

**RANGER  
ROUNDTABLE**  
*focus sessions*

# **Towards a business case for repositioning Rangers as essential frontline workers**

**RANGER ROUNDTABLE FOCUS SESSIONS SUMMARY**  
**JULY 2020 – MAY 2022**

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# About



**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.**

The Ranger Roundtable has two forums:

- 1) **Focus Sessions:** aimed at leaders from global development, health and conservation organisations.
- 2) **Webinars:** aimed at Rangers and Ranger sector leaders.

## **RANGER ROUNDTABLE: FOCUS SESSIONS**

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

We extend a special thanks to participants from organisations such as:

World Bank, UN Development Programme, UN Environment Programme, UN World Health Organisation, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), Global Environment Facility Trust Fund.

## **RANGER ROUNDTABLE: WEBINARS**

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





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# Focus Session 1



*"We need Rangers, more importantly they need us." Dr Jane Goodall*

Tree Planting  
Credit: Mount Kenya Trust

## RANGER ROUNDTABLE REVIEW #1

## IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON RANGERS

On July 23 2020, the inaugural Ranger Roundtable was attended by representatives from across the global Ranger sector; including government bodies as well as conservation, intergovernmental and philanthropic organisations.

Dr. Jane Goodall opened the Roundtable by highlighting a chain reaction: tourism has dropped off, so National Park revenue has dropped off and Rangers have been laid off, lost pay or lost jobs. She affirmed that wildlife depends on Rangers and Rangers depend on us. They need to be properly supported, paid and equipped. We then heard from three rangers from across the planet:

**PREM KANWAR**  
Indian Forest Service

### Background

Prem was the first girl who went to school in her village and the first person to have a job. This led to her gaining the respect of her village, family and friends. Highlights of her work have included rescuing over fifty crocodiles and hundreds of snakes.

### Current Situation

There is not enough Rangers and currently only two women Rangers.

### COVID-19

Prem and her colleagues are practicing social distancing. Unexpectedly they have seen antelopes for first time in ten years due to decreased human activity. There has been an increased Ranger-Community conflict. Prem stressed the need to address the livelihoods of community members whilst supporting Rangers and their work.

**DANIEL SAMBU**  
Kenyan Community Rangers Association

### Background

The Kenyan Community Rangers Association is the world's largest Ranger body, comprising 3500 Rangers.

### Current Situation

There is not enough equipment. We need more training. Statistically, Kenyan Rangers financially support 20 people in their community, this factors the flow-on benefits of their work for ecotourism. There are also increasing costs of operation.

### COVID-19

Rangers are living in fear of losing their jobs. There's been a reduction in trophy hunting but an increase in bushmeat (mostly for subsistence) as well as an increase in human/wildlife conflict.

**MARCELO SEGALERBA**  
Representing Brazilian Indigenous Rangers

### Current Situation

Rangers are not recognised as professionals, most volunteer out of sense of obligation.

### COVID-19

There is no hand sanitizer and a severe lack of education about COVID. Some village are too remote to support for example, you need to travel, seven days by canoe. Indigenous leaders are dying every day. Rangers can't access protected areas because they are closed. There are more hunters, poachers and illegal miners (seeking gold and diamonds). Indigenous villages are being infected but its unrecorded, especially in central Brazil. Indigenous traditional festivals have been interrupted. There are growing psychological impacts related to loss and death. We urgently need to protect Rangers health.





# Focus Session 1

## RANGER ROUNDTABLE REVIEW #1

## IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON RANGERS

### DISCUSSION POINTS

The impacts of COVID-19 on Rangers has led to an increase in operational costs, an increase in the pressures on natural resources coupled with a decrease in the morale of Rangers across the world.

