



THE INTERNATIONAL RANGERS FEDERATION'S

YEAR IN REVIEW

2022



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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 recognises 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

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

As COVID-19 restrictions lifted globally, 2022 became a pivotal year for the ranger community to reconnect in person. This year was marked by significant events, including three regional congresses in Africa, Europe, and Oceania, and in-person trainings on the Ranger Code of Conduct in Cambodia and Botswana. Additionally, the historic recognition of rangers at the United Nations' Convention on Biological Diversity's 15th Conference of the Parties (CBD COP 15) in UN Global Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in Montreal, Canada spotlighted their crucial role in delivering on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. These gatherings exemplified the urgency in our collective efforts to advance the rights, recognition, and professionalization of the ranger workforce, and how we're working at all levels in this mission, regionally and globally.

The landmark launch of the Forest and Communities Initiative was also significant this year, showcasing the growing recognition of how closely linked rangers, local communities and Indigenous Peoples are in the effort to conserve some of the world's most vital forest hotspots. The direct appeals to IRF and the Universal Ranger Support Alliance in the African Ranger Congress' Kasane Ranger Call to Action also highlight the imperative of our work and reinforces the steps we've taken since the 9th World Ranger Congress' Chitwan Declaration.

While there is still much to accomplish, each year we are forging stronger partnerships, enhancing our collaboration, and expanding our support. With every step, we continue to deliver on our commitment to ensure our actions resonate with rangers at every level, from global policy to their daily realities on-the-ground.



Chris Galliers
IRF President

2022 AT A GLANCE



150

rangers died during service across **39** countries between June 2021 to May 2022.



286,000

the estimated number of rangers in the world, according to a landmark study by IRF and partners



IRF has over

160

member organizations across

7

regions.



500+

rangers united for regional association gatherings in Africa, Oceania and Europe.



100+

participants united for the 2023 Oceania Roundtable.



20+

Workshops, trainings and dialogue sessions across working groups organised and delivered.



538

people across **88** countries contributed to the Global State of the Ranger consultations



IRF represented for the first time at the UN Global Biodiversity Conference (COP 15)



6+

policy documents, briefs and research papers produced and shared .



1

Annual General Meeting (AGM) held, with 6+ board meetings since the last AGM.



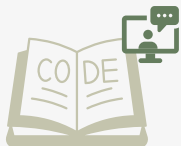
40+

rangers, ranger employers and conservation organization leaders gathered in Cambodia and Botswana for in-person regional Ranger Code of Conduct workshops.



9

mentions of IRF and URSA in the African Ranger Congress' Kansane Ranger Call to Action



650+

rangers across **65** countries tuning in from 20 languages completed a 2-hour workshop on IRF's Ranger Code of Conduct



7

rangers and 3 teams across 10 countries recognized by the International Ranger Awards 2022



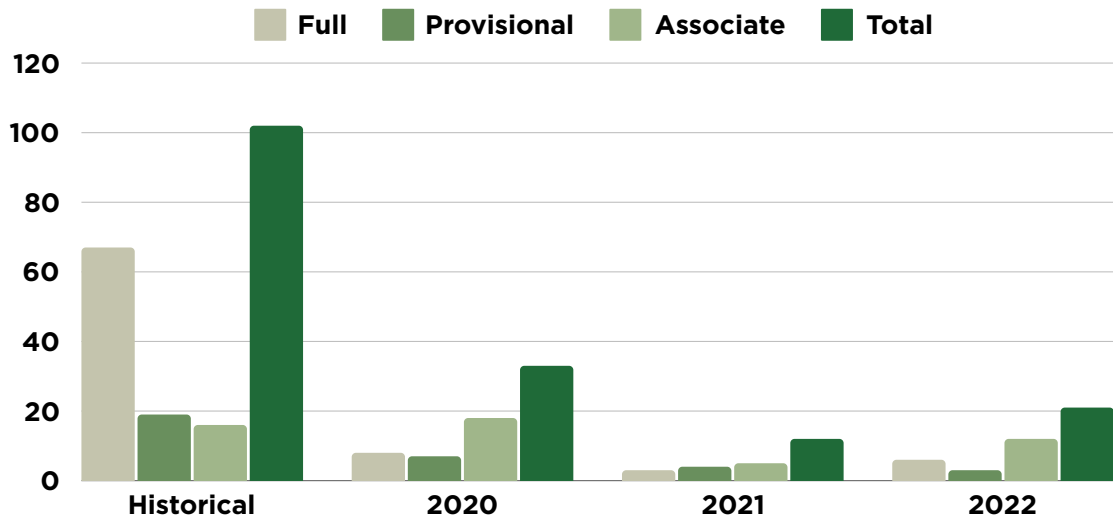
100+

people gathered for four Ranger Roundtable events



& so much more!

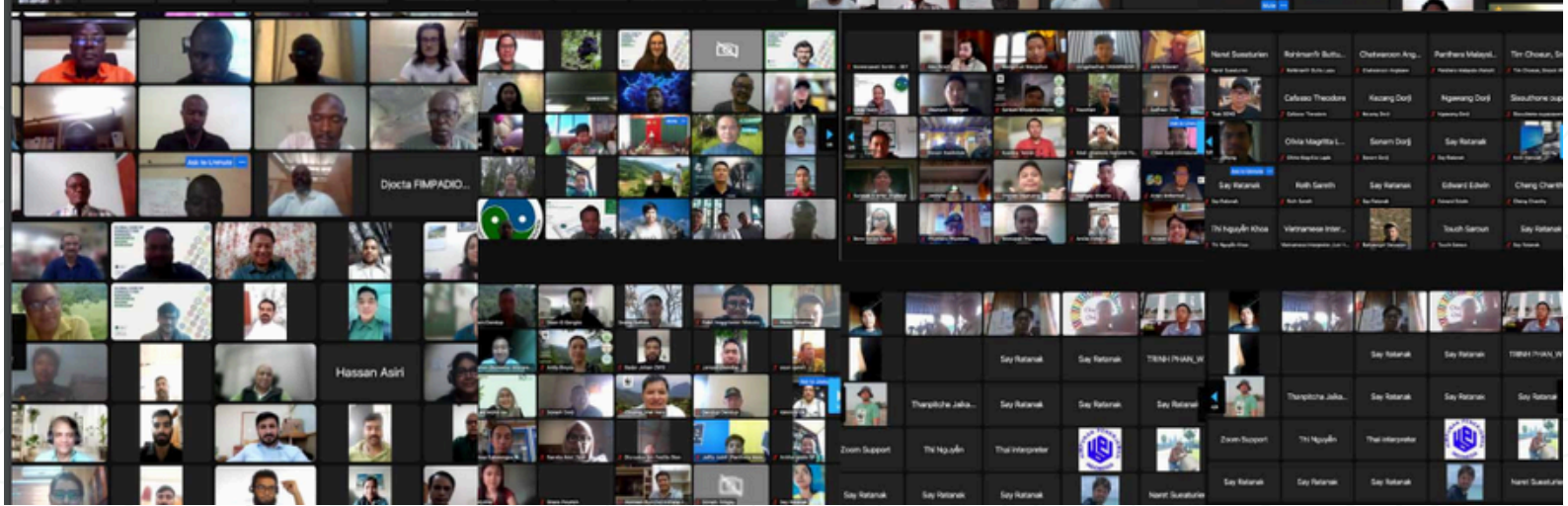
NEW IRF MEMBERS



MAP OF RANGER ASSOCIATIONS



[VIEW OUR INTERACTIVE MAP >](#)



GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT THE IRF RANGER CODE OF CONDUCT

In 2022, IRF joined Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA) partners to host a series of in-person and online workshops with the aim to support the global implementation of the IRF Ranger Code of Conduct (CoC).

What is the CoC?

The CoC was launched in July 2021 as the first-ever global Code of Conduct for rangers. The document was developed by IRF, with support from URSA, following a global, iterative consultation process with rangers, ranger associations, ranger employers, national and regional government bodies, human rights organizations, and other relevant stakeholders across 92 countries and 1,820 people between two consultation phases.

8 virtual workshops reaching 685 participants, 65 countries across 20 languages

Eight virtual workshops across different regions were held between June to September to serve as an introduction to the Code of Conduct and its primary principles.

The aim of this workshop series:

- **To bring to life...** the Ranger Code of Conduct.
- **To explore...** how the code provides a guiding framework, which will need to be adapted to meet the local context.
- **To study...** how to meaningfully involve partners and local communities.
- **To examine...** how governments and ranger employers can improve ranger wellbeing, foster recognition for the ranger sector, and create public awareness about the vital role rangers play.

RANGER CODE OF CONDUCT AWARENESS-RAISING WORKSHOPS

685

Total participants
(total number at one time, according to Zoom reports)

1237

Total minutes
(based on Zoom reports)

65

Number of countries represented

Average score

out of 5, with 1 being 'poor' and 5 being 'Excellent'

4.2

METHODOLOGIES: 4.3 | ORGANIZATION: 4.2 | FACILITATION: 4.3 | TRANSLATION: 4.0



This workshop is implemented with the support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Hosted by:



INTERNATIONAL
RANGER
FEDERATION

URSA
UNIVERSAL RANGER SUPPORT ALLIANCE

In-person workshops

Two regional in-person workshops were also held in Cambodia (August 2022) and Botswana (September 2022) to bring together relevant stakeholders to learn about the purpose of the CoC and how it can be adapted and implemented across different countries.

