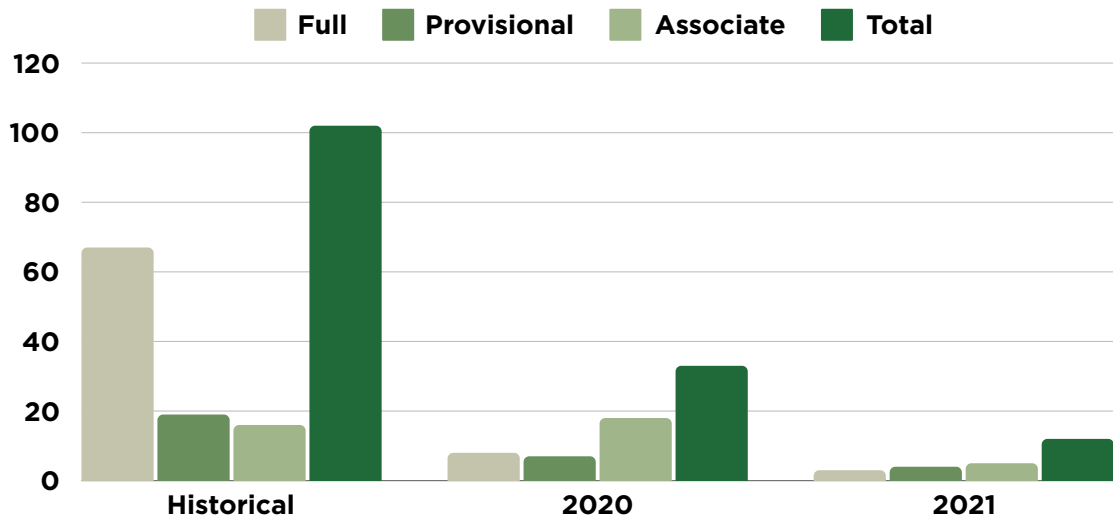
**1st**

Ranger Round-up for the Tasmanian Ranger Association held



**& so much more!**

## NEW IRF MEMBERS IN 2021



## MAP OF RANGER ASSOCIATIONS (AT A GLANCE)



[VIEW OUR INTERACTIVE MAP >](#)

# GLOBAL SPOTLIGHTS OF 2021

## FIRST-EVER ONLINE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

On 28-29 August 2021, IRF held our first-ever Annual General Meeting (AGM), an opportunity to renew efforts to discuss IRF's trajectory and strategize on the years ahead. Key agenda items included outlining a plan to develop a guiding strategy — including process, funding and timeframes. IRF's Board and Governance was also discussed, and updates were shared from the following Working Groups: Communications Working Group, World Ranger Congress 2023 Working Group, IRF Regulation Development Working Group, URSA Working Group and Membership Working Group. Updates from regions and all Board Members were also shared and opportunities for regional and global engagement were also discussed.



## IRF NEWSLETTER LAUNCHED

In March 2021, IRF launched a revamped version of our newsletter. The first edition of the improved newsletter included global and regional highlights, as well as a letter from the IRF President. In the past, newsletters were sent as PDF attachments; the new format uses MailChimp, an advanced email marketing software, enabling IRF to track opens and assess the effectiveness of each newsletter.

*See the end of this 'Year in Review' report for a full list of newsletters from 2021.*

[LEARN MORE >](#)



## DEDICATED STUDY ON RANGER ASSOCIATIONS

IRF in collaboration with Re:wild (formerly Global Wildlife Conservation) and the University of Central Florida (UCF) is conducting a study to examine the characteristics and functions of ranger associations, challenges that ranger associations face and ways in which ranger associations can improve. To date, interviews have been conducted with association leadership in North America, Latin America, South America, Africa, Europe, Asia and the Oceania regions. As part of the research, we have also gathered mission and vision statements from 22 different associations around the world. As the study enters its next phase, the research team will be distributing online surveys in multiple languages to ranger associations and their members.





# IRF COORDINATES GLOBAL STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON RANGERS

In March 2021, IRF, alongside other partners published *Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Rangers and the Role of Rangers as a Planetary Health Service* in a Special Edition of the PARKS Journal. The article explores the multifaceted challenges faced by rangers during the COVID-19 pandemic, drawing from a survey of 915 rangers from 60 countries, a process coordinated by IRF.

The research highlights how the pandemic exacerbated existing difficulties in combating illegal activities such as wildlife poaching, logging, and encroachment in protected areas. The findings reveal significant regional variations in the impact on ranger operations and underscore the critical role rangers play in maintaining ecological balance. The study concludes with four key recommendations aimed at mitigating biodiversity loss and supporting rangers in their essential conservation efforts.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

PARKS VOL 27 (Special Issue) MARCH 2021



## IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON RANGERS AND THE ROLE OF RANGERS AS A PLANETARY HEALTH SERVICE

Rohit Singh<sup>1</sup>, Chris Galliers<sup>2</sup>, William Moretto<sup>3</sup>, James Slade<sup>4</sup>, Barney Long<sup>5</sup>, Hamra Aishah<sup>6</sup>, Andrew Wright<sup>7</sup>, Falcon Cartwright<sup>8</sup>, Asul Deokar<sup>9</sup>, Alexander Wyatt<sup>10</sup>, Deepal Deokar<sup>11</sup>, Rungnapa Phoojirampa<sup>12</sup>, Eddie Smallwood<sup>13</sup>, Rizwana Aziz<sup>14</sup>, Amon Koutoua Benoit<sup>15</sup>, Renata Cao<sup>16</sup>, Sean Willmore<sup>17</sup>, Deepani Jayantha<sup>18</sup> and Sonali Ghosh<sup>19</sup>

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Author affiliations continue on page 134

**ABSTRACT**  
 Rangers play an indispensable role in maintaining balance between people and the natural world by protecting and managing protected and conserved areas. Despite occupying this key role, rangers are facing many challenges across organisational, occupational and personal fronts that hinder the delivery of their duties. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these challenges and made the fight against the illegal killing of wildlife, illegal logging, illegal harvesting of non-timber forest products, encroachment, and other environmental crimes in protected and conserved areas even more difficult. 915 survey responses were generated from individual rangers from 60 countries in order to understand how they perceived the impact of COVID-19 on rangers and their work in protecting and conserving protected areas around the world. The findings indicate that different aspects of ranger work have been negatively impacted due to the pandemic and the associated actions of authorities and illegal actors. The study also reveals differing regional perceptions of the impact of the pandemic on protected and conserved areas and ranger work. The results of the survey, which provide useful insights into the challenges facing rangers during the current global crisis and indicate where actions may be required to mitigate an impending loss of biodiversity, are used to support four recommendations in the paper.

**Key words:** conservation areas, community, pandemic, protected areas, survey, rangers

**INTRODUCTION**  
 The COVID-19 pandemic is an example of the health repercussions that can result from imbalance between humans and nature caused by excessive exploitation (Thompson, 2013; Magouras et al., 2020). The driving forces behind outbreaks of this and similar zoonotic diseases are: destruction of, and encroachment into, wildlife habitats (Bloomfield et al., 2020; Gibb et al., 2020; Flouright et al., 2017; Loh et al., 2015; Butler, 2008; Goldberg et al., 2008; Ferreira et al., 2021 illegal wildlife trade (Aguirre et al., 2020); and consumption of wildlife meat sold in unregulated markets (Hockings et al., 2020; UNODC, 2020; UNEP & ILRI, 2020; Bisson et al., 2015).

Rangers fulfil an indispensable role in maintaining the delicate balance between humans and nature by protecting and managing natural resources, moderating human interaction with nature and providing the primary deterrence to illegal activities within protected and conserved areas (PCAs) (Rowcliffe et al., 2004; Tranquilli et al., 2014). Their role in mitigating the risks of zoonotic disease spill-over may therefore be considerable (Bergen, 2020). Previous research has

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Singh et al.

the interview and sought the verbal consent of respondents.

**RESULTS FROM THE GLOBAL SURVEY**  
 Response rates: Responses were received from 62 countries with the USA having the most responses (Figure 1).

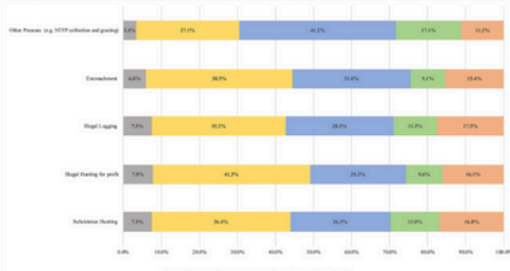
**Demographic information:** Of those respondents who indicated a gender, 79 per cent were male and 21 per cent female. The age of respondents was between 19 and 74 years-old, with ranger experience ranging from one to 40 years. The online survey was designed to target only rangers, with the very first question asking the respondent, "Are you a ranger or not?" If not, then the respondent was prevented from progressing with the survey. Therefore, 100 per cent of the responses are from rangers.

**Locational information:** Some 28 per cent of rangers were living and working at a remote outpost with no access to medical help during the time of the survey. More than half those in South America said they are based in a remote location, followed by Asia (40.5 per cent), Africa (38.6 per cent), Central America and Caribbean (26.9 per cent) and Europe (12.2 per cent). Very few reported being located remotely in North America and Australia / Oceania.

**Threats to protected and conserved areas:** While it is generally believed that threats and pressures to PCAs have increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic, respondents provided mixed responses to this question (Figure 2). Most respondents believed that the threat that had grown most was 'other pressures', for example the collection of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and grazing; more than 58 per cent agreed that this had increased in their country of operation.