#### Common themes amongst the Ranger presenters include

- + The unavoidable and avoidable conflicts between Rangers and local communities
- + The lack of representation of and engagement with Indigenous peoples
- + The lack of diversity within the Ranger community hampers an effective response to both social and structural barriers which could prevent better representation
- + The absence of youth within the Ranger community, with a limited future pipeline
- + The need for continuous training and the lack of suitable equipment
- + The combined psychological stress of being a Ranger and managing the COVID-19 pandemic
- + The low morale of Rangers due to poor institutional support is being exacerbated by COVID-19
- + There remains a global shortage of Rangers
- + The shortfall in funding prevent Rangers from conducting their duties effectively

### CONCLUSIONS

The impacts of COVID-19 on Rangers has led to an increase in operational costs, an increase in the pressures on natural resources coupled with a decrease in the morale of Rangers across the world.

#### We need to create a new narrative around what Rangers represent:

- + Diversity of Rangers; women, youth, Indigenous peoples
- + Diversity of Ranger roles and activities
- + Build better understanding of the Ranger's roles across the wider conservation community
- + Increase understanding of Ranger's role within governments

#### Raise the profile of Rangers

- + What is the impact of Rangers on a country's development and GDP
- + The role of Rangers in getting ahead of the next pandemic
- + Articulate the connection between the health of communities and ecosystems; including the role of Rangers within the One-Health-approach
- + Why do they remain unsung?
- + Why are Rangers not higher on the political agenda – how do we raise government recognition of the role and importance of Rangers?

#### Need urgent support for COVID-19

- + Green stimulus through COVID-19; 'build back better' opportunity
- + COVID-19 debt relief linked to per annum performance – how to link Ranger needs into this

#### Need longer-term sustainable support

- + Build the needs of Rangers into everything we do
- + What are the global Ranger budgeting needs?
- + Wildlife credits or bonds
- + Green economy
- + Payment for Ecosystem Services
- + Diversify revenue streams to reduce



### TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

How do we build an enhanced narrative around Rangers; their diversity of people and roles?

How do we raise the profile of Rangers to governments and the wider conservation community?

How do we build more sustainable long-term funding to ensure a professional global Ranger community?

How do we encourage international and national adoption of best practices?

# Focus Session 2



Ranger Jiraporn; Thailand  
Credit: Molly Ferrill Freeland Foundation

## RANGER ROUNDTABLE REVIEW #2

## REPOSITIONING RANGERS

### PROGRAM

- **PRESENTERS**  
Dr Bruno Oberle (IUCN) & Chris Galliers (IRF)
- **RECAP OF RRT#1**  
Impacts of COVID-19 on Rangers
- **DISCUSSIONS**
  1. Overcoming Roadblocks
  2. Repositioning Rangers
- **RECOMMENDATIONS**  
For RRT advisory panel,  
For conservation leaders
- **NEXT STEPS**  
stakeholder engagement, implementation, RRT#3 planning

### SUMMARY BY DR BILL JACKSON

- Recognition that Rangers are too few on the ground (although actual numbers are difficult to secure). They are under-resourced, under-paid, under-skilled. They often lack opportunities to build their skills.
- Equally, Rangers, and indeed a broad range of other actors, play key roles in protecting and conserving nature. More broadly they play an important, but often poorly recognised, role in supporting societies and their economies.
- We noted that COVID-19 has worsened the situation for Rangers in many places. This includes increased levels of mental health challenges.
- It was mentioned that it is good to have targets for conservation, but the reality is that the targets have not been met.
- To address this situation requires far greater effort, including in protected and conserved areas, and investment in Rangers and other frontline people.

### Achieving the needed change will require

- Demonstrating the links and relevance to other global, regional and national agendas, including public health, climate change, national accounts and budgets. Show the value to society of conserving nature and the role that Rangers play in this. (when I co-lead the HPHP stream at the Sydney WPC some saw this as marginal to the PA agenda)

- Natural Capital accounting may provide one tool for demonstrating the value of Rangers and Protected and conserved areas. However, there is probably no need to undertake further economic studies, rather what is needed is to be able to inject the knowledge of economic value into broader economic and national budget discussions and approaches.