[READ MORE ABOUT THE VIRUTAL WORKSHOPS](#)

[READ MORE ABOUT THE IN-PERSON WORKSHOPS](#)

[WATCH THE ASIA COC WORKSHOP RECAP VIDEO](#)





URSA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING IN CAMBRIDGE, UK MARCH 2022

The Universal Ranger Support Alliance (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 prioritises recognition, resources and representation for rangers around the world.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

In March 2022, three members of the IRF team attended the inaugural in-person URSA Steering Committee Meeting, this time held at the David Attenborough Building in Cambridge, United Kingdom. The meeting focused on reviewing progress on [URSA's Action Plan](#) through to 2025.

Several other spotlights mentioned throughout this 'Year in Review' were made possible thanks to support from URSA, including the Ranger Code of Conduct awareness-raising workshops and the following:

FIRST GLOBAL CENSUS OF PROTECTED AREA PERSONNEL SINCE 1999 PUBLISHED

In October 2022, URSA and IRF, among others, published a new scientific paper, *'Protected area personnel and ranger numbers are insufficient to deliver global expectations'* in Nature Sustainability, revealing that **we need five times more personnel than what we have right now to protect 30% of the planet.**

This is the first global census of protected area personnel since 1999 and the first-ever census to include rangers; it estimates that we need a workforce of 2.9 million people, including 1.53 million more rangers. Not only is there not enough rangers to fulfill global expectations, but rangers urgently need better recognition, capacity, and resources to do their jobs safely and effectively.

The paper reveals that **there are only 286,000 rangers in the world.** The numbers are out to validate the long-time call from the IRF that there are insufficient numbers of rangers to meet the current needs, let alone those that are planned and needed in the future.

If we are to protect 30% of the planet by 2030, we are not only going to need to invest in current rangers but also future ones.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



CONSERVATION CASUALTIES: AN ANALYSIS OF ON-DUTY RANGER FATALITIES (2006–2021) PUBLISHED

In May 2022, IRF and partners published *Conservation Casualties: An Analysis of on-duty ranger fatalities (2006–2021)* in Volume 28 of the IUCN Parks Journal. The study is the first comprehensive analysis of IRF's Roll of honor data, which documents the number of deaths of Protected Area personnel in a given period, published every World Ranger Day since 2006. The study combines empirical research and data related to felonious and accidental casualties to offer a better reflection on the ways policies and action plans, both international and national, can contribute to making the ranger profession safer. The purpose of this paper is to provide insight into the major causes behind death during ranger duties and aims to serve as a baseline by providing evidence to underpin future targeted action.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

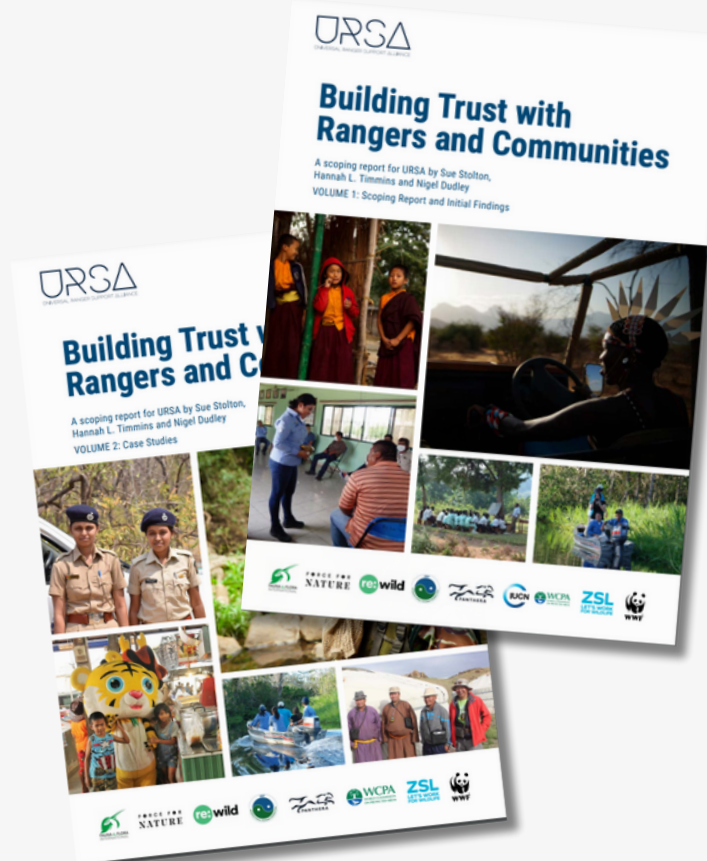


BUILDING TRUST WITH COMMUNITIES SCOPING REPORT PUBLISHED

In May 2022, IRF, alongside URSA, published a two-part scoping document entitled *Building Trust with Rangers and Communities*. The document aims to provide simple, practical guidance for rangers and their managers working all over the world to strengthen ranger and community relationships drawing on actual experience worldwide. Volume 1 (of 2) outlines the overall context, discusses what is meant by the concept of trust and begins to develop a series of good practices illustrated by examples from the field. Volume 2 expands on this with a series of detailed case studies.

[READ VOLUME 1](#)

[READ VOLUME 2](#)



WEBINAR SERIES HIGHLIGHTS THE CRITICAL ROLE OF RANGERS IN PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS

IRF and URSA partners also teamed up to host a series of webinars on a critical number of issues ahead of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) and the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 27), among other major policy events.

Webinar 1: Building a workforce to manage 30 percent of the planet | November 2022

The webinar reviewed the current status and future needs of Protected and Conserved Area (PCA) personnel in the light of the 30 by 30 ambitions. Members of an expert panel presented and discussed the main findings of newly published research on personnel numbers, examined initiatives to advance ranger professionalization, and explored the diversity of new roles, approaches and types of support needed for effective management and stewardship of PCAs ahead of 2030.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

Webinar 2: Building Trust with Rangers and Communities | November 2022

This webinar, presented by Equilibrium Research, revolved around discovering good practices for helping to build trust between rangers, Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The discussion was also framed around the recent publication. Direct soundbites from rangers across the world were also shared during the webinar, showcasing examples of building trust with rangers and communities in action.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



WORLD RANGER DAY 2022 HIGHLIGHTS THE DIVERSITY OF RANGERS AND THEIR ROLES

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

World Ranger Day 2022 focused on the diversity of rangers and their roles. Rangers are no strangers to diversity. Diversity creates complexities, but we should look to embrace diversity, as we do in the natural world.

Roll of honor

150 Rangers tragically lost their lives while carrying out their duties during the past year. The figure is higher than the numbers reported in 2020 and the second highest number of ranger deaths recorded since recording started in 2006.

This World Ranger Day, IRF also revised our approach in reporting Line of Duty deaths. The months for recording in the years ahead will be from 1 June - 31 May each year as opposed to 1 July - 30 June, to allow more time for accurate verification of details.

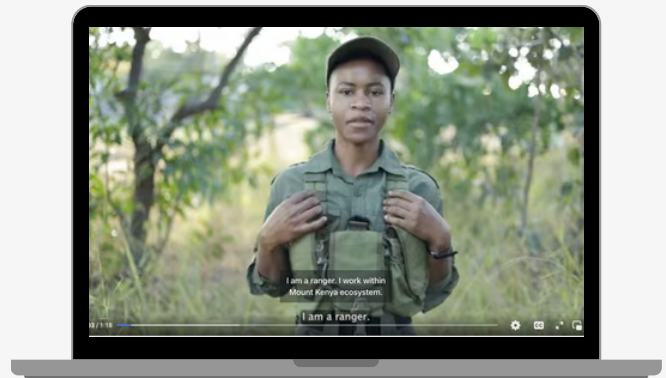
[LEARN MORE >](#)



Feature video

In line with the World Ranger Day theme this year, IRF, alongside URSA partners, launched a feature video highlighting ranger voices from across the world – capturing the diversity of their roles, geographies they work in and broad range of challenges they're tackling.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



Messages from IRF Executive Committee members

This year, members of the IRF Executive Committee members also shared personalized messages through a joint video marking World Ranger Day 2022.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

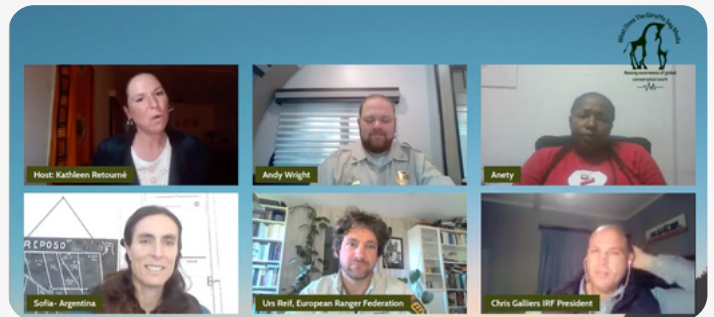


Dedicated 'Live Ranger Interviews' hosted by 'What Does The Giraffe Say Media'

'What Does The Giraffe Say Media' – a team that produces live shows interviewing global conservation organizations to raise awareness of the different work people are doing to protect our wildlife and wildspaces – hosted a dedicated series of ranger interviews this World Ranger Month. IRF members and rangers from around the world participated in the series, including a featured panel discussion on World Ranger Day and an overview of the State of the Ranger Report in the lead-up.