Sharp geographical variations were revealed by the data. For example, while more than half of respondents from South America, Africa, and Central America and Caribbean 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that subsistence and commercial hunting had increased (Table 1), fewer than 20 per cent of North American and European respondents accepted that proposition. Similar contrasts were shown in respect of illegal logging and encroachment, and other pressures. There is a stark contrast again between South America and other regions in respect of perceptions of increased rates of logging and encroachment. This reflects the different threats faced by different regions and the need for further research to understand the drivers of those threats.

**Impact on protected and conserved area management activities:** Key protected area conservation activities across all regions have been affected by the COVID-19



**Figure 2. Responses to the question: "Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in your country, what threats have increased in your protected and conserved areas?"**

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## IRF CAPACITY ENHANCED WITH THE EMPLOYMENT OF NEW ‘FEDERATION OFFICER’

In a bid to enhance IRF’s capacity, in June, IRF onboarded a new member of the team: Mónica Álvarez Malvido, our Federation Officer, a new position supported by URSA to advance IRF’s support for existing member associations, manage new ones and develop systems and structures which increase the effectiveness of ranger associations globally. Mónica brings over 8 years of working experience in leading biodiversity conservation initiatives in Latin America, including: The Sustainable Rural Life program of the Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature and the Latin American Alliance to Strengthen Protected Areas (ALFA 2020) led by Pronatura. Most recently she worked at the National Commission for Protected Areas in Mexico as Interinstitutional Affairs Coordinator and Focal Point for RedParques.



[LEARN MORE >](#)

## IRF QUOTED IN MONGABAY ARTICLE BRINGING ATTENTION TO TRAGIC HOMICIDES OF SIX RANGERS

On 11 January, an article published on Mongabay featured a quote from IRF, condemning the killing of six rangers in a deadly militia attack in the Democratic Republic of Congo’s Virunga National Park.

**“Rangers are the backbone of protected and conserved areas, and are there to protect the parks but that should never include having to face up against heavily armed militia.”**

[LEARN MORE >](#)



**CHRIS GALLIERS**

**President**  
International Ranger Federation



**IUCN**  
WORLD  
CONSERVATION  
CONGRESS  
*Marseille*



## IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS 2021'S 'MARSEILLE MANIFESTO' HIGHLIGHTS THE CRITICAL ROLE OF RANGERS

IRF participated in the 2021 IUCN World Conservation Congress that took place in Marseille, France from 3-11 September. The Congress is a major policy moment held every four years, bringing together leaders from various sectors to discuss and decide on critical environmental and development challenges.

### Spotlighting rangers in the 'Marseille Manifesto'

Throughout the event, the challenges rangers face, including threats to their safety and well-being, were spotlighted through panels, side events and keynote speeches. One of the key outcomes was the Marseille Manifesto, which committed to enhancing the protection and support for rangers and other environmental defenders. This manifesto underscored the need for better working conditions, training, and recognition for rangers worldwide.

### **The IUCN Congress recognises that we have *one nature, one future* and so commits to:**

**Respecting and harnessing the perspectives and agency of all citizens** – especially youth<sup>1</sup>, the leaders of the future, who constitute almost a fifth of the global population. The rights of indigenous peoples and local communities underpin their central role in conservation, as leaders and custodians of biodiversity. The agency of those who are marginalised, whether economically, socially or politically, including women must be enhanced. IUCN recognises that it is these groups who are most affected by the climate and nature emergencies, and that they also offer innovative solutions to them. IUCN, its Members and partners commit to supporting and strengthening their agency, promoting diversity and inclusivity in leadership and throughout our work. Around the world, those working to defend the environment are under attack. This includes communities and frontline workers like rangers. IUCN commits to work to protect environmental defenders. Further, IUCN urges its Members and partners to use the IUCN Natural Resource Governance Framework to strengthen inclusivity and equity more generally.

[READ MORE >](#)

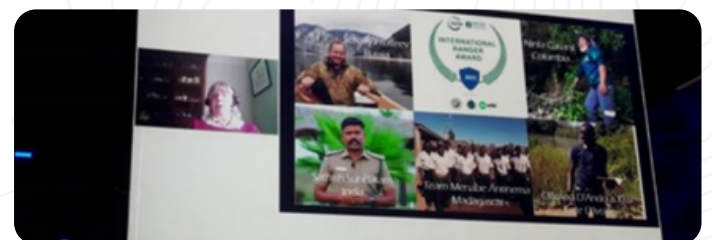
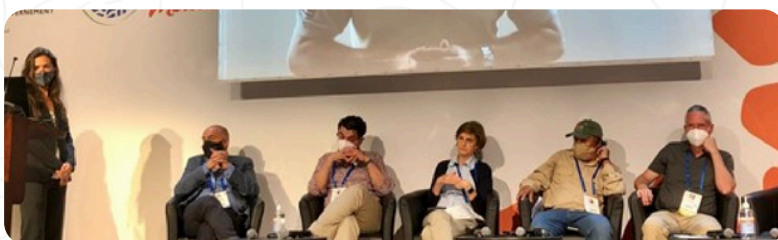
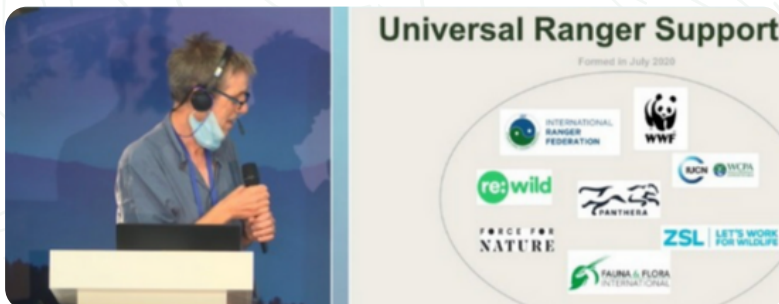
### **‘Supporting Rangers Today, Conserving the World Tomorrow’**

This side event highlighted the vital role of rangers in protected and conserved area management. Videos highlighting the diverse roles of rangers and the newly launched IRF Code of Conduct were shared. The URSA 5-year Action Plan was also presented followed by an overview of the Force for Nature App, a platform that connects rangers worldwide. The event included a panel moderated by the IRF Federation Officer, the President of the Game Rangers Association of Africa, a Ranger from Nepal and the Regional Vice-Chair of Europe at the World Commission for Protected Areas-IUCN.

### **‘Results of the Latin American Congress on Protected Areas (III CAPLAC)’**

At the “Results of the Latin American Congress on Protected Areas (III CAPLAC)” side event, IRF highlighted the common challenges faced by rangers in Latin America. We shared a powerful video from the Latin America Ranger Federation, urging national authorities to support rangers, improve their working conditions, and ensure safe environments. These crucial messages were also featured in the Latin America Protected Planet Report 2020 presentation.

Other mentions of rangers, their work and Ranger awards were presented by Kathy McKinnon, former WCPA chair, during her report to IUCN members at the General Assembly of the Congress.



# UNIVERSAL RANGER SUPPORT ALLIANCE (URSA) LAUNCHES EVIDENCE-BASED ACTION PLAN & FLAGSHIP REPORTS

**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 >](#)

On 30 July 2021, the Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA), of which IRF is a founding member, launched our detailed Action Plan with the intention of supporting the implementation of the IRF's Chitwan Declaration and furthering the professionalization of rangers (2021-2025). This plan sets out a program of actions intended to build recognition, support and capacity for rangers in protected and conserved areas across the world.

## **The Plan's vision:**

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.

## **The Plan's goal:**

By 2025, there is a global enabling environment providing a unified voice for rangers and standards for capacity, employment, equality and conduct to build a demonstrably professional, accountable and competent ranger workforce, whose contributions are formally recognized and respected.

## **The Plan's pillars:**

A) Advocacy and Representation, B) Capacity, C) Employment and Welfare, D) Equality and Equity in the Ranger Sector, E) Community Relations, F) Ranger Conduct and Accountability

[READ THE ACTION PLAN >](#)



### Webinar launch

The Action Plan was formally launched during a 'Vital Sites' event organized as part of the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille, France.

[WATCH WEBINAR](#)

### Eight white papers published as a guiding framework for the Action Plan

As summarized in the 'Year in Review 2020' report, the Action Plan was developed alongside a series of White Papers that were closely aligned with the Chitwan Declaration covering. These white papers were also published in 2021 in the Parks Stewardship Forum.