Enable storytelling by Rangers

- **Seize opportunities to raise the profile of Rangers (e.g. the work of URSA, IRF and TGLF) in the international arena and elsewhere**

Recognise that Rangers play many roles, but there tends to be a stereotype that involves security roles, camo gear and firearms. Look for the common agendas of Rangers around the world. It will be beneficial to break the stereotype and communicate the broad range of roles that Rangers play.

Put a human face to Rangers by helping them tell their stories and show the roles that they play.

Address the policy reforms needed within governments to provide a better deal for Rangers

- **Secure sustainable funding**

Recognize the need for funding to shift beyond donor funding efforts to be mainstreamed into government budgets and linked into all other reasonable funding sources

There may be potential to link to the trillions of dollars that will be invested in Build Back Better programs post-COVID.

- **Build skills, capacities and opportunities to improve professionalism and working conditions**





# Focus Session 2

## DISCUSSION 1: OVERCOMING ROADBLOCKS, WHAT IS THE INFORMATION REQUIRED TO REPOSITION RANGERS?

### Ranger Stats

- Numbers
- Types (% Indigenous, Community, Government)
- Regions & Locations
- Diversity of roles
- Education levels
- Global, Regional, National contribution (social, ecological, economic)

### Ranger Gaps

- Position Rangers with broader custodian map
- Gaps required to meet global targets for protected and conserved areas
- Existing investment in Rangers globally, regionally, nationally
- Shortfall in Ranger numbers
- Shortfall in Ranger funding (training, equipment etc)
- Ranger recognition in strategic planning (policy, management, reporting)
- Ranger positioning and status within conservation organisation priorities, initiatives and level of investment

### Ranger Links

- Natural Capital (national budgets, ecosystem services)
- Biodiversity
- Climate
- Development
- Public health (inc. mental health)
- Security agendas

### Awareness & Messaging

- Address stereotypes
- Rangers' own understanding of how their work benefits our Planet
- Broader community's understanding of how Rangers benefit our Planet
- Ministries of Finance understanding of Rangers' benefit on our Planet

### Stakeholders and audiences requiring information

- General public
- Conservation community
- Ranger industry
- Donors
- IGOs
- Public Bodies
- NGOs
- Academia
- Business

### Benchmarks & Case studies

- Victoria health examples
- Amazon water funds
- Costa Rica ecotourism

### Barriers

- Short-term donor funding is a blessing, long-term can deter government support. Similar links to ecotourism. Need to remedy boom/bust cycle.
- Strategic positioning of Rangers: enforcement or natural resource or both?
- Who is decides where \$10 trillion in building back better funds is going?



Martu Indigenous Ranger Justin Simpson managing controlled burns, Western Desert Region, Western Australia  
Credit: Tim Schneider, KJ

# Focus Session 2

## DISCUSSION 2: HOW ARE RANGERS CURRENTLY CONSIDERED FROM WITHIN YOUR ORGANISATION? WHAT COULD YOU AND YOUR ORGANISATION DO TO SUPPORT THE REPOSITIONING OF RANGERS?

### Ranger industry

Rangers are protecting nature's capital so we can live off the interest. (Chris Galliers, IRF)

Looking at how to **professionalize** Rangers and **build their profile** (URSA)

Number 1 priority, continue to work with IRF and whole sector, through **forums** like this to make the case for Rangers ... Rangers are their own best storytellers so let's put them forward as Nature's first Responders (Sean, TGLF)

Wildlife and habitats are messaged daily through zoological institutions. We need to **combine animal/habitat messaging with the vital connection to the human element – the Ranger**. (Cara Martel)

Except when responding to organised wildlife crime or rebel militias, moving Rangers away from armed law enforcement and **towards community liaison** would win more hearts and minds to support their work. (Ian Redmond, TGLF UK)

### Donors

**Listening.** Missing the human side of Rangers. **Mental health** needs more attention and the foundation will be focusing on this. (Shannon Elizabeth Foundation)

### IGOs

Shifting away from training courses to **professionalization** opportunities with a **focus on women and communities** (UNDP)

We can't talk about projects when talking about Rangers – these are long term civil service employees who need baseline public finance and support, and **broader civil service reform** is needed to ensure they benefit from wider **professionalization** of country civil services (Valerie Hickey, World Bank)

**Professionalize** Ministries and the Ranger cadre; find ways to **fully fund operating costs** (basic personnel costs) within public budgets

### NGOs

IUCN can work at many levels ... one of the most fundamental is to ensure that Rangers are able to perform the variety of functions that will indeed yield the benefits that society demands of their work – so **contributing to professional skills** ...