[WATCH VIDEO 1](#)

[WATCH VIDEO 2](#)



[FIND OTHER WORLD RANGER DAY 2022 MATERIAL](#)



WORLD RANGER DAY 2022

ROLL OF HONOUR

Recognising Ranger Line of Duty Deaths

June 2021 to May 2022



AFRICA Region (75 deaths)

Angola	Elias Zeca	Work related Infection
Benin	Jérôme Yves Gérard Lidoyne	Killed in IED ambush
Benin	Zaharia Alassane Djézarou	Killed in IED ambush
Benin	Seko Baga Bio Maro Ambali	Killed in IED ambush
Benin	Wentoflor Francis	Killed in IED ambush
Benin	Tohoun Wilfrid	Killed in IED ambush
Benin	Adamou Aliou Mamadou Akibou	Killed in IED ambush
Benin	Assondu Abalou Elysée	Killed in IED ambush
Benin	Gnarigo Diapati	Killed by poachers
Botswana	un-named	Killed by buffalo
Botswana	Moitiredi Seipheto	Attacked by elephant
Burkina Faso	Sinaré Yssoufou	Kidnapped then shot
Cameroon	Mvogo Amougou Francois Cedric	Drowned on patrol
Cote d'Ivoire	Patrice Guiroa	Found dead on roadside
Cote d'Ivoire	Frederic Bole	Killed in truck rollover
Cote d'Ivoire	Egni Joseph	Shot by unknown attackers
Cote d'Ivoire	Stephane Yao N'dri	Died during training
Cote d'Ivoire	Bamba Issiaka Stephen	Drowned in river
DR Congo	Kasongo Mujinga Dorco	Captured - assumed killed
DR Congo	Ilunga Kazembe Arthur	Vehicle accident on patrol
DR Congo	Ebassecha Abwe, Patrick	Shot while on patrol
DR Congo	Shabani Vincent Mpenda	Shot while on patrol
DR Congo	Kiluba Wa Ngoy Patient	Snake bite on patrol
DR Congo	Lee Eliot	Heart attack/stroke on duty
DR Congo	Heri Lumali Voltaire	Drowned in storm
DR Congo	Tshisupa Musakay Joel	Drowned in storm
DR Congo	Seraphin Kalenga Wahandja	Drowned in storm
DR Congo	Bizimana Karabaranga Emery	Shot by unknown assailants
DR Congo	Bafurha Lwananza Francis	Killed in patrol ambush
DR Congo	Dieu Donne Aoci	Killed in patrol ambush
DR Congo	Dieudonne Abahenya Patrick	Killed when ranger post attacked
DR Congo	Etienne Mutazimiza Kanyaruchinya	Shot dead by hippo poachers
DR Congo	Wembo Gilbert Venans	Shot dead by militia group
DR Congo	Emmanuel Kaloba Nkolwe	Shot dead by poachers
DR Congo	Amisi Mwenyemali Pompidou	Shot dead by poachers
DR Congo	Kigabi Ndalengwa Justin	Shot dead by poachers
DR Congo	Kiza Katunda Janvier	Killed by militia group
DR Congo	Denis Mushangoma	Died from work related dysentery
DR Congo	Ciza Ragi Marcelin	Killed in leopard attack
DR Congo	Kanakwa Bumandek Freddy	Shot dead by militia
DR Congo	Ndumba Koyama Isaac	Shot dead by militia
DR Congo	Madith Rwoth Benjmain	Shot dead by militia
DR Congo	Baraka Lukoko Christian	Shot dead by militia
DR Congo	Bahati Amissi Fiston	Shot dead by militia
DR Congo	Guelord Mwape Tumbwe	On-duty vehicle accident
DR Congo	Murhula Mushagalusa Fidèle	Shot dead by militia
DR Congo	Lweya Alonda Raphael	Shot dead by militia
DR Congo	Mujandwa Ngirho Augustin	Shot dead by militia
DR Congo	Ndabitwaza Kanyute Fidèle	Shot dead by militia
DR Congo	Mulume Kininga Augustin	Shot dead by militia
DR Congo	Iragi Ilunga Jean de Dieu	Shot dead by militia
Chana	Benjamin Seidu	Accidentally shot himself
Kenya	Bajila Kofa	Executed by unknown assailants
Kenya	Anthony Karissa Ndoro	Injured by elephant & died
Kenya	Isaac Machiegwa	Found dead in forest
Malawi	Gerald Kamanga	Drowned in cyclone
Malawi	Gift Matola Chimulu	Drowned in cyclone
Malawi	Given Gondwe	Killed in rhino horn incident
Mozambique	Chabane Massudi	Drowned
Mozambique	Raul Arde	Killed by insurgents
Mozambique	Feliciano Joaquim Jamisso	Killed by crocodile
Nigeria	Unnamed	Killed by armed cultists
Nigeria	Tukuru Seibokuro	Killed following forest patrol
South Africa	Malibongwe Mfila	Killed by lions
South Africa	Shando Mathebula	Accidentally shot in buffalo attack
South Sudan	Maduet Machok	Shot during fishing incident
Tanzania	James Chacha Kalomba	Killed in cattle grazing incident
Uganda	Okello Richard	Died in vehicle accident
Zambia	Monde Monde	Died in vehicle accident
Zambia	Mike Musonda	Trampled by elephant - died
Zambia	Daniel Munsaka Mweete	Died from stab wounds
Zimbabwe	Livison Marks Smart	On-duty stroke
Zimbabwe	Clever Sapandura	Killed by bull elephant
Zimbabwe	Gerald Gwangwava	Killed by elephant
Zimbabwe	Shepherd Ngoromani	Killed by buffalo

ASIA Region (60 deaths)

Bhutan	Shivalal Sanyasi	Swept away during patrol
Cambodia	Ko Rith	Died in motorbike accident
India	Utpal Burman	Killed by rhino
India	Sundhan Patgiri	Died in on duty road accident
India	Jewel Singh Terron	On duty - hit by truck - died

India	Rakesh Madavi	Died in forest fire
India	Rekhand Rane	Died in forest fire
India	Sachin Shreerange	Died in forest fire
India	Raju Das	Died in wild elephant attack
India	Vijay Tijab Marshkole	Killed Fire fighting
India	Buddhadeb Sabar	Trampled/died by elephant
India	Lalnunzira	Died in on-duty accident
India	Arun Yadav	Shot dead by armed individuals
India	Tariq Hussain	Swept away in monsoon
India	Bashir Ahmad	Swept away in monsoon
India	Mohd. Sharief	Swept away in monsoon
India	Shakir Hussain	Swept away in monsoon
India	Jogen Das	Died from work related illness
India	Hanumantaiah	Killed by wild elephants
India	Rupjyoti Bora	Died in on duty traffic accident
India	Madhuchandra Deka	Died in on duty traffic accident
India	Samalya Gora	Stabbed/killed by teak smugglers
India	Swati M Dhumane	Killed by tiger
India	Munshi Ram	Drowned in reservoir
India	Laxman Kinkar	Died in leopard attack
India	Samrat Singh Maravi	Died in elephant attack
India	Ganesh Sanodiya	Killed when his vehicle hit by truck
India	Chandrakanta Rout	Attacked/killed by elephant
India	T. Sundaramoorthy	Trampled by elephant - died
India	P. Ravichandran	Trampled by elephant - died
India	Achar Kinda	Killed by patrol elephant
India	P.P.Rajan	Missing presumed dead
India	Ganesh Pandian	On duty heart attack
India	Rajesh Kumar	Died from firefighting burns
India	Jatia Rana	Killed by poachers
Indonesia	Izri Waslim	Died whilst on patrol
Indonesia	Pak Aries	Heart attack after strenuous duty
Pakistan	Jamshid I've	Fell and died firefighting
Pakistan	Karamat Ali Ankar	Killed by timber poachers
Philippines	Rigor Santos	Drowned during survey work
Sri Lanka	R.M.P.A. Rathnayaka	Drowned on duty
Thailand	Sangwan Phimidi	Killed by an elephant
Thailand	Chalao Kotud	Died following patrol
Thailand	Atthaphon Sansoenboon	Died in motorcycle accident
Thailand	Surasak Soipetch	Died from Malaria
Thailand	Wanrob Rukboon	Died in fall
Thailand	Singthong Suraphak	Died from Scrub typhus (tick disease)
Thailand	Alongkorn Lakkrot	Died on patrol
Thailand	Suchat Koi	Heart attack during patrol
Thailand	Nakorn Sriruang	Died in bison charge
Thailand	Narong Camsen	Drowned
Thailand	Pattana Sonajit	Died in car accident on patrol
Thailand	Saokaew Raunjai	Shot dead by poacher
Thailand	Somsit Damthua	Drowned rescuing tourist
Thailand	Sommal Yokchavee	Heart attack
Thailand	Kritsana Karnthong	Died in on-duty car accident
Thailand	Somkiart Saenla-aiad	Died when tree fell on tent
Thailand	Kan Singha	Died in motorcycle accident
Thailand	Narong Khonopklang	Died in motorcycle accident
Thailand	Boonyarit Kavita	Died falling from waterfall

CENTRAL AMERICA Region (6 deaths)

Guatemala	Luis Adolfo García Gamboa	Died from firefighting burns
Guatemala	Jorge Hugo Barrientos López	Died from firefighting burns
Guatemala	Maximiliano Ventura Lopez	Died from firefighting burns
Guatemala	Byron Juventino Esquivel	Killed in machete attack
Mexico	Andrés Mondragon	Killed when truck overturned
Mexico	Carlos Ramón Godínez Reyes	On duty heart attack

EUROPE Region No Ranger Line of Duty Deaths

NORTH AMERICA Region (3 deaths)

USA	Sarah Grell	Died in on-duty vehicle accident
USA	Tim Hart	Died firefighting after hard landing
USA	Jeff Piechura	Killed in helicopter crash

OCEANIA Region No Ranger Line of Duty Deaths

SOUTH AMERICA Region (6 deaths)

Colombia	Daniel Javier Villalobos Ramirez	Died in traffic accident
Colombia	Cristian Orlando Acosta Guevara	Died in traffic accident
Colombia	Leonardo Fabio Urbano Anacona	Died in traffic accident
Peru	Angel Santos Ato Oyola	Heart attack at work
Peru	Ronald Timana Avalo	Died in ATV roll-over
Venezuela	Gregor Labu Benitez-Rivas	Died in machete attack

The Unknown Ranger

Total number of lives lost - 150 (June 2021 - May 2022)



WORLD RANGER DAY 2022

ROLL OF HONOUR

Recognising Ranger Line of Duty Deaths



June 2021 to May 2022



ANIMAL

(23 deaths)

Any death of a ranger due to attack from wild animals.

