



RE: STAND WITH RANGERS ON WORLD RANGER DAY 2017

To the world's Rangers & those standing with Rangers to protect wildlife and communities,

As we approach World Ranger Day, July 31st 2017, we urge you all around the globe to once again stand with the Rangers of the world in their fight to protect wildlife and wild places.

Sadly, in this past 12 months we have lost a further 105 Rangers in the line of duty (that we know of). These tragic losses will be reflected in this year's Honour Roll.

Of those killed this year, 42% were at the hands of poachers, 47% in work related accidents, and 11% by the very animals Rangers protect. We know that 45 % were within the IRF's Africa region, 44% in the Asian region and the remaining 11% were in IRF's North America, South America, and European regions. Of course, these statistics represent so much more than just numbers, percentages and regions. Behind each is a name, a story, a family, a tale of bravery and loss. This is the immense price many Rangers have paid to protect wildlife, culture, communities and this very world we live in.

So we ask you all on this World Ranger Day 2017 to please pause for a moment and reflect on these Rangers and their sacrifice. They deserve to be honoured. And we must also take time to consider their colleagues who still courageously carry on in their roles out in the field each and every day.

Lastly, we ask you to take a photo of yourself, your work colleagues, your family, holding our "I Stand With Rangers..." sign. Please post it, with the listed hashtags, on your social media and on The International Ranger Federation and Thin Green Line Foundation's Facebook pages.

To all the world's Rangers: we are growing stronger, with ever-greater numbers of Ranger associations forming and joining, and more supporters standing with us. I know sometimes the challenges in front of us may seem overwhelming and insurmountable – I sometimes feel that too. However, we must keep up this brave fight, for without you, the Rangers on the frontlines of conservation, and your heroic efforts, all hope for a bright future for wildlife and our natural world will be gone. Together, with our supporters, we will overcome these obstacles. You are true heroes of this planet.

I am honoured and humbled to represent you and, as I am each and every day, proud to stand with you on this World Ranger Day.

Sean Willmore
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*Download your World Ranger Day E-Pack from our facebook pages, or from Monday the 24th July from these websites <http://internationalrangers.org/> & <http://thingreenline.org.au/>
As we approach World Ranger Day July 31st we will also be loading up more films and letters of support.