(IUCN)

Through URSA, GWC and WCPA are highly active with the IRF in **building the case** of Rangers and establishing the international foundations for improved recognition and professionalisation for Rangers (Mike Appleton)

Rangers are central to the success of African Parks. We **employ** 1100 Rangers. We have **standard operating procedures** re enforcement, training and human rights. Not sure if we are feeding into your other initiatives (did Wildlife Ranger Challenge) (John Scanlon, End Wildlife Crime)

**Change the narrative** to have governments reform their approach to Rangers: Challenge has been the efforts on Rangers have been very sporadic and unorganised. The Chitwan Declaration and URSA provides that opportunity ... must continue our support to Rangers on the ground, like Sean mentioned, while looking for long terms, sustainable solution and holistic solution. (Rohit Singh, WWF)

**App** to capture personal stories of Rangers, put the human side on things (Force for Nature)

*Public Bodies, Academia, Business (NA)*





# Focus Session 2

## APPENDIX: PRESENTATIONS

### Introduction by Bruno Oberle, IUCN Director General

- Rangers are a crucial player in the post-COVID recovery
- We must raise the profile of Rangers – many people in decision-making power are not aware of the importance of Nature
- Have to invest in Rangers; training, infrastructure and systems to make Rangers effective.
- We must support and applaud those who are directly responsible to those who will implement the post-2020 agenda
- Natural ecosystem are worth far more than currently accounted – human health and wellbeing
- Rangers need more support to professionalize
- Post-COVID recovery will see billions of dollars invested; we have to ensure a proportion of this goes to Rangers
- You can count on IUCN to support these efforts

### Overview by Chris Galliers, International Ranger Federation President

Industry Update (since the first roundtable):

- More local Ranger associations established
- Ranger 'Code of Conduct' being developed
- Wildlife Ranger Challenge – 119 parks across Africa (\$2mill already dispersed)
- Research to expand knowledge on Rangers – impact of COVID-19 on Rangers
- New global Ranger awards to be launched by end of year
- Ranger App to enhance Ranger to Ranger communications and support launching through Force for Nature

### Looking ahead

- None of the 2020 Aichi targets were met. Rangers are at the heart of delivering these targets.
- Draft targets for 2030 include protecting 30% of the World, Rangers increasingly important
- We need only 0.16% of global GDP to deliver on global targets and we estimate that return on investment in nature conservation is 600%.

- We believe we need around 15 million Rangers to effectively protect 30% of the world – current have somewhere around 1-1.5million
- Need more Rangers and more professional Rangers

### Quantifying services links

<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2020/09/how-african-elephants-fight-climate-change-ralph-chami.htm>

<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2019/12/natures-solution-to-climate-change-chami.htm>

<https://www.ft.com/content/e82d6703-27d1-4bf0-972e-16fa726811d0>

<https://www.paulsoninstitute.org/events/live-virtual-event-financing-nature-closing-the-biodiversity-financing-gap/>

<https://www.paulsoninstitute.org/key-initiatives/financing-nature-report/>

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/infographic/2018/01/30/the-changing-wealth-of-nations#:~:text=The%20World%20Bank%20released%20a,more%20sustainable%20economic%20growth%20path>

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/salute-rangers-garamba-national-park-drc-john-e-scanlon-am>

[https://www.internationalrangers.org/wp-content/uploads/Chitwan-Declaration\\_2019\\_EN.pdf](https://www.internationalrangers.org/wp-content/uploads/Chitwan-Declaration_2019_EN.pdf)



● Rangers Jose and Max, Reserva de Sama, Bolivia  
Credit: Tom Broadhurst