Botswana	un-named	Killed by buffalo
Botswana	Moitiredi Seipheto	Killed by elephant
DRC	Kiluba Wa Ngoy Patient	Died from snake bite
DRC	Ciza Ragi Marcelin	Died in leopard attack
India	Utpal Burman	Killed by rhino
India	Buddhadab Sabar	Killed by elephant
India	Hanumantiah	Killed by wild elephants
India	Swati M Dhumane	Killed by tiger
India	Laxman Kinkar	Killed by leopard
India	Chandrakanta Rout	Died in elephant attack
India	T. Sundaramoorthy	Trampled/killed by elephant
India	P. Ravichandran	Trampled/killed by elephant
India	Raju Das	Trampled/killed by elephant
India	Achar Kinda	Killed by patrol elephant
India	Samrat Singh Maravi	Killed in elephant attack
Mozambique	Feliciano Joaquim Jamissone	Killed by crocodile
South Africa	Malibongwe Mfila	Killed by lions
Thailand	Sangwan Phimdi	Killed by an elephant
Thailand	Nakorn Sriruang	Killed in bison charge
Zambia	Mike Musonda	Killed by elephant
Zimbabwe	Clever Sapandura	Killed in bull elephant charge
Zimbabwe	Gerald Cwangwawa	Killed by elephant
Zimbabwe	Shepherd Ngoromani	Killed by buffalo

DR Congo	Mulumbe Kininga Augustin	Died in militia attack
DR Congo	Iragi Ilunga Jean de Dieu	Died in militia attack
Guatemala	Byron Juventino Esquivel	Killed in machete attack
India	Arun Yadav	Shot dead by armed individuals
India	Jatia Rana	Shot dead by poachers
India	Samalyya Gora	Stabbed/killed by teak smugglers
Kenya	Bajila Kofa	Killed by unknown assailants
Kenya	Isaac Machiegwa	Found dead at forest edge
Malawi	Given Gondwe	Killed in rhino horn incident
Mozambique	Raul Arde	Killed by insurgents
Nigeria	Unnamed	Killed by armed gunmen
Nigeria	Tukuru Seibokuro	Killed after routine patrol
Pakistan	Karamat Ali Ankar	Killed by timber poachers
South Sudan	Maduet Machok	Shot dead in fishing incident
Tanzania	James Chacha Kalomba	Killed in grazing incident
Thailand	Saokaew Raunjai	Shot dead by poacher
Venezuela	Gregor Labu Benitez-Rivas	Died in machete attack
Zambia	Daniel Munsaka Mweete	Died from stab wounds



OCCUPATIONAL

(35 deaths)

Any death recorded due to occupational hazards such as firefighting, drownings, falls, equipment failure and other such incidents

Bhutan	Shivalal Sanyasi	Swept away during patrol
Cameroon	Mvogo Amougou Francois Cedric	Drowned on patrol
Cote d'Ivoire	Bamba Issiaka Stephen	Drowned in river
DR Congo	Heri Lulami Voltaire	Drowned in storm
DR Congo	Tshisupa Musakay Joel	Drowned in storm
DR Congo	Seraphin Kalenga Wahandja	Drowned in storm
Ghana	Benjamin Seidu	Accidentally shot himself
Guatemala	Luis Adolfo Garcia Gamboa	Died of burns firefighting
Guatemala	Jorge Hugo Barrientos Lopez	Died of burns firefighting
Guatemala	Maximiliano Ventura Lopez	Died of burns firefighting
India	Rajesh Kumar	Died of burns firefighting
India	Rakesh Madavi	Died in forest fire
India	Rekchand Rane	Died in forest fire
India	Sachin Shreerange	Died in forest fire
India	Vijay Tijab Marshkole	Killed firefighting
India	Tariq Hussain	Swept away in monsoon
India	Bashir Ahmad	Swept away in monsoon
India	Mohd. Sharief	Swept away in monsoon
India	Shakir Hussain	Swept away in monsoon
India	Munshi Ram	Drowned in reservoir
Malawi	Gerald Kamanga	Swept away in cyclone
Malawi	Gift Matola Chimulu	Swept away in cyclone
Mozambique	Chabane Massudi	Drowned
Pakistan	Jamshid I've	Fell/died during firefighting
Peru	Ronald Timana Avalo	Died in ATV roll-over incident
Philippines	Rigor Santos	Drowned during survey work
South Africa	Shando Mathebula	Accidentally shot in buffalo attack
Sri Lanka	R.M.P.A. Rathnayaka	Died in traffic accident
Thailand	Singthong Suraphak	Died from scrub typhus infection (ticks)
Thailand	Narong Camsen	Drowned
Thailand	Somkiart Saenla-aiad	Died when tree fell on his tent
Thailand	Somsit Damthua	Drowned assisting tourist
Thailand	Boonyarit Kavita	Died falling from waterfall
USA	Tim Hart	Died firefighting after hard landing
USA	Jeff Piechura	Died firefighting helicopter crash



DEATH IN SERVICE

(19 deaths)

Any line of duty illness resulting in death associated with working conditions such as malaria, pneumonia, hypothermia or mortalities such as heart attacks linked to work related stress. Deaths from 'natural causes' such as cancer, Covid 19 etc are excluded.

Angola	Elias Zeca	Died from work-related infection
Cote d'Ivoire	Stephane Yao N'dri	Died during strenuous training
DR Congo	Lee Elliot	Heart attack/stroke on duty
DR Congo	Denis Mushangoma	Died from work-related dysentery
India	Jogen Das	Died from work related illness
India	P.P.Rajan	Missing presumed dead
India	Ganesh Pandian	Died from heart attack
Indonesia	Izri Waslim	Died whilst on patrol
Indonesia	Pak Aries	Heart attack after long duty
Kenya	Anthony Karissa Ndro	Fatally injured by elephant
Mexico	Carlos Ramon Godinez Reyes	Died in on-duty heart attack
Peru	Angel Santos Ato Oyola	Died in on-duty heart attack
Thailand	Chalao Kotud	Died after patrol
Thailand	Surasak Solpetch	Died from malaria
Thailand	Wanrob Rukboon	Died from fall
Thailand	Alongkorn Lakkrot	Died on patrol
Thailand	Suchat Koloj	Heart attack during patrol
Thailand	Sommai Yokhatee	Heart attack
Zimbabwe	Livison Marks Smart	On duty Stroke



HOMICIDE

(50 deaths)

Any death at the hand of another person or persons with intent. This also includes cases if the deceased was off-duty but killed because of their ranger work.

Benin	Jérôme Yves Gérard Lidoyne	Killed in IED ambush
Benin	Zaharia Alassane Djézarou	Killed in IED ambush
Benin	Seko Baga Bio Maro Ambali	Killed in IED ambush
Benin	Wentofior Francis	Killed in IED ambush
Benin	Tohoun Wilfrid	Killed in IED ambush
Benin	Adamou Aliou Mamadou Akibou	Killed in IED ambush
Benin	Assondou Abalou Elysee	Killed in IED ambush
Benin	Gnarigo Diapati	Killed by poachers
Burkina Faso	Sinaré Yssoufou	Shot by unknown assailants
Cote D'Ivoire	Egni Joseph	Shot by unknown attackers
DR Congo	Kasongo Mujinga Dorco	Captured - assumed killed
DR Congo	Ebassecha Abwe, Patrick	Shot dead by militia
DR Congo	Shabani Vincent Mpenda	Shot dead by militia
DR Congo	Bizimana Karabaranga Emery	Shot by unidentified men
DR Congo	Bafurha Lwananza Francis	Patrol ambushed
DR Congo	Dieu Donne Aoci	Patrol ambushed
DR Congo	Dieudonne Abahenya Patrick	Patrol ambushed
DR Congo	Etienne Mutazimiza Kanyaruchinya	Killed by militia group
DR Congo	Wembo Gilbert Venans	Shot by hippo poachers
DR Congo	Emmanuel Kaloba Nkolwe	Shot by militia
DR Congo	Amisi Mwenyemali Pompidou	Shot by poachers
DR Congo	Kigabi Ndalengwa Justin	Shot by poachers
DR Congo	Kiza Katunda Janvier	Shot dead by militia
DR Congo	Kanakwa Bumandek Freddy	Shot dead by militia
DR Congo	Ndumba Koyama Isaac	Shot dead by militia
DR Congo	Madith Rwoth Benjamain	Shot dead by militia
DR Congo	Baraka Lukoko Christian	Shot dead by militia
DR Congo	Bahati Amissi Fiston	Shot dead by militia
DR Congo	Murhula Mushagalusa Fidèle	Died in militia attack
DR Congo	Lweya Alonda Raphael	Died in militia attack
DR Congo	Mujandwa Ngirihio Augustin	Died in militia attack
DR Congo	Ndabitwaza Kanyute Fidèle	Died in militia attack



VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

(23 deaths)

Any on-duty death due to vehicle accidents or other forms of transportation from bicycle to aircraft. Those obviously outside of the work situation, or en route to and from work, or if drink was involved, are not included.