[The vital role of rangers in conservation](#)



[Shaping a global strategy for building capacity and performance of rangers in and around protected areas](#)



[Building healthy relationships between rangers and communities in and around protected areas](#)



[What will it take to professionalize rangers?](#)



[Employment conditions of public sector rangers: A major underaddressed problem](#)



[Empowering rangers through technology and innovation](#)



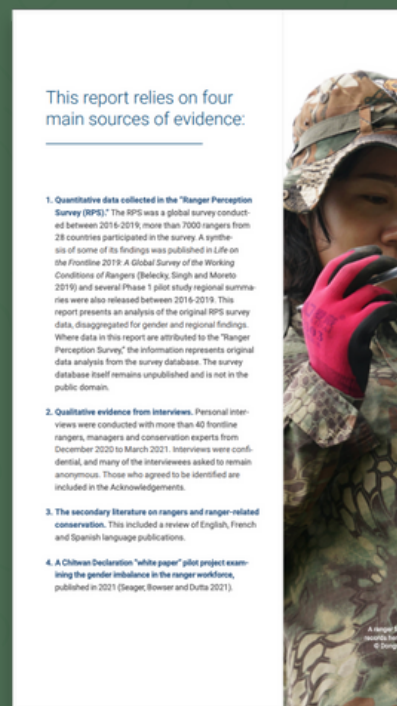
[Where are the women? Towards gender equality in the ranger workforce](#)



[Role of ranger associations in strengthening ranger workforce](#)



[LEARN MORE >](#)



# TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY IN THE RANGER WORKFORCE: FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND REPORT LAUNCHED

In May 2021, IRF, alongside Universal Ranger Support Alliance partners, launched **the first comprehensive and global analysis of the challenges and opportunities for bringing gender equality into ranger workforces.** *Towards Gender Equality in the Ranger Workforce: Challenges and Opportunities* examines key factors contributing to the gender skew in the ranger workforce while also providing concrete policy and program recommendations for governments, NGOs, ranger associations, and other public-private institutions to work towards agendas of greater equality. It ultimately highlights how bringing gender balance into ranger workforces is possible and critical for conservation's future: it will expand capacities and perspectives on conservation, sustainability, and resource management.

## Webinar launch

The report was formally launched during a Ranger Roundtable Webinar hosted by the report's primary author, Joni Seager. Female rangers from Asia, Africa and Latin America were among panelists sharing their thoughts on the report and the importance of addressing gender-related challenges in the ranger workplace.

*We would like to thank the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) for funding this work under the Voices of Diversity Project.*

[FULL REPORT >](#)

[REPORT SUMMARY >](#)

# RANGER CODE OF CONDUCT FORMALLY LAUNCHED, WITH FEATURE VIDEO, ACROSS A NUMBER OF LANGUAGES

In April 2021, IRF, alongside URSA, launched the world's first global Ranger Code of Conduct, and have begun working towards its implementation. The launch was organized as part of the Ranger Roundtable Series, where a feature video was also shown to help spread awareness about the Code, its intention and purpose.

## ENGLISH

[COC \(ENGLISH\)](#)

[COC GUIDELINES \(ENGLISH\)](#)

[COC VIDEO \(ENGLISH\)](#)

## FRENCH

[COC \(FR\)](#)

[COC GUIDELINES \(FR\)](#)

[COC VIDEO \(FR\)](#)

## SPANISH

[COC \(ESP\)](#)

[COC GUIDELINES \(ESP\)](#)

[COC VIDEO \(ESP\)](#)

## PORTUGUESE

[COC \(PR\)](#)

[COC GUIDELINES \(PR\)](#)

[COC VIDEO \(BG\)](#)

## BENGALI

Other available languages include: *Swahili, Arabic, Urdu, Nepali, Hindi, among others.* Access all languages and resources [here](#).

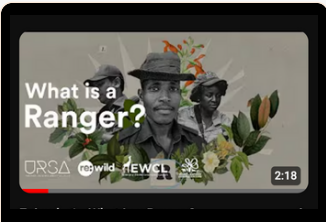
[ACCESS ALL AVAILABLE LANGUAGES >](#)






# ANIMATED RANGER VIDEO SERIES SIGNALS A POWERFUL MESSAGE: RANGERS DESERVE MORE


In July 2021, in an effort to raise awareness and drive much-needed support for rangers from policy-makers and government agencies around the world, Re:wild, alongside URSA and others, launched a five-part animated explainer video series, narrated by Edward Norton.




[EPISODE 1](#)



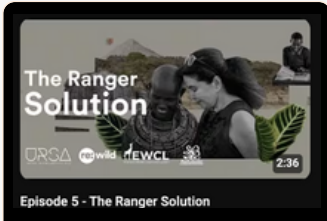
[EPISODE 2](#)



[EPISODE 3](#)



[EPISODE 4](#)



[EPISODE 5](#)

## UNIVERSAL RANGER SUPPORT ALLIANCE PARTNERS





## WORLD RANGER DAY 2021 HIGHLIGHTS RANGER SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

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.

### Theme

On World Ranger Day 2021, IRF and URSA partners spotlighted the theme: Ranger Safety and Well-being, shedding light on the urgent need for further resources to ensure rangers can perform their critical duties safely and effectively.

### Roll of honor

In an 11-month period since World Ranger Day 2020, 120 rangers lost their lives in the line of duty across the world. Tragically, homicide (accounting for 44 percent of deaths) continues to be the leading cause of line of duty deaths for Rangers. Additionally, this year we have also lost 500 Rangers due to COVID-19.

### Social media toolkit

A [social media toolkit](#) was created to assist Ranger Associations with a press release, social media content, and printable banners to promote rangers across the world.



[WATCH IRF PRESIDENT'S WRD MESSAGE](#)



