



To the world's Rangers & to all those standing with them to protect wildlife and wild places,

As we approach World Ranger Day on July 31, we at the International Ranger Federation (IRF) and its charity arm The Thin Green Line Foundation (TTGLF) invite you to join us and '*Stand With The World's Rangers*'.

As many of you will know all too well, the natural world is under immense pressure right around the globe. Species loss, habitat destruction, climate change and environmental crime are urgent issues that directly concern us all and deserve our attention. While the many solutions to these problems are varied and complex, we at IRF and TTGLF can attest to this important fact: Rangers around the globe must play a critical frontline role in defending our natural heritage, now and always into the future.

In my time, I've been lucky enough to meet and work with many Rangers. These brave men and women who put on the Ranger uniform, lace up their boots and head out on patrol to protect forests, rivers and oceans and all the incredible creatures they contain within – these people are my heroes. Providing these heroes with much-needed vital support, especially in low-income countries and conflict zones, as they stand bravely on the frontline, risking and too often losing their lives, has become my life's work.

I implore you on this World Ranger Day to join me, the IRF and TTGLF by getting together with your family, friends and colleagues and showing Rangers working in remote outposts around the world that their efforts are not going unnoticed. And help us to also honour the lives of the fallen.

'*I Stand With The World's Rangers*' is a message that, when you join in and say it with us, will be heard far and wide. I can assure you it will be heard in the far reaches of the Amazon Rainforest, where Rangers fight to keep these great lungs of the earth from being chain-sawed to the ground. It will be heard in the Virunga mountain range that crosses D.R Congo, Uganda and Rwanda, the last stronghold of the mountain gorilla, and close to where five of my colleagues were recently gunned down and killed. It will be heard in places such as India and Thailand, where too many Rangers lose their lives protecting tigers and elephants in the deadly battle against poachers. It will be heard in the remote regions of Australia, where our Indigenous Ranger brothers and sisters protect *country*, their patch of the planet. It will be heard by politicians and those with great power to create change.

If we say it together, it will be heard.

This World Ranger Day 2018 will be the biggest and most celebrated yet. At the IRF and TTGLF we've put together a list of actions and activities you can get involved with as part of this special day. Please do what you can, and please encourage others to join you. Every small action will make an important difference.

To all the Rangers, and to the families of the fallen, I offer you my greatest gratitude and respect. It's an honour to serve you. World Ranger Day is for you – I hope we, along with our supporters around the globe, do you proud.

Sean Willmore
President
International Ranger Federation
Founder/Director
The Thin Green Line Foundation

*Download your World Ranger Day E-Pack on the 1st July from our Facebook pages, or from these websites <http://www.internationalrangers.org> & <http://www.thingreenline.org.au>.

As we approach World Ranger Day July 31st we will also be loading up more films and messages of support.