Cambodia	Ko Rith	Died in motor bike accident
Colombia	Daniel Javier Villalobos Ramirez	Died in workplace traffic accident
Colombia	Cristian Orlando Acosta Guevara	Killed in traffic accident
Colombia	Leonardo Fabio Urbano Anacona	Killed in traffic accident
Cote d'Ivoire	Patrice Guiroa	Found dead on roadside
Cote d'Ivoire	Frederic Bole	Killed in truck rollover
DR Congo	Ilunga Kazembe Arthur	Killed in patrol vehicle accident
DR Congo	Guelord Mwape Tumbwe	Died in on duty vehicle accident
DR Congo	Sundhan Patgiri	Killed in on duty road accident
India	Jewel Singh Terron	Killed by truck on-duty
India	Lalnuzira	Died in on duty vehicle accident
India	Rupjyoti Bora	Killed in on duty traffic accident
India	Madhuchandra Deka	Killed in on duty traffic accident
India	Ganesh Sanodiya	Killed in patrol vehicle accident
Mexico	Andrés Mondragon	Killed on duty
Thailand	Attaphon Sansoenboon	Died in patrol motorcycle accident
Thailand	Pattana Sonajit	Died in car accident on patrol
Thailand	Kritsana Karnthong	Killed in on-duty car accident
Thailand	Kan Singha	Died in patrol motorcycle accident
Thailand	Narong Khonopklang	Died in patrol motorcycle accident
Uganda	Okello Richard	Killed responding to incident
USA	Sarah Grell	Died in on-duty vehicle accident
Zambia	Monde Monde	Died in on-duty vehicle accident

Total number of lives lost - 150 (June 2021 - May 2022)



RANGER ROUNDTABLE CONTINUES TO TACKLE CHALLENGING, IMPORTANT QUESTIONS AHEAD OF KEY EVENTS

These multi-partner online discussions are designed to raise the professional profile of and support for rangers as essential frontline conservation workers. Originally, the series 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 >](#)

5th Ranger Roundtable Webinar | 2 June 2022

Centred around the question, '*What are rangers' roles within community?*', this webinar explored the contributions of rangers to issues like sustainable development, education, public health, employment, tourism, community security, cultural integrity, climate and human-wildlife conflict. Featuring a panel of guest speakers from across IRF's regions, this Roundtable highlighted the diverse ways rangers contribute to planetary health.

[WATCH RECORDING](#)

6th Ranger Roundtable Webinar | 4 August 2022

Leading up to the regional congresses in Africa, Oceania and Europe, this webinar, under the theme '*Regional Congresses - Embracing Diversity*,' served as an opportunity to think about how to get the most of out these gatherings. The dialogue session covered the following questions: How do we ensure a mix of different perspectives are heard? Which convening methods allow us to ask the most impactful questions? What issues should we focus on? How can different regions learn from each other?

[WATCH RECORDING](#)

7th Ranger Roundtable Focus Session | 24 February 2022

United by the theme “What roles do rangers play in rural community development?” the Ranger Roundtable community came together for yet another productive discussion on the diverse ways rangers provide essential services at the local level, particularly in rural contexts. Featured speakers included, Annabelle Trinidad, UNDP-BIOFIN, Dilys Roe, IIED, IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods, Ranger Daniel Ole Sambu, Big Life Foundation and Ranger Torfi Stefán Jónsson, Þingvellir National Park, Iceland.

RANGER ROUNDTABLE PARTNERS LAUNCH FIRST JOINT POLICY PAPER

Published in August 2022, “Essential Planetary Health Workers: Positioning Rangers Within Global Policy” is a joint policy paper by Ranger Roundtable partners, which aims to advocate for the professionalization of rangers and ensure greater recognition of their roles in sustainable development. It issues an urgent call to action for global leaders across various sectors to recognize rangers as essential planetary health workers and to integrate their roles more effectively within global conservation and environmental policy frameworks. It also highlights tangible ways rangers contribute to global goals and frameworks.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

ESSENTIAL PLANETARY HEALTH WORKERS: POSITIONING RANGERS WITHIN GLOBAL POLICY

Joint Roundtable initiative developed in partnership between the International Ranger Federation, Green Line Foundation and Universal Ranger Support Alliance with supporting partners. The paper is endorsed by Ranger Roundtable partners including Cristina Romanello, World Health Organization; Andrew Groom, UN Development Programme (UNDP) and Colorado State University; Madhu Rao, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas.

PREFACE

When you were a young kid you wanted to be a firefighter, a football player, an astronaut or a space rockstar when they grow up. In my case, when I was 12 years old, I wanted to be a Park Ranger. What can be more beautiful than working in the wild, discovering hidden forests, pristine lagoons, and new plants and animals? My visits to Costa Rica's first National Parks in the early 1970s had a big influence on me. Even though I was never a full-time Park Ranger, I worked very closely all my life to them, their lives, their families, and their values of nature conservation, being Director of the National Park System was the most rewarding by far. Once you become a Park Ranger, you will be one of the rest of your life.

Today we are facing increasing challenges around the globe: climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and pandemics with a high human and economic impact. These and many other problems are closely linked to a deteriorating environment generated by our unsustainable production and consumption patterns which heavily depend on nature at the center. There are many tools and proven mechanisms that can effectively protect nature. Without any doubt protected areas are one of the most effective tools for the conservation of biodiversity. However, no protected area is manageable without Park Rangers.

Even though they are one of our most important assets, Rangers working in protected and conserved areas, and responsible for managing large tracts of the planet's lands and waters, are often underutilized, underrecognized and under-equipped. Men and women rangers around the planet are key to securing and improving management of all protected areas, in particular with the need to protect 30% of land and oceans.

1 | Essential Planetary Health Workers: Positioning Rangers Within Global Policy

THE DIVERSITY OF RANGERS

Rangers are known by various titles and are defined by the International Ranger Federation (IRF) as individuals or groups of individuals that play a critical role in conservation. Rangers are responsible for safeguarding nature, cultural and historical heritage, and protecting the rights and well-being of present and future generations.¹ As representatives of their authority, organization or community, they often work for extended periods, in protected and conserved areas and wider land- and seascapes. These include state, regional, communal, indigenous and privately managed areas.²

Rangers are not a homogenous workforce, just like other essential workers, they come from many backgrounds and include indigenous rangers, community rangers and government rangers. Rangers are increasingly gender diverse, have many specialisms and perform many different tasks³ (see Figure 1). A diversity that needs to be accelerated specifically in relation to women rangers, and local and indigenous rangers. As frontline workers conserving much of the world's land and waters, rangers' roles are complex, diverse and expanding into what could be described as essential planetary health workers.

Figure 1: The diversity of ranger roles

From left to right: A ranger team from Chitwan National Park, Nepal, examine a rescued white-rumped vulture, a critically endangered species. © Soritza Lama, Stan Gerasimovic, a ranger team at Nariva Protected Area, Mexico, managing a fire. © Victor Cardullo. Community ranger Bruce meets with villagers who have lost livestock to wildlife in Etangwa Endemeb village in South-Lesotho. © Alex Webb / WWF UK. Park ranger Dennis Sabbara performing underwater monitoring in support of the Shekhar in Biosphere Island Protected Area. © Melissa Roman

3 | Essential Planetary Health Workers: Positioning Rangers Within Global Policy

THE NEED FOR IMPROVED PROFESSIONALISATION

Rights groups' concerns about increased ranger militarisation and resulting risks of human rights abuses have highlighted the need for adequate training, safeguarding procedures, ethics and accountability and for highlighting the wider roles of the ranger community beyond enforcement. The global community of rangers is responding to these calls. Local, national and international bodies, such as the IRF, the Thin Green Line Foundation and the Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA), are providing opportunities to share experience and develop guidance and policy.⁴ Through these bodies, a better understanding of ranger roles, responsibilities and challenges is being developed. Initiatives include a code of conduct for rangers, principles for behaviour, ethics and accountability⁵ and global ranger competencies.⁶

This push for greater accountability needs to be matched by the recognition of rangers as a value-added and regulated profession. This need is about to become more urgent as new, ambitious targets for conservation and environmental protection are agreed as a response to climate change and biodiversity loss, and legislation and business standards in environmental, social and governance policy are developed. Currently around 286,000 rangers worldwide. This number is already far short of what is considered necessary and it has been estimated that 1.5 million rangers will be needed to protect 30% of the planet's land and oceans by 2030, the likely goal of ongoing discussions linked to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

RECOGNIZING RANGERS AND THEIR ROLE IN CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Rangers already contribute to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Biodiversity Framework and many other conventions and commitments in a variety of ways. However this role is rarely reflected in national and international institutions, conservation budgets or through the involvement of rangers in policy development aimed at implementing these initiatives.

Figure 2: The contributions of rangers to global conservation and development policy

4 | Essential Planetary Health Workers: Positioning Rangers Within Global Policy

GLOBAL RANGER COMPETENCIES COMPLETED, SLATED FOR LAUNCH IN 2023

In 2022, IRF, alongside URSA, set out on an iterative and global process to develop a set of 23 universal competencies needed by all rangers, an additional 7 competences for commonly required specialist roles, and a further 8 competences required by rangers in positions of leadership. They are designed to be generally applicable to those working as rangers (or in equivalent roles) around the world, and to any entity responsible for rangers in protected and conserved areas of all types.