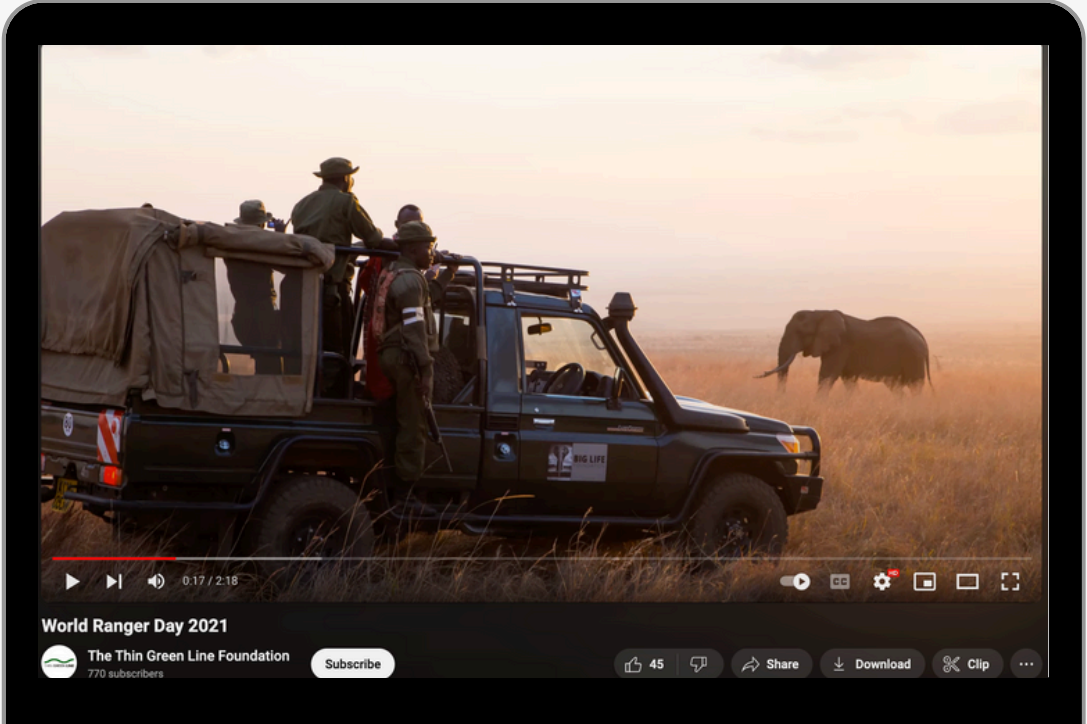
# IN MEMORIAM

## WORLD RANGER DAY | RANGER ROLL OF HONOUR 2021

Chalsit Taptarm	<b>Thailand</b>	Motor vehicle accident	Mahamane Ousmane Tagama	<b>Niger</b>	Homicide	Rakesh Yuvraj Madavi	<b>India</b>	Died in forest fire
Krissada Kabbua	<b>Thailand</b>	Homicide	Saley Garba	<b>Niger</b>	Homicide	Rekchand Gopichand Rane	<b>India</b>	Died in forest fire
Konram Das	<b>India</b>	Found dead in forest camp	Emmanuel Matsipa	<b>Uganda</b>	Homicide	Sachin Ashok Srirange	<b>India</b>	Died in forest fire
Kevin Layne Bodily	<b>USA</b>	Heart attack while on patrol	Jessica Njeri	<b>Kenya</b>	Killed in elephant incident	Animesh Deka	<b>India</b>	Killed by rhino
Charnchai Jongkiri	<b>Thailand</b>	Motor vehicle accident	Boonchu Tohtem	<b>Thailand</b>	Killed in elephant incident	Jenes Shayo	<b>Kenya</b>	Died - work related pneumonia
Keval Singh	<b>India</b>	Homicide	Attapol Suksai	<b>Thailand</b>	Drowned in boating accident	Suya Prakash Yede	<b>India</b>	Died in forest fire
Lorentz Wampagkit Yamil	<b>Peru</b>	Homicide	Muthu Prabhakara Serapandiyam	<b>India</b>	Killed in elephant incident	Jagan Meshram	<b>Thailand</b>	Died from firefighting burns
Djiby Salane	<b>Senegal</b>	Homicide	Sathesh Kumar	<b>India</b>	Killed in elephant incident	Mana Manoem	<b>Thailand</b>	Stung by wasps/cardiac arrest
Pooawadol Pongsa	<b>Thailand</b>	Drowned on duty	Wanderlay do Nascimento	<b>Angola</b>	Died whilst on duty	Sakharam Mandloi	<b>India</b>	Homicide
Md Yusuf Uddin	<b>India</b>	Homicide	Urbano Sillerico Cruz	<b>Peru</b>	Homicide	Jagdish Boro	<b>India</b>	Heart attack on duty
Dandalah	<b>India</b>	Motor vehicle accident	Cururaj	<b>South Africa</b>	Trampled by elephant	Marison "Sony" Markus	<b>Indonesia</b>	Died following patrol
Shivananjalah	<b>India</b>	Killed in friendly fire incident	Shawn Stewart	<b>South Africa</b>	Accidental pistol discharge	Puttaraju	<b>DR Congo</b>	Killed in elephant incident
Vukani Mkhwazani	<b>South Africa</b>	Died following patrol	Prem Winayong	<b>Thailand</b>	Died following patrol	Edouard Bowaka	<b>DR Congo</b>	Died - work related pneumonia
Kadri Abdou	<b>Niger</b>	Homicide	Pradeep Prahan	<b>India</b>	Electrocuted by poachers wires	Marcel Ngangoue	<b>DR Congo</b>	Wild elephant attack
Bindashewar Ram Bhagat	<b>India</b>	Killed by elephant	Surumwe Burhani Abdou	<b>DR Congo</b>	Homicide	Jatia Rana	<b>DR Congo</b>	Homicide
Hetal Solanki	<b>India</b>	Homicide	Alexis Kamate Mundunaenda	<b>DR Congo</b>	Homicide	Here Lal Yadav	<b>India</b>	Heart attack on duty
Sheldon Hooper	<b>South Africa</b>	Killed by elephant	Reagan Maneno Kataghalirwa	<b>DR Congo</b>	Homicide	Arthur Ilunga Kazembe	<b>DR Congo</b>	Motor vehicle accident
Brendan Unitt	<b>USA</b>	Drowned on emergency call-out	Eric Kibanja Bashekere	<b>DR Congo</b>	Homicide	Abdul Malik	<b>Pakistan</b>	Died fire fighting
Andrew Davies	<b>South Africa</b>	Heart attack at work	Innocent Paluku Budoyi	<b>DR Congo</b>	Homicide	Sangwian Phimdee	<b>Thailand</b>	Killed in elephant incident
Adano Mamo Bora	<b>Kenya</b>	Motor vehicle accident	Prince Nzabonimpa Ntamakiriro	<b>DR Congo</b>	Homicide	Jean François Ndong Aubame	<b>Gabon</b>	Homicide
Thanakorn Chana-aksorn	<b>Thailand</b>	Fell from boat - drowned	Ravi	<b>DR Congo</b>	Heart attack during elephant incident	Deepak Tiwari	<b>Nepal</b>	Died in an on-duty bike accident
Wellington Fernando Peres Silva	<b>Brazil</b>	Died from firefighting burns	Gonzalo Cardona Molina	<b>Colombia</b>	Homicide	Vijay Tijab Maraskoihe	<b>India</b>	Died from firefighting burns
Khunmee Thumya	<b>Thailand</b>	Heart attack in elephant incident	Kabege Masikini	<b>DR Congo</b>	Drowned on patrol	Winy Demineyn Banafal	<b>Togo</b>	Killed in elephant incident
Souleymane Coulibaly	<b>Mali</b>	Homicide	Morals Julio Fonseca	<b>Angola</b>	Killed by snake	<b>The Unknown Ranger</b>	<b>Representing those Fallen Rangers not reported to date</b>	
Unnamed trainee	<b>Mali</b>	Homicide	Moheswar Hazarika	<b>India</b>	Killed by rhino			
Rathram Patel	<b>India</b>	Homicide	Madanal Verna	<b>India</b>	Homicide			
Ken Fiamata Batao	<b>DR Congo</b>	Heart attack on duty	Kobus Marals	<b>South Africa</b>	Killed by lion			
N. Dharmakumara	<b>Sri Lanka</b>	Killed by elephant	Gitenyi Gitenyi	<b>DR Congo</b>	Died - work related pneumonia			
Charles Morton	<b>USA</b>	Died from firefighting burns	John Pilmo	<b>Kenya</b>	Died in plane crash			
Kausamwane Changle	<b>DR Congo</b>	Homicide	Ian Lemalyan	<b>Kenya</b>	Died in plane crash			
Molise Tshanga Tshanga	<b>DR Congo</b>	Homicide	Chaiwat Sae Linwong	<b>Thailand</b>	Firefighting - struck by a train			
Bagurubumwe Chuhoze Deogene	<b>DR Congo</b>	Homicide	Bredoumi Mahaman Ouattara	<b>Cote d'Ivoire</b>	Motor vehicle accident			
Keshav Ram	<b>India</b>	Motor vehicle accident	Tipusaran Sahu	<b>India</b>	Killed by rhino			
Mohammad Deen Khan	<b>Pakistan</b>	Died from burns	Gaurav Kumar	<b>India</b>	Mauled to death by elephant			
Issah Jibrin	<b>Nigeria</b>	Homicide	Jason Lagore	<b>USA</b>	Died during medical emergency			
Edet Usen Okon	<b>Nigeria</b>	Homicide	Unnamed	<b>Thailand</b>	Motor vehicle accident			
Nabin Khatri	<b>Nepal</b>	Died in bike accident on patrol	Auwai Toli	<b>Nigeria</b>	Homicide			
Exeverino Chinoitezvi	<b>Zimbabwe</b>	Died following plane crash	Jabulani Gwacela	<b>South Africa</b>	Homicide			
Marianito C. Rufano	<b>Philippines</b>	Homicide	Cyril Hlafuna	<b>South Africa</b>	Homicide			
Joseph Ngeti	<b>Kenya</b>	Killed by elephant	Malibongwe Mfifa	<b>South Africa</b>	Killed by lions			
Scot Cuma	<b>Uganda</b>	Killed in elephant incident	Tanko (Tiger) Alhassan Ishiaku	<b>Nigeria</b>	Homicide			
Teimuraz Lomidze	<b>Georgia</b>	Killed by falling tree	Nabaraj Budathoki	<b>Nepal</b>	Killed in bike accident on patrol			
Unnamed	<b>Thailand</b>	Drowned in boating accident	Jađu Mahanta	<b>India</b>	Died in forest fire			
Checkers Mashego	<b>South Africa</b>	Missing on patrol - remains found	Selinde Roosenburg	<b>USA</b>	Died after UTV rollover			
Alphonse Musafiri Gasacyoya	<b>DR Congo</b>	Killed in plane crash	Precious Zephaniah	<b>Malawi</b>	Homicide			
Leki Dorji	<b>Bhutan</b>	Motor vehicle accident	Bua Khai Saen Kham	<b>Thailand</b>	Stroke while on patrol			
Justin Assambi Likengele	<b>DR Congo</b>	Drowned whilst on patrol	Tchwawo Henry	<b>Cameroon</b>	Killed in elephant charge			
Javier Francisco Para	<b>Colombia</b>	Homicide	Ram Tharu	<b>Nepal</b>	Killed by tiger			

**Covid 19**  
 The Ranger profession, like many others, has been heavily impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic. The IRF member associations have provided the names of almost 500 ranger colleagues lost to the disease, particularly in India and South America. They have not been individually named on this Honour Roll, but their names have been recorded in the IRF global archive of Ranger deaths. The IRF further estimates that many other rangers have undoubtedly died worldwide due to Covid 19, but their names remain unknown to us. Please note: these 119 names only include those reported and confirmed Ranger deaths for the last 11 months (1st July 2020 to 31st May 2021).

To report Ranger deaths please email: [vicepresident@internationalrangers.org](mailto:vicepresident@internationalrangers.org) and [info@thingreenline.org.au](mailto:info@thingreenline.org.au) | Support the families of Rangers killed in the line of duty at [www.thingreenline.org.au/donate](http://www.thingreenline.org.au/donate) | The International Ranger Federation [www.internationalrangers.org](http://www.internationalrangers.org)



WATCH THE THIN GREEN LINE'S FEATURE VIDEO

## World Ranger Day 2021 Festival

In 2021, *Exploring By the Seat of Your Pants*, a Youtube Channel with a 14K following, dedicated a 24-hour-long series for World Ranger Day aptly titled the “World Ranger Day Festival” to bring attention to the plight of rangers across the world. IRF’s President, Chris Galliers, Asia Representative, Rohit Singh and Development Officer, Monica Álvarez participated in a live conversation to share the work of the Federation, the roll of honor, common challenges of rangers worldwide and the launch fo the Global Ranger Code of Conduct. Another panel was also held, this time with a focus on the Universal Ranger Support Alliance’s Action Plan, which featured rangers from different regions, including: Nicorine Yigha Nuah from Cameroon, Christian Robles Puchi from Costa Rica and Bunty Tao from India.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

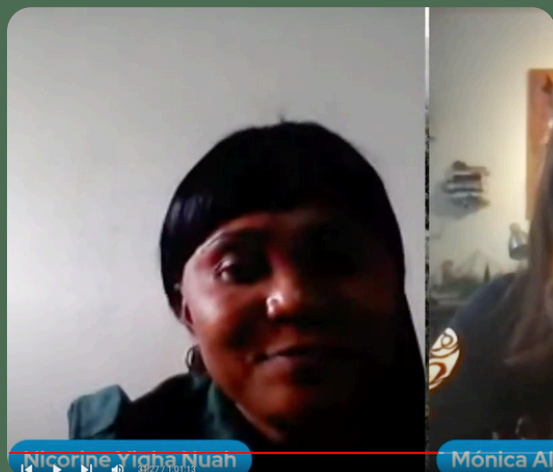


### The URSA Action Plan

By 2025, there is a global enabling environment providing a unified voice for rangers, and standards for capacity, employment, equality and conduct that build a demonstrably professional, accountable and competent ranger workforce, whose contributions are formally recognized and respected.