Context

The competencies support the professionalization of rangers, and set a broad 'benchmark' for ranger competence that can be clearly communicated, understood and respected. The competences update and extend the 'universal essential competences' for rangers agreed at the [Congress of the International Ranger Federation at Kruger National Park, South Africa in 2000](#). Ultimately, they contribute to a more effective ranger workforce, which is at the heart of achieving global goals and targets, such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's ambitious Target 3, to conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas by 2030.

Process

The competences were identified through a global consultation process, with contributions from 536 people across 88 countries, mainly rangers, but also employers and representatives of ranger associations, as well as social, community and human rights experts.

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2022 TIMELINE

JANUARY

Formation of a core working group comprising international specialists on rangers and ranger work and on the development of competences.

FEBRUARY

Preparation of a list of 'candidate competences' (based on the Kruger Competences and the IUCN WCPA Global Register of Competences for Protected Area Practitioners).

FEB-MARCH

The first global consultation conducted through an online questionnaire. 465 rangers from 85 countries provided detailed feedback on the candidate competences and suggested improvements and additional required competences and other recommendations.

MARCH

The working group developed the first draft of the Global Ranger Competence list, based on the candidate competences and the suggestions collected in the first global consultation.

MAY

A second draft was developed by the working group.

JUNE

Webinars were organized, with support from the IRF, to discuss the competence list with interested rangers. 19 participants from 14 countries discussed in detail the draft list of competences, providing input from their practical experience.

JULY-AUGUST

The final draft was developed in consultation with the working group

OCTOBER

The second global consultation was organized through online workshops.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

Online consultation on the final draft of the Global Ranger Competences, with 52 respondents from 23 countries.

IRF COLLABORATES WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA ON RESEARCH SPOTLIGHTING INDIGENOUS RANGERS

IRF is collaborating with the University of Central Florida on 'the Indigenous Ranger Project,' a research initiative that aims to examine the experiences and perceptions of Indigenous rangers who are tasked with conservation management and monitoring efforts. In 2022, we issued a global call in our ranger community for any interested Indigenous rangers hired by governments that have experience in working on the frontlines of protected area management and monitoring who are available to contribute their thoughts and expertise towards the research. Results will be available in 2024.



IRF'S SECOND-EVER ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) 2022 HELD

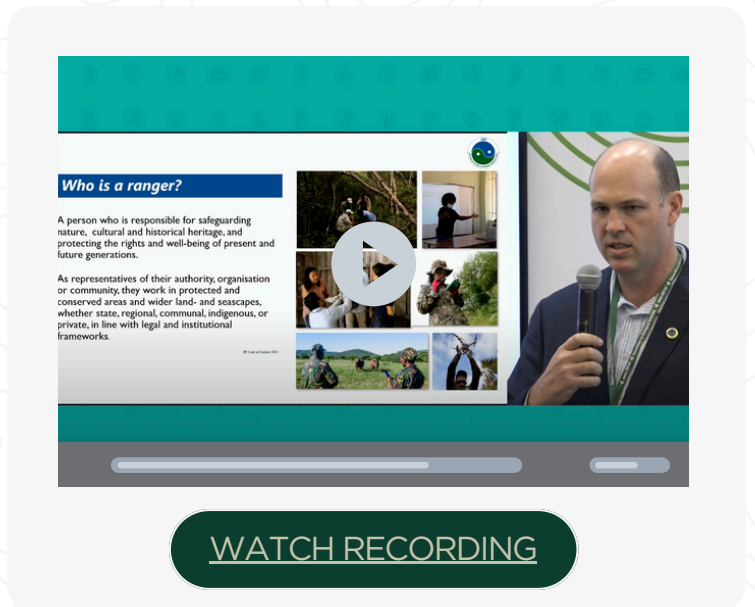
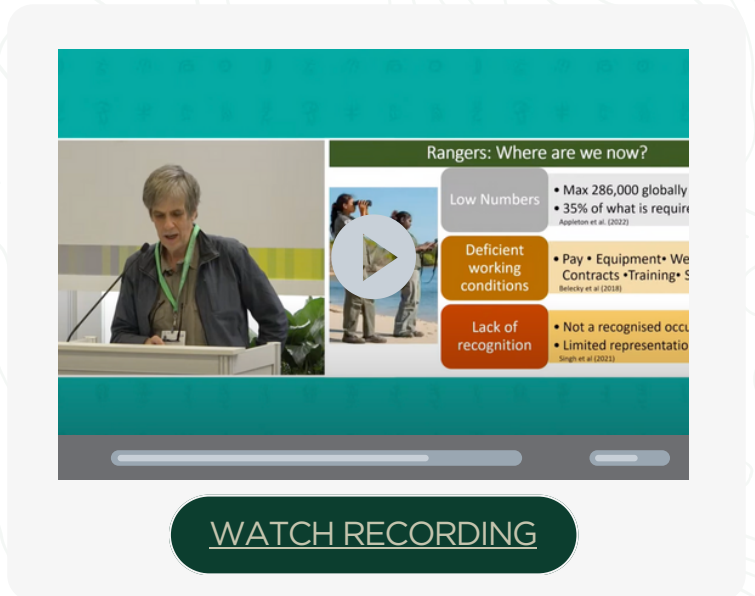
On 10 September, IRF held its second-ever AGM. All members of the IRF were invited to join and hear detailed reports from the IRF President, Regional Representatives and Working Groups, as well as a overarching Financial Report. The event was made even more inclusive with live translations in Spanish and French. Since the last AGM, six board meetings were held.

RANGERS SPOTLIGHTED FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE UNITED NATIONS' CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY'S 15TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (CBD COP 15) IN MONTREAL

From 7-10 December, IRF participated in the 2022 United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in Montreal, Canada, where rangers were recognized for their crucial role in fulfilling the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Thanks to funding from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), the Ranger Roundtable and URSA Partners, the IRF was able to participate in a panel at two side events hosted in the IUCN and GEF pavilions, namely:

- o a) 'Rangers for 30 by 30: New needs and approaches' and
- o b) 'The vital role of rangers in achieving global biodiversity and development outcomes.'
- o Key meetings were also held offstage, including with the World Bank, the Nature Conservancy, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, GIZ and the International Fund for Animal Welfare.



SECOND INTERNATIONAL RANGER AWARDS 2022 RECOGNIZES 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, Conservation Allies and the Global Tigers Alive Initiative.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

On July 20, 2022, twelve rangers and teams were honored with the International Ranger Award during a [special ceremony](#) at the IUCN Africa Protected Area Congress in Kigali, Rwanda, for their exceptional dedication to nature conservation and community support. The awardees include seven individual rangers and three ranger teams from ten countries.

- Orang National Park and Tiger Reserve Ranger Team (Orang National Park and Tiger Reserve, India)
- Masungi-Bayog Ranger Team (Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape, Philippines)
- Tiger Protection & Conservation Unit (Kerinci Seblat National Park, Indonesia)
- Jorge Banegas Franco (Parque Nacional y Área Natural de Manejo Integrado Pantanal de Otuquis, Bolivia)
- Hector Luis Espinoza Acevedo (Paso del Istmo Wildlife Corridor, La Flor Wildlife Refuge, Nicaragua)
- Felipe Otoniel León Angel (Parque Nacional Sierra de San Pedro Mártir, Mexico)
- Ben 'Yuddiy' Brown (Pila Nature Reserve, Australia)
- Anti-Poaching Tracking Specialists K9 Unit (Savé Valley Conservancy, Zimbabwe)
- Ali Hassan Ali (Bura East Community Conservancy, Kenya)
- Yyondji Community Eco-guardians (Yyondji Community Bonobo Reserve, Democratic Republic of Congo)
- Popote Ole Sapulai (Kimana Sanctuary, Kenya)
- Nyaradzo Auxillia Hoto (Wildlife Management Areas of the Lower Zambezi, Zimbabwe)

“Alongside their extraordinary stories of courage and commitment, what is remarkable about this year’s winners is their diversity. They include women, men and young people and a very high proportion of them are members of the local communities where they work. This diversity is what the International Ranger Federation is striving for in the sector, as it is the key to tackling the complex challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss.”

[LEARN MORE >](#)



**CHRIS
GALLIERS**

President
International Ranger
Federation

FOREST AND COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE KICKS OFF FIRST ROUND OF PROJECTS

Launched in May 2022, the Forest and Communities Initiative (FCI) brings together The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, the International Ranger Federation, Global Forest Coalition and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity in support of vital planetary guardians: Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. The FCI aims to support the conservation of forest ecosystems through the action of Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) and the development of a supportive network of actors providing a range of multidisciplinary expertise. Rangers are mentioned in the Initiative's Call to Action, including: *'Implementing a regulated and safe environment for those advocating for environmental protection, including 'rangers' and ensuring the right of access to justice; as well as 'Strengthening support and resources for rangers of the world to conduct their work safely and professionally.'*

[LEARN MORE >](#)

The Forests and Communities Initiative (FCI) was launched at a dedicated ceremony on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity (22 May 2022). This first-of-its-kind initiative spearheaded by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, with co-founders including IRF, IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, and the Global Forest Coalition, responds to the urgency to tackle deforestation in the world's hardest-hit regions by empowering Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) to protect and restore vital ecosystems.

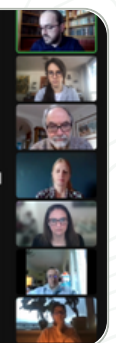
The first wave of projects under FCI also kicked off in 2022, with a global call for proposals held in October. The projects aim to provide crucial financial support, ensuring that the most impactful and innovative conservation efforts receive the backing they need.