<b>Advocacy &amp; Representation</b>	<b>Ranger Sector Capacity</b>	<b>Employment &amp; Welfare</b>	<b>Equality &amp; Equity within the Ranger Sector</b>	<b>Community Relations, Conduct &amp; Accountability</b>
By 2025, the ranger profession is increasingly and formally recognized internationally and by governments, with rangers effectively represented and connected.	By 2025, a common framework for improving and sustaining ranger capacity is in place and increasingly adopted and implemented.	By 2025, global minimum standards for ranger employment and welfare are developed, and increasingly adopted nationally to enhance ranger working conditions and well-being.	By 2025, systems and structures have been adopted by IRF, its ranger associations and by URSA members that enable equal opportunities, fair treatment, and equitable working environments for rangers.	By 2025, rangers in all IRF regions are operating within a framework of working practices, ethics and conduct that value and build trust with communities and the public and promote responsibility and accountability.

5 | UNIVERSAL RANGER SUPPORT ALLIANCE





## STATE OF THE RANGER REPORT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS INITIATED

**The International Ranger Federation (IRF) as the global representative body for rangers, is leading the development of the first ever report on the global state of the ranger profession, which will be published at the next 10th IRF World Ranger Congress in Giens Peninsula, Hyères, France in October 2024.**

In 2021, IRF kicked off the development of the world's first report on the global state of the ranger profession through the creation of a Working Group (WG). The WG's activities this year ranged from hosting informal consultations with relevant regional and global bodies, reviewing IRF documents and URSA white papers and assessing other frontline professions as possible frameworks that could serve as a reference (e.g. nurses, firefighters, police etc).

A critical WG workshop to determine a basic set of standardized metrics for ranger data collection was also held, which allowed the team to determine key roles and delegations.

- Action Working Group: This team will drive the process/development of outputs
- Advisory Committee (IRF Board/URSA/experts): This board will provide a supervisory role and vote on frameworks

Ultimate results included:

- Action Group and Advisory Committee were formed, ensuring inclusivity and representation
- A Research Framework was validated by the Advisory Committee, including sign off on the overview, indicators, concept note and glossary.
- A preliminary version of the ranger and employer questionnaires was developed in three languages.
- Feedback was gathered from the Advisory Committee, Subject Matter Experts and Regional Ranger Associations and other bodies including the International Labour Organization (ILO).

# RANGER ROUNDTABLE SERIES CONTINUES TO UNITE THE COMMUNITY IN CRITICAL DIALOGUE

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 >](#)

## **FOCUS SESSION #3: THE IMPERATIVE OF RANGERS WITHIN THE REGENERATIVE ECONOMY**

This discussion focused on the direct and indirect contributions of Rangers to the ecosystem services provided by protected areas; for example, carbon sequestration, water filtration, clean air, biodiversity protection and mental health promotion. Speakers included Mandy Cadman, Regional Technical Specialist for Ecosystems & Biodiversity, Africa, UNDP, and Valerie Hickey, Manager of Environment & Natural Resources, World Bank.

## **FOCUS SESSION #4: RANGERS AND THE ROLES OF PROTECTED AREAS IN PUBLIC HEALTH**

This session revolved around the diverse roles of Protected Area rangers in public health. As we continue to evolve our understanding of Rangers as Natural Capital managers, we need to better understand their contributions to public health. Managing zoonotic diseases, mental illness and climate change are just some of the global issues in this underresearched area. This event brought together over 30 cross-sector professionals from global development and conservation organizations.

[READ MORE ABOUT EACH SESSION >](#)



## FIRST-EVER ROUND OF WEBINARS

In addition to Focus Sessions, this year, IRF and partners also kickstarted Ranger Roundtable Webinars, more public events that 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. More than 250 participants gathered for these sessions.

### 1st Ranger Roundtable Webinar | Introducing the Ranger Code of Conduct

On 22 April 2021, the first 'Webinar' in the Ranger Roundtable series highlighted IRF's Ranger Code of Conduct (CoC). The 90-minute virtual webinar introduced the CoC through discussions led by a panel of Ranger industry leaders, covering questions like: a) Why was the code developed? b) What was the process? c) What is the Code of Conduct? d) What is the purpose of such a code? e) Who is it for and how can it be used? f) Going forward, how will it be reviewed and evolve?

[LEARN MORE >](#)

### 2nd Ranger Roundtable Webinar | Towards Gender Equality in the Ranger Workforce - Challenges & Solutions

On 8 July, as part of World Ranger Month (July), our second Ranger Roundtable Webinar spotlighted the first comprehensive and global analysis of the challenges and opportunities for bringing gender equality into Ranger workforces. Through a collaboration between the International Ranger Federation and the Universal Ranger Support Alliance, researcher Dr. Joni Seager led the discussion, which also featured a panel of female rangers sharing their own experiences and thoughts on the report.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

### 3rd Ranger Roundtable Webinar | One Health starts with Ranger Wellbeing

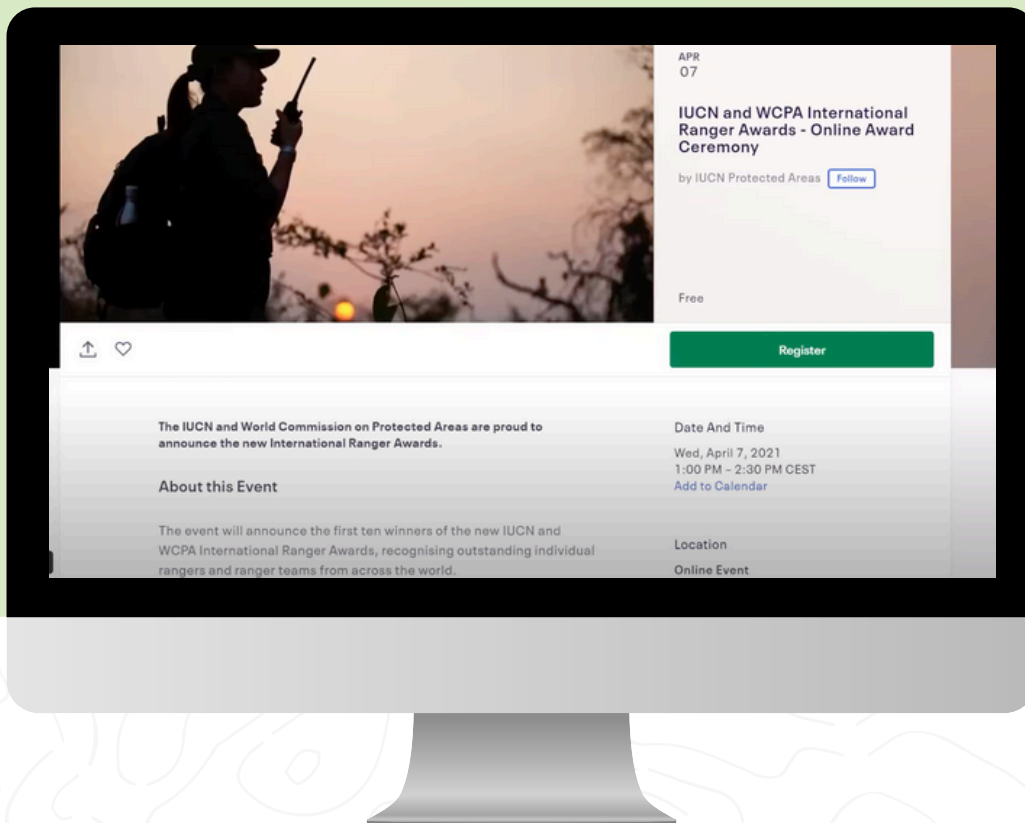
On 29 July, the 3rd webinar focused on the wellbeing challenges that Rangers are facing as well as highlighting successful social safeguards specific to Rangers and the communities they work in. This included pausing to reflect on our annual 'Ranger Role of Honor'.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

### 4th Ranger Roundtable Webinar | Future proofing against biodiversity loss on a warming planet

On 18 November, the 4th webinar served as an opportunity for Ranger sector leaders to spotlight successful case studies of future proofing our planet, while also recognizing the pervasive gaps between policy, investment and Ranger-led projects — particularly as the global conservation community enters the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

[WATCH RECORDING >](#)



## FIRST EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER AWARDS RECOGNIZING RANGER EXCELLENCE

Initiated in 2020, the International Ranger Awards aims to highlight and felicitate the extraordinary work that rangers do in protected and conserved areas worldwide. They were developed through a collaboration between the IUCN WCPA, IUCN-US, the International Ranger Federation, Re:wild, and Conservation Allies.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

On 7 April, excellence in ranger work was recognized at the first edition of the International Ranger Awards 2021 hosted by the IUCN and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, in collaboration with the International Ranger Federation, Re:wild, Conservation Allies, Universal Ranger Support Alliance, IUCN US and WWF's Tigers Alive Initiative.

The International Ranger Awards are intended to improve rangers' capabilities, raise awareness about the critical role they play in conservation efforts, and help share rangers' unique stories and perspectives.

[WATCH THE AWARDS CEREMONY >](#)



## THIS YEAR'S AWARDEES INCLUDED

- Anety Milimo (Zambia): a research technician and field ranger in Mosi Oa Tunya National Park;
- Aung Zaw Myint (Myanmar): a ranger in Chathin Wildlife Sanctuary in Myanmar;
- Bénévoles au sein de l'Aire Protégée (Madagascar): a young volunteer ranger team protecting Menabe Antimena Protected Area from forest fires;
- Chhay Reap Community Crocodile Wardens (Cambodia): a team of Indigenous rangers protecting Critically Endangered Siamese crocodiles Southern Cardamoms National Park;
- Giorgi Abramishvili (Georgia): a senior ranger in Batsara-Babaneuri Protected Areas;
- Mahindra Giri (India): a range officer with the Uttarakhand Forest Department in Rajaji Tiger Reserve;
- Ninfa Carianil (Colombia): a ranger in Águila Harpía ProAves Reserve in the Colombian Amazon;
- Offossou d'Andous Kissi (Côte d'Ivoire): a ranger in charge of community outreach for the Comoé National Park;
- Sathish Sundaram (India): a forest ranger with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department in Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park;
- Sergey Erofeev (Russia): the deputy director of conservation in Altai State Biosphere Reserve.

**“Rangers are at the very heart of conservation. The stories of the winners of the new International Ranger Awards illustrate the scope and breadth of their work. Whether employed in a protected area or a community-managed reserve, rangers are critical to our global conservation efforts, helping to stem biodiversity loss and protect the important ecosystems that serve as natural solutions to climate change and other global challenges. WCPA is delighted to be a partner in delivering these new awards, which recognise their vital work.”**

[LEARN MORE >](#)



**DR KATHY  
MACKINNON**

**Chair**  
IUCN World Commission on  
Protected Areas

# The Force For Nature Ranger App

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

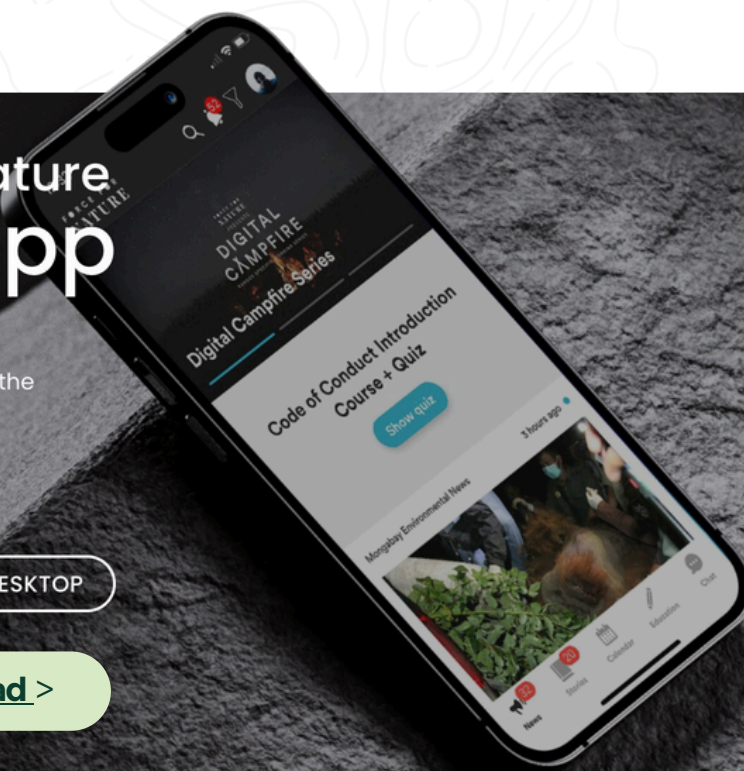
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## FORCE FOR NATURE'S 'RANGER APP' CONTINUES TO UNITE RANGERS AND SPUR DIALOGUE

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

### Number of publications

In 2021, the Ranger App hosted more than 1,288 publications.

### Ranger App presentation at the IUCN World Parks Congress

The Force for Nature spotlighted the Ranger App at the IUCN World Parks Congress through an in-person session featuring the App's purpose and potential.

### World Ranger Day 2021

In 2021, the Force for Nature supported IRF's World Ranger Day programming by running an online campaign centred around the diversity of ranger roles. The campaign's potential reach was 750,000.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



# REGIONAL SNAPSHOTS

## GAME RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA AND FEDERACIÓN LATINOAMERICANA DE GUARDAPARQUES GET TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME

On 10 August, seventeen participants joined the first virtual meeting between the Game Rangers Association of Africa (GRAA) and the Federación Latinoamericana de Guardaparques (FLG). The session aimed to share experiences and lessons on forming regional ranger associations.

After a welcome from IRF President Chris Galliers, Andrew Campbell, CEO of GRAA, shared insights from GRAA's 50-year history. Laura Pastorino, acting President of FLG, then presented the background of the FLG. The meeting then transitioned to a Q&A session where participants discussed governance, funding, and other common challenges. Both associations agreed to continue their dialogue to enhance learning, cooperation and support.



# DEVELOPING THE BHUTANESE FOREST EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION AND RECOGNIZING BHUTAN AS THE FIRST COUNTRY TO NATIONALLY ENDORSE THE IRF RANGER CODE OF CONDUCT

## Bhutanese Forest Employee Association launched

In 2021, with support from the Ranger Federation of Asia (RFA), the Royal Government of Bhutan formally registered their first national entity for rangers — the Bhutanese Forest Employee Association. RFA advised in the development of the Association's constitution.

## Nationwide roll out of the IRF Ranger Code of Conduct

Bhutan also became the first country to endorse the IRF Ranger Code of Conduct, having successfully trained all rangers across the country's working sites. All 1,500 rangers in the country have now received training on the CoC's core principles and implementation across the country. Nepal and India are also making progress.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

## SIDE EVENT HOSTED AT THE 44th WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING

From 16-31 July 2021, the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee was held virtually from Fuzhou, China. During a side event on World Ranger Day, IRF President, Chris Galliers, and Ranger Federation of Asia Representative, Rohit Singh, along with other partners, discussed the important role of rangers in protecting world heritage sites.



 FUZHOU, CHINA 2021  
第44届世界遗产大会

## Extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee

# ASIA-SPECIFIC CASE STUDIES DEVELOPED AS PART OF GLOBAL STUDY ON THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON THE RANGER WORKFORCE

RFA spearheaded a comprehensive global study on the impact of COVID-19 on the ranger workforce, with 302 survey responses originating from Asia. Additionally, two in-depth case studies, including follow-up interviews, were conducted in India and Pakistan to examine the impact across ranger workforces on national levels.

## India case study: Key findings

Among the 52 respondents from India, 39 were female and 13 were male. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the absence of rangers posed significant challenges for their families, including difficulties in procuring food, medical supplies, and other daily necessities. Two-thirds of the female rangers reported that maintaining a work-life balance was extremely challenging during this period. Additionally, 45 families expressed concerns about rangers contracting COVID-19 in the field and the lack of medical support available. Despite these challenges, three-quarters of the rangers interviewed received their salaries on time and appreciated the supportive measures taken by their departments. Notably, 49 out of 52 families were satisfied with rangers spending more time in the field to help control the spread of the virus.

## Pakistan case study: Key findings

Out of the 157 rangers interviewed in Pakistan, 58 were partially or fully assigned additional duties to support other government departments. These duties included implementing lockdown measures, such as preventing public gatherings and restricting access to protected areas, as well as raising awareness about COVID-19 precautions. While no official community support tasks were assigned to rangers, many took it upon themselves to assist both professionally and personally. Impressively, 118 rangers donated a portion of their salary to COVID-19 relief efforts. Additionally, 125 rangers provided food to communities, 44 facilitated access to doctors or healthcare facilities during lockdowns, and 3 even taught children in local communities.

## FACILITATING SUPPORT TO RANGERS IN INDIA AND NEPAL

The Ranger Federation of Asia distributed masks and sanitizers to rangers in India and Nepal, both severely impacted by COVID-19. The motivation for this small initiative was in recognition of the role of Nepal and India's rangers on the frontline of pandemic response efforts, and to aid them in continuing conservation work while reducing virus transmission.

## RFA TEAMS UP WITH PROCTER & GAMBLE TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES IN THE EFFORT TO WIDEN ACCESS TO CLEAN DRINKING WATER IN CAMBODIA

In 2021, RFA collaborated with P&G to implement water purifying systems at various ranger work stations across Cambodia. This initiative included the distribution of thousands of water purification sachets, significantly improving access to clean drinking water for rangers. According to the *2019 Life on the Frontline Survey*, over 50% of rangers reported suffering from waterborne illnesses due to unsafe drinking water. This effort is crucial as it directly supports the health and well-being of rangers, who often operate in remote areas with limited access to safe water.



# AFRICA

## THE WILDLIFE RANGER CHALLENGE RETURNS FOR ITS SECOND EDITION

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.

For the second year running, 125 ranger organizations and almost 1,000 public supporters from 82 countries came together for the Wildlife Ranger Challenge 2021, securing over \$2.8 million USD in donations, with a match from the Scheinberg Relief Fund, and raising awareness of the struggles facing wildlife rangers across Africa.

Together, the event supported over 8,000 rangers across 24 countries in Africa, as well as 45 endangered species such as elephants, pangolins, rhinos, and lions, and 302,684 km<sup>2</sup> of ecosystem.

After weeks of training, the Tarangire Ecosystem Teams A & B from Tanzania, finished the 21km course in just 1 hour and 52 minutes.