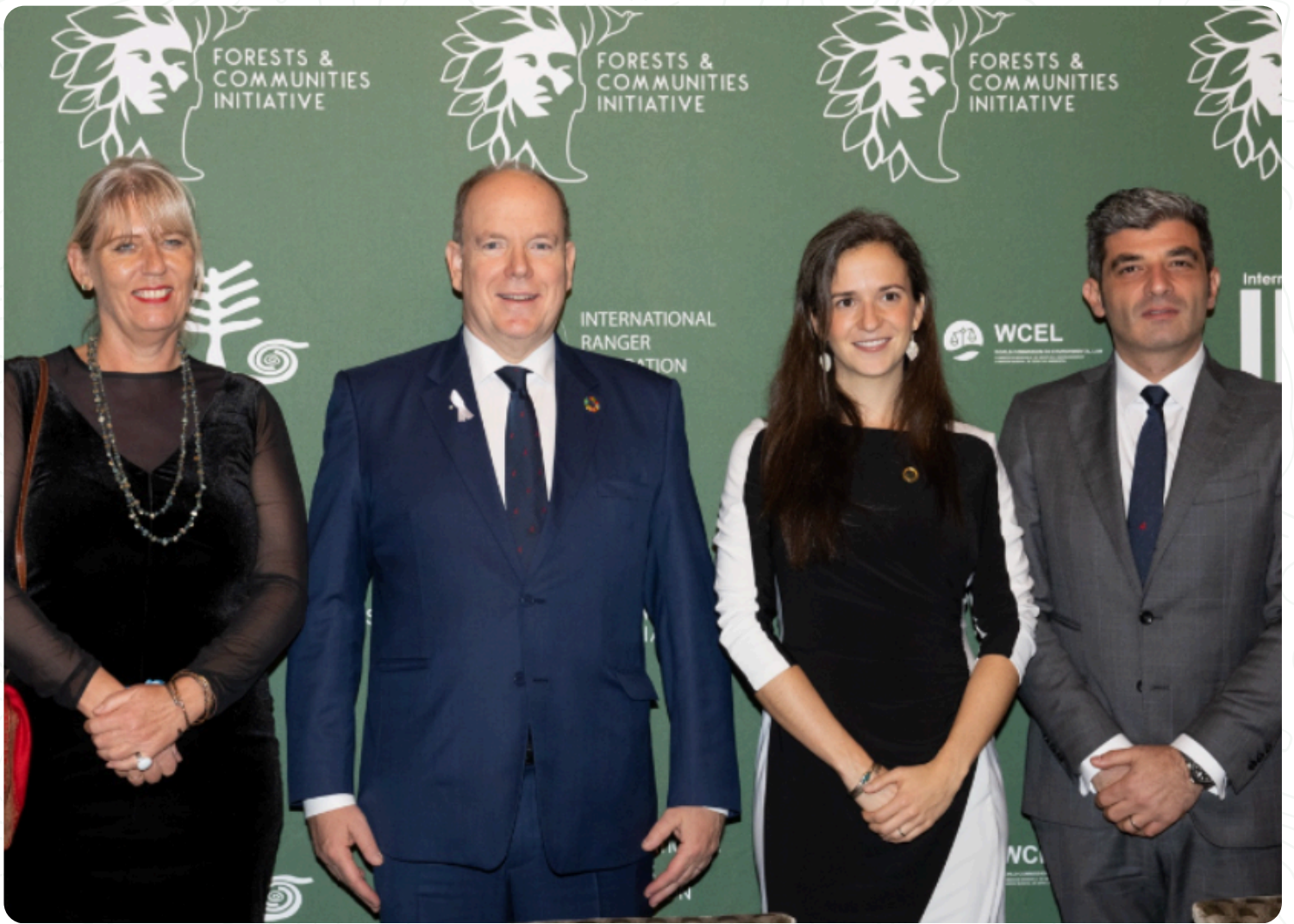
Additionally, FCI is fostering a dynamic network of actors dedicated to advancing new solutions, collaborations, and knowledge sharing across sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, South and South-East Asia, and the Pacific Islands. These projects not only promises to safeguard our forests but also to uplift the communities that depend on them, creating a sustainable and harmonious future for both people and nature. A roundtable event and two steering committee meetings were also held.



Introductions

- Florestan Fillon, Forest Protection Program Officer, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
- Lina Hansson, Initiatives Coordinator, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
- Dr. Philippe Mondelli, Scientific Director, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
- Prof. Christina Voigt, Chair, IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law
- Dr. Lúcia G. Lohmann, Executive Director, Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation
- Prof. William Sutherland, Founder, Conservation Evidence
- Mónica Álvarez Malvido, Federation Officer, International Rangers Federation
- Dr. Simone Lovera, Executive Director, Global Forest Coalition





[WATCH LAUNCH VIDEO](#)

REGIONAL SNAPSHOTS

GLOBAL RANGER CODE OF CONDUCT MAKES REGIONAL SPLASH IN 2022

A total of seven regional workshops focused on IRF's Ranger Code of Conduct, described above, was held between 28 June - 1 December, with each workshop adapting to the diverse regional contexts.

Insights from North America and Europe | 28 June

- The CoC can be used in different training colleges / other existing training. For example, look to institutionalize human rights through the different Wildlife Colleges to infuse it into the training.
- Ranger to ranger discussions have a lot of impact in terms of facilitating buy-in and respect.
- Regional bodies could also play a role (does not necessarily have to be facilitated by ranger employers specifically).

Insights from Latin America and the Carribean | 12 July

- To facilitate buy-in and respect, the CoC must be adapted to local realities; this can be done by holding workshops in different country contexts and by collecting testimonies of good practice of the Code.
- The CoC should be part of working contracts.
- Leadership could start pilot projects of implementation of the CoC.
- Raise awareness with policy makers so that they understand the work of rangers and include the CoC in laws and policies at National level.



Insights from Africa | 4 August & 22 September

- To facilitate buy-in, it needs to be disseminated otherwise it is a dead document.
- Produce a simplified version of the CoC for those without formal education.
- Create green tribunals to bring legal experts to assess the CoC values that are not viable depending on the country context.
- Without the CoC, there is a grey space; there needs to be a clear guideline on what is expected.

Insights from Asia | 29 September & 12 October

- Even the name 'Code of Conduct for Rangers' might be limiting; it doesn't mean it's only for rangers. We need to introduce and involve all stakeholders including forest owners, community guardians etc.
- Focus should be placed on making the Code of Conduct more understandable and comprehensive; once they understand it well, they will implement it and follow up with the CoC's procedures.
- We need to increase the digital footprint of the CoC but it also requires an offline and physical presence.

Insights from Oceania | 25 August

- In the Oceania region, many groups already have existing CoCs (affiliated with agencies and organizations). It is very important that they align.
- Local communities could serve on CoC monitoring committees and should remain part of the CoC adoption and implementation process.
- Develop a series of scenarios or FAQs that provide guidance on what to do for common and unique situations across ranger workforces. For example: If a certain situation, occurs, how should I respond based on the Code of Conduct?

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ASIA

RANGER FEDERATION OF ASIA HOSTS A NUMBER OF SESSIONS AT THE ASIAN PARKS CONGRESS IN SARAWAK, MALAYSIA

Over 1,250 delegates from 49 countries participated in the Second Asia Parks Congress in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia, from 24-29 May 2022. The event, co-hosted by Sabah Parks, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and the IUCN Asia regional Office, focused on the theme “Parks for Nature and People,” bringing together leaders and stakeholders to discuss the conservation and management of protected areas in Asia. The Ranger Federation of Asia hosted a series of side-events focusing on a number of plenaries and side events with a focus on gender, ranger-community relationships, the global Ranger Code of Conduct, 30x30 and the need for further investment in the ranger workforce.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

FOR NATURE & PEOPLE



THE KFW-BERNHARD-GRZIMEK PRIZE 2022 GOES TO ROHIT SINGH AND TXAI SURUI

KfW Stiftung has co-awarded the KfW-Bernhard-Grzimek Prize to Rohit Singh, IRF Asia Representative, in recognition of his efforts to create a more inclusive and professional ranger workforce. Walelasoetxeige Paiter Bandeira Suruí 5 (Txai Suruí) from Brazil also jointly received the award.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



AFRICA

FIRST-EVER AFRICA PROTECTED AREA CONGRESS KICKS OFF

From 18-23 July, the first-ever IUCN Africa Protected Areas Congress (APAC) took place in Kigali, Rwanda, with the aim of positioning Africa's protected and conserved areas within the broader goals of economic development and community well-being and to increase the understanding of the vital role parks play in conserving biodiversity and delivering the ecosystem services that underpin human welfare and livelihoods.

IRF, URSA, the Game Rangers' Association of Africa (GRAA), and many other partners met during the event. Together, they delivered and participated in various sessions on: Ranger capacity and support in delivering on the Global Biodiversity Framework, Code of Conduct, trust between rangers and communities, and human rights.

The International Ranger Award ceremony, which took place during the Congress, also became a significant highlight, with standing ovations for all attending rangers from Africa.

Finally the [Kigali Call to Action](#) called for a number of important ranger-specific needs and also directly mentioned IRF's Ranger Code of Conduct: *"Stronger support and resourcing of rangers, including community rangers accountable to communities to conduct their critical and diverse work professionally, responsibly and accountably in a way that respects human rights. **We urge Governments and other organizations to adopt the new International Ranger Federation Code of Conduct presented at APAC"***

[LEARN MORE >](#)

AFRICAN RANGER CONGRESS ISSUES A CLEAR AND COLLECTIVE CALL TO ACTION

Over 90 rangers from 12 countries participated in the 2nd African Ranger Congress in Kasane, Botswana, from 14 -18 September 2022. It was organised by GRAA, endorsed by IRF and supported by The Thin Green Line Foundation (TGLF), URSA and the Wildlife Ranger Challenge. The Congress united rangers working for government, NGOs and community organizations from across Africa. It was a Congress by rangers, for rangers and about rangers that built networks, camaraderie, morale and celebrated ranger achievements.