[READ MORE](#)





# RHINO CONSERVATION AWARDS 2021

Coinciding with World Ranger Day, the Rhino Conservation Awards honor people and organisations 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's Rhino Conservation Awards celebrate its 10th year in recognizing, and creating awareness for those individuals and organizations who, despite the challenges facing our natural world, have accomplished incredible work in endangered species conservation across the region.

In addition to announcing the winners for 2021, Game Rangers' Association of Africa CEO, Andrew Campbell announced an important and exciting change to the official name of the event. From 2022 the Rhino Conservation Awards will be known as The African Conservation Awards - highlighting the need to reflect broader conservation efforts across the entire continent in support of all species.

Winners include:

- Sebenzile Rwexu, Great Fish River Nature Reserve, Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency, South Africa, Best Field Ranger
- Bryce Clemence, Anti-Poaching Tracking Specialists, Save Valley Conservancy, Zimbabwe, Best Game Ranger
- Environmental and Corporate Investigations, South African National Parks, South Africa Best Conservation Supporter
- Niassa Carnivore Project, Mozambique, Best Conservation Team

[LEARN MORE >](#)

## THE RHINO CONSERVATION AWARDS 2021 ARE IN ASSOCIATION WITH



forestry, fisheries  
& the environment  
Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



PRINCE ALBERT II  
OF MONACO  
FOUNDATION





## GAME RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA (GRAA) PARTICIPATES IN RANGER ROUNDTABLE LAUNCH OF THE IRF RANGER CODE OF CONDUCT

On 22 April, GRAA was part of a Ranger Roundtable Webinar introducing the IRF Ranger Code of Conduct hosted by IRF, the Thin Green Line Foundation and the Universal Ranger Support Alliance partners. GRAA member Reginah Smith, a North West Parks Board field ranger corporal from Pilanesberg Game Reserve, South Africa spoke about what a code of conduct means to rangers. She also highlighted how it can assist female rangers overcome challenges in the workplace.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

## GRAA LAUNCHES #IAMARANGER CAMPAIGN

In 2021, GRAA launched a virtual campaign #IAmARanger to highlight the diversity of ranger roles through posts and stories celebrating the various titles they hold and duties they perform.

# LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

## LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN PROTECTED PLANET REPORT 2020 PUBLISHED

In April 2021, the *Latin America and Caribbean Protected Planet Report 2020* was launched, providing a detailed analysis of the progress made by 51 countries and territories in achieving Aichi Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

A notable section of the report, “Enabling Conditions,” addresses the daily challenges faced by park rangers. According to a 2019 WWF survey, 82% of park rangers in Latin America consider their work dangerous due to threats from poachers, and 62.4% are concerned about attacks from wildlife. Despite these risks, 98% of rangers take pride in their role as protectors of the planet’s biodiversity.

The report also reveals that, on average, there is only one ranger for every 324 km<sup>2</sup> of protected area, which is roughly equivalent to one ranger per 50,677 soccer fields. This statistic, based on data from 18 Latin American countries, highlights the significant responsibility carried by these rangers.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



# RANGERS IN LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN PROTECTED AREA DAY

On 16 October, 2021, The International Ranger Federation (IRF), Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA) and the Latin America Ranger Federation (FLG), participated together in the Latin America and Caribbean Protected Area Day through a virtual panel discussion. The event “Why is it worth being on the frontline of conservation?” featured rangers from Ecuador, Uruguay and Costa Rica who shared key insights of day-to-day challenges and responsibilities while fulfilling their duties.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



# THE FIRST LATIN AMERICA FEMALE RANGER CONGRESS HELD

In late September - December 2021, the first-ever Latin America Female Ranger Congress was held virtually and in-person across several key events, organized by the National Forestry Corporation (CONAF) of Chile. The Congress was in line with the commitments of the 'Regional diagnosis of the employment situation of rangers in Latin America' that came out of the Latin American Ranger Congress held in Baños, Ecuador in 2018.

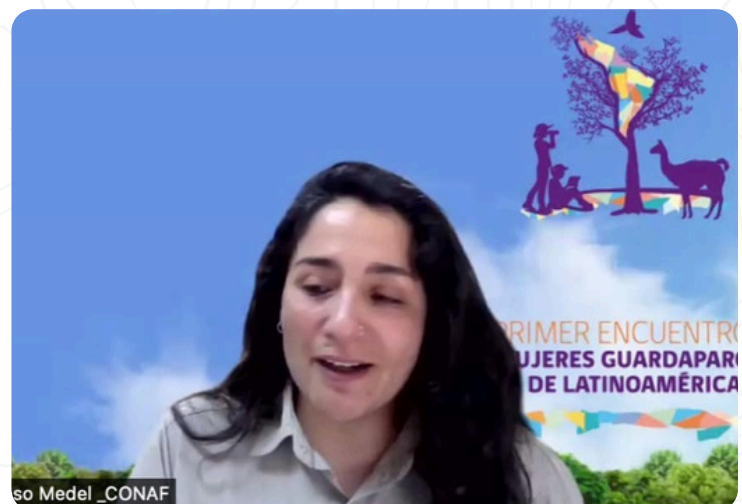
One of the central aims of the Congress was to inspire people to change the way they think, to allow everyone to be valued, regardless of their gender, identity and their role in conservation. Also, the Congress aims to influence policy makers to help us overcome personal, institutional, social and political barriers in achieving gender equality in the ranger workforce.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

## Key milestones from the Congress include:

### Preliminary results of the LAC female ranger's survey

A survey of 526 female rangers in the region, averaging 36 years old, revealed that 86.3% work in public protected areas, with 40.1% holding university degrees and 18.4% having technical higher education. Most are single (62.5%), heads of households (59.3%), and have children (53.8%). Diversity is notable, with 11.7% identifying as LGBTIQ and 16.1% from indigenous or tribal communities. Health issues are prevalent, with 22.5% suffering from chronic conditions like depression/anxiety (18.5%), allergies/musculoskeletal diseases (15.4%), and obesity (12%). Gender-based violence or discrimination was experienced by 46%, though only 24.5% reported it. While 45.2% of institutions have protocols against harassment and discrimination, and 44.6% have gender equality policies, 57.8% of respondents perceive barriers such as sexist biases, impunity, and micromachismos.



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### Webinar series held

Between September 28 and 30, over 250 participants attended daily webinars focused on gender perspectives in managing protected areas. Conservationists Brigitte Baptiste and Julia Miranda highlighted the importance of supporting rangers and called for a code of conduct to improve their working conditions and recognition. On the final day, IRF Development Officer Mónica Alvarez presented key findings from the URSA Report, *Towards Gender Equality in the Ranger Workforce*, leading to a discussion on the challenges and opportunities for female rangers. The IRF encouraged regional rangers in Latin America to unite and strengthen their associations to address these issues collectively.

### Agenda for Female Rangers in Latin America

In December 2021, the **Agenda for Female Rangers in Latin America** was launched. This dynamic document will remain open for contributions from all female rangers and highlights key areas for action to tackle gender-related challenges in the ranger workforce across the region.

*The International Ranger Federation has been actively supporting and participating in the multiple stages of the Congress along with other partners as the Chilean International Development Agency (Agsid), The Pew Charitable Trusts, Austral Patagonia Program of the Austral University of Chile (Proap) and WWF Latin America, Latin American Ranger Federation, URSA, Así Conserva Chile, RedParques, IUCN, Network of Women in Conservation of Latin America and the Caribbean, The Nature Conservation, WCS, UNDP, UNUDC and Center For Protected Area Management of Colorado State University.*

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### IRF President's Remarks

In the closing plenary, Chris Galliers, IRF President, delivered a keynote address. An extract of his remarks is below:

*We, as the International Ranger Federation, along with members and partner organizations want to tackle this as a priority. We therefore call to rangers, their employers and supporters to listen to the need and support rangers on the ground and ranger associations. Especially important to have in mind that the profession needs to better accommodate women and their needs, for example family responsibilities.*

*We call on ranger associations to include the voice of women and support them with training and leadership programs as well as other rangers. We also call on rangers in the region to come together and address these issues in a collective manner. We need female rangers to participate in the ranger associations, to be active and drive those ranger associations forward. It's also important that they play a role in strengthening the youth and inducing them to become rangers and participate in caring for this planet.*





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## BOLIVIA'S FIRST PARK RANGER RECEIVES RECOGNITION FOR HER WORK IN DIFFERENT PROTECTED AREAS OF THE COUNTRY

On 5 June, marking World Environment Day, the Network of Women in Conservation of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Network of Women in Conservation of Bolivia, awarded Carola Vaca — the first park ranger of Bolivia — with a prestigious title of "Illustrious Woman in Conservation." Under the slogan: "reimagine, recreate, restore," both organizations chose Vaca for her career in conservation in different protected areas of the country. During the virtual ceremony, the work of other 17 female park rangers in Bolivia was also recognized.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

## IRF PRESIDENT INTERVIEWED FOR THE REDPARQUES BULLETIN

In Edition 6 of the REDPARQUES Bulletin, a flagship publication by the National Protected Area Systems from Latin America and the Caribbean, IRF President, Chris Galliers, shared his insights on the impact of COVID-19 on the ranger workforce.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

**Chris Galliers**  
Presidente de la Federación Internacional de Guardaparques

### ENTREVISTA

Chris Galliers, guardaparque de origen sudamericano, es actualmente el presidente de la Federación Internacional de Guardaparques (IRF por sus siglas en inglés). Ha estado activamente involucrado en la prevención de caso Surbia del momento desde 2019. Es miembro de Green Rangers Association of Africa (Asociación Africana de Guardaparques) donde fue presidente por dos períodos (2012 - 2018). Asimismo, fue electo Representante Regional para África en IRF en 2012 y ha estado involucrado en su directiva desde entonces.