THE KANSANE CALL TO ACTION

We, the rangers of the African Ranger Congress, are committed to furthering the professionalisation of rangers which builds on the IRF Chitwan declaration and the URSA Action Plan. Whilst acknowledging previous commitments made, we call for the following actions to be undertaken by the global community and for them to hear our voices and help address our needs for the benefit of people and wildlife:

The declaration includes specific action points under the following headers:

- ***Increased advocacy, representation and recognition of the ranger sector...***
- ***Improved and sustained ranger sector capacity building...***
- ***Better employment conditions and welfare...***
- ***Greater equality and equity in the ranger profession...***
- ***Improved community relations, ranger conduct and accountability...***

[LEARN MORE >](#)



EUROPE



5TH EUROPEAN RANGER CONGRESS: 100 PARTICIPANTS, 24 COUNTRIES, COUNTLESS NEW IDEAS

The 5th European Ranger Congress took place from October 13 to 16, 2022, in Tirana, Albania. This event brought together around 100 participants from 24 countries, fostering a vibrant exchange of ideas and strategies to protect biodiversity. Highlights included expert presentations, field trips to Albania's national parks, and workshops on innovative conservation methods. The ranger community also raised 750 euros through a traditional raffle to support colleagues affected by the Ukraine crisis. The congress concluded with a strong commitment to implementing new strategies across Europe's protected areas, aiming to safeguard biodiversity in a rapidly changing world.

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MAJOR SUCCESS WITH FUNDING BID

Greenpeace recently awarded ERF a grant of EUR 50,000 year for the next three years. The funds have enabled the Board to appoint one part-time ERF Development Officer, a crucial role in managing in-person events throughout 2022 and onwards. Greenpeace will also provide further support of 9,500 euros this year to spur the development of ERF's image, including a revamp of communications channels and the kickstarting of an improved newsletter.

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LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

TIKAL SUMMIT UNITES RANGERS FROM LATIN AMERICA

Global Conservation and FUNDAECO hosted a three-day summit in Tikal, Guatemala, from 10-13 October, bringing together over 100 delegates from 14 Latin American countries to enhance park and wildlife protection. The event featured training from Colorado State University's Center for Protected Area Management and Training, focusing on leadership, law enforcement, community protection, and sustainable financing. Participants shared best practices and success stories from UNESCO World Heritage sites, addressing key challenges in national parks and wildlife conservation. The summit concluded with the Tikal Declaration, urging support for protected area professionals and the defense of natural heritage against various threats.

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CELEBRATION OF PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS IN LATIN AMERICA

On 17 October, the International Ranger Federation (IRF) and the Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA) participated in the Celebration of Protected and Conserved Areas in Latin America. Hosted by Re:wild and organized by IRF with support from the World Commission of Protected Areas-IUCN and the Latin America Ranger Federation, the virtual event attracted over 50 participants.

Titled *“Ranger’s Knowledge and Innovations in Latin America,”* the event featured a presentation on URSA’s work by Monica Alvarez, IRF Development Officer. This was followed by a panel discussion with rangers from Uruguay (Hernán Giménez), Peru (Celsa Natividad Ortiz Ragle), and Mexico (Maricarmen García Rivas). The rangers shared how they use creativity and innovation to tackle everyday challenges, connect their skills with their cultural identities, and the valuable lessons their profession has taught them.

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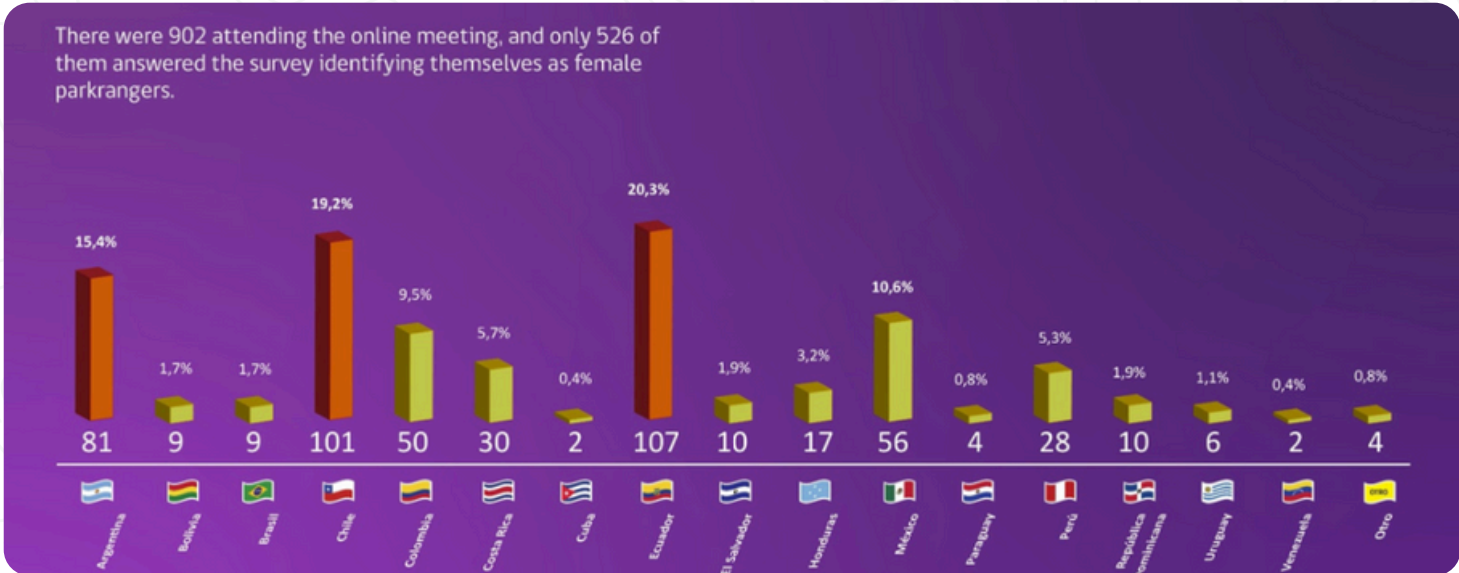
RESULTS FROM FEMALE RANGER SURVEY IN LATIN AMERICA

On World Ranger Day, 31 July, CONAF Chile (National Forestry Commission of Chile) unveiled the results of a survey conducted among over 500 women rangers from Latin America and the Caribbean. This survey was part of the First Latin America Women Ranger Congress, organized by CONAF Chile last year.

These findings will help countries advance and strengthen initiatives to address the inequalities, gaps, and barriers faced by female rangers in the region.

Under CONAF's leadership, the International Ranger Federation has been collaborating closely with regional partners, including Federación Latinoamericana de Guardaparques, Así Conserva Chile, RedParques, IUCN, Mujeres en Conservación, The Nature Conservancy, WWF, WCS, PNUD, ONUDC, and the Center for Protected Area Management at Colorado State University.

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NORTH AMERICA

EXPLORING POTENTIAL AVENUES ENHANCING RANGER INCLUSIVITY

In 2022, the IRF North America Representative worked with rangers across multiple US states and Canada to pursue the potential development of working groups focused on ensuring representation, inclusivity, equality and equity for women rangers, African American rangers, Indigenous rangers and retired rangers.



IRF NORTH AMERICA REPRESENTATIVE SERVES ON COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

In 2022, the IRF North America Representative was also centrally involved in the development of IRF's soon-to-be-launched website as a core member of the Federation's Communications Working Group.

OCEANIA

OCEANIA RANGER FORUM UNITES NEARLY 200 RANGERS FROM OCEANIA AND NORTH AMERICA

The inaugural Oceania Ranger Forum, hosted by the Council of Oceania Ranger Associations (CORA) in Rotorua, New Zealand, brought together over 180 rangers from various Oceania countries and the USA to collaborate on 'inclusive conservation'. This event, supported by partners like the IRF and The Thin Green Line Foundation, facilitated discussions on common challenges and solutions, cultural engagement, and professional development. Key outcomes included the development of the Rangers of Aotearoa New Zealand (ROANZ) and Samoa Ranger Association (SRA), and inspiring presentations on conservation and cultural safety.

With the support of CORA's partners and sponsors, including the IRF, The Thin Green Line Foundation, URSA, Fireground/ EMERG, Department of Conservation (NZ) and many others, we were able to support delegates to engage in Māori culture, network with like-minded people, experience inclusive conservation and inspire a range of personal and professional development opportunities and friendships with a view to growing ranger associations in the Oceania region.

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NEWSLETTERS IN 2022

March 2022 Newsletter

8 April 2022

Call to Action: World Ranger Day Videos

14 May 2022

Ranger Roundtable #6

26 May 2022

Global Ranger Competencies Webinar

15 June 2022

IRF AGM 2022

21 June 2022

June 2022 Newsletter

27 June 2022

Important notice on the 10th WRC

5 July 2022

International Ranger Awards 2022

13 July 2022

10th WRC Moving Forward

20 July 2022

World Ranger Day 2022 Toolkit

25 July 2022

Ranger Roundtable #6

26 July 2022

WRD 2022 Press Release

31 July 2022

EOI 10th WRC

20 August 2022

November 2022 Newsletter

1 December 2022

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



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