Las áreas naturales protegidas constituyen espacios vitales para la salud y el esparcimiento de las personas, entre otros, desde su punto de vista. ¿Cuál debe ser el rol de las áreas naturales protegidas, para promover espacios saludables y a la vez contribuir con la recuperación del turismo post COVID-19?

Las áreas protegidas requieren de planes de salud y seguridad en torno al COVID. Deben de contar con equipamiento, infraestructura y refuerzos necesarios.

Es muy importante que el personal que se opera, como las y los guardaparques, está adecuadamente entrenado y capacitado para poder desarrollar efectivamente sus funciones dentro de las áreas. También, el personal de campo debe ser apoyado y respaldado en sus esfuerzos para aplicar los protocolos, como respetar los límites de capacidad de carga de visitantes en las áreas protegidas, por ejemplo.

Sobre la Federación Internacional de Guardaparques  
La Federación Internacional de Guardaparques está integrada por más de 140 asociaciones de guardaparques de todo el mundo. Para conocer más sobre IRF y sus iniciativas, como el reciente Código de conducta realizado por y para guardaparques, visite sus plataformas de comunicación:  
[www.internationalrangers.org](http://www.internationalrangers.org)  
FB @internationalrangerfederation  
IG @int\_ranger\_fed



# NORTH AMERICA

## RANGERS FEATURED ON THE NATIONAL WEATHER CHANNEL FOR WORLD RANGER DAY 2021

IRF North America Representative, Andrew Wright, appeared on two live interviews on the national Weather Channel to amplify World Ranger Day 2021. By leveraging the Weather Channel's substantial reach, averaging 133,000 viewers during primetime, Wright aimed to inspire support for rangers and their efforts to protect wildlife and natural habitats.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



Tennessee State Parks and the Tennessee Park Rangers Association also celebrated World Ranger Day 2021 [with an open house event](#) at the newly opened Tennessee State Park Ranger Museum. The museum is located in the Chief Ranger's Office at Henry Horton State Park and celebrates the contributions of rangers for Tennessee State Parks since 1937. California's event was held at Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve and featured inspiring speeches in recognition of rangers.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

## NORTH AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE REVIEWS NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK

IRF's Board of Directors was approached by author Jennifer Benito-Kowalsk to review a soon-to-be-published children's book *My First Day as a Junior Park Ranger*. North America Representative, Andrew Wright, completed the review. The story tracks a new prairie dog on his first day as a Junior Park Ranger. He meets other animals that staff the park and learns important lessons about asking questions and getting comfortable in new situations. The artwork is incredible, and the characters are all animals found in the western US. After follow-up discussions with the author, an additional version is being produced with animals and scenes from the Eastern US.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

## IRF WELCOMES BRITISH COLUMBIA'S PROVINCIAL RANGERS AS PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

Thanks to British Columbia's Parks and Protected Areas Section Head, Mike Neto, B.C's Provincial Rangers are now Provisional Members of IRF. Neto led a drive to involve as many British Columbian Parks rangers as possible on the application — ultimately, nearly 50 voted in agreement.

## NEW NATIONAL PARK WARDENS IN CANADA COMPLETE TRAINING

Four new Canadian Park Wardens completed their Experienced Officer Training Program ahead of June 2021. The training is mandatory for all Park Wardens.



# EUROPE

## SAVE THE DATE: EUROPEAN RANGER CONGRESS 2022 IN ALBANIA

The European Ranger Federation (ERF) had to cancel its 6th European Ranger Congress, the region's flagship event for rangers, in the Bavarian Forest National Park in 2020 because of the COVID pandemic. Now the ERF is planning its next congress in Albania in the week of 16 May 2022. An organizing committee was formed this year and has started working on logistics.



## COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION SCHEME

On 1 October, the Countryside Management Association (CMA), representing rangers and all countryside and greenspace management professionals in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, launched its professional accreditation scheme for current and new members on the 1st October. The Competency Framework aims to comprehensively embrace the full range of competencies expected of those within the countryside, landscape, environmental and parks and greenspace sector, at different levels of operation. This Competency Framework has been consulted upon both amongst current CMA members, and organizations external to the CMA, primarily employers.

# CROATIAN RANGERS ASSOCIATION CONGRESS TAKES PLACE

From 14-16 October, more than 80 rangers from Croatia attended the Croatian Rangers Association Congress in Gospić, Croatia. The Congress unites rangers from across the country for dialogue on national and regional challenges and opportunities in strengthening the effectiveness of ranger work.

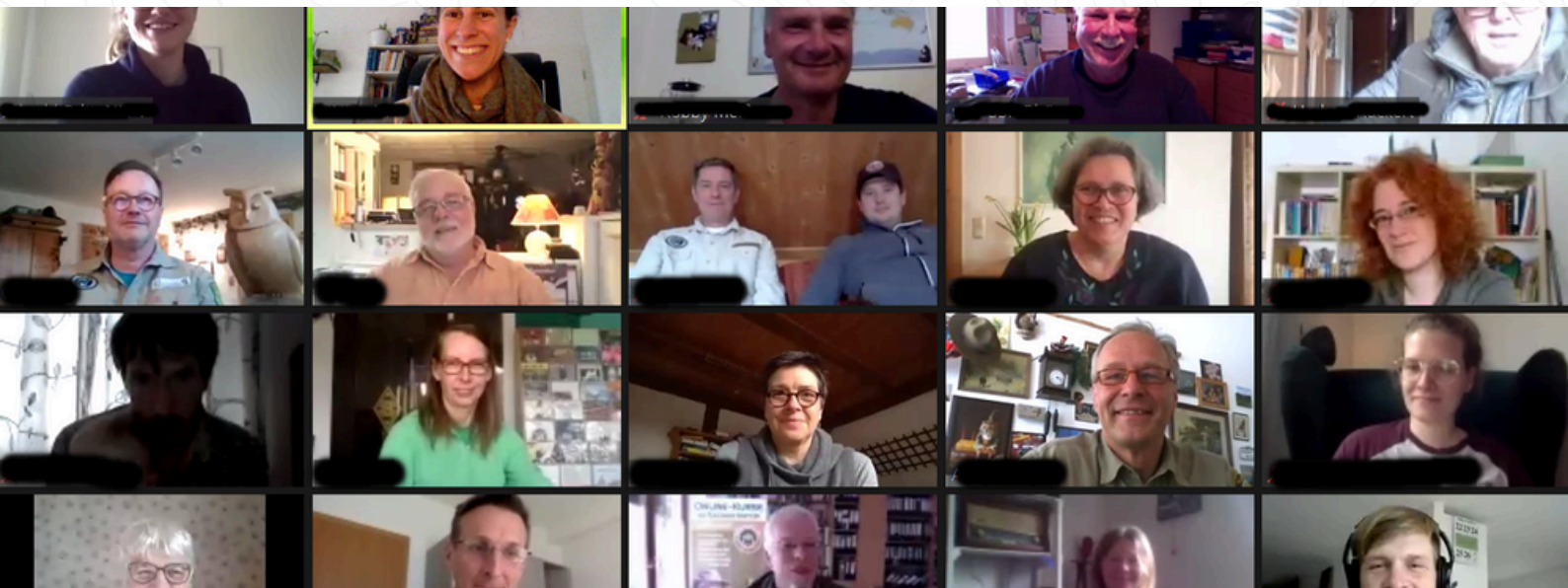
[LEARN MORE >](#)



# GERMAN RANGER ASSOCIATION WEBINAR KICKS OFF

On 27 March, more than 100 rangers of the German Ranger Association (Bundesverband Naturwacht) united for a webinar in lieu of their in-person Congress, which couldn't take place due to the pandemic. Three speakers also reported on their everyday life in times of Covid and on the conflicts. Dr Ulrike Garbe kicked off a series of further training courses on the topic of "Rangers in the field of tension in a changing society". She is a conflict mediator and showed the mechanisms of conflicts and where the rangers can take action.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



# OCEANIA

## QUEENSLAND RANGER ASSOCIATION (QRA) MUSTER HELD

Around 40 Queensland rangers were able to meet in person, with another 40 online, near the beautiful Cape Hillsborough National Park and discuss a range of ranger-related topics. With the theme, 'working smarter, not harder', this included presentations on digital tools, utilising volunteers and researchers to help with protected area management and thinking more strategically.

## FIRST-EVER TASMANIA RANGER ROUNDUP HELD

This year, for the first time, the Tasmanian Rangers Association hosted a Ranger Roundup, providing a networking and professional development opportunity to Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) staff from across the state. Around 30 rangers attended the event to share and to learn.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



# NEWSLETTERS IN 2021

## Important Notifications

19 March 2021

## March 2021 Newsletter

6 April 2021

## July 2021 Newsletter

16 July 2021

## World Ranger Day 2021

22 July 2021

## Ranger Roundtable Webinar #3

23 July 2021

## Wildlife Ranger Challenge 2021

28 July 2021

## IRF AGM Invitation

4 August 2021

## September 2021 Newsletter

8 October 2021

## Ranger Roundtable Webinar #4

17 November 2021

## 2nd International Ranger Awards

22 Decem 2021

*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: [executiveofficer@internationalrangers.org](mailto:executiveofficer@internationalrangers.org)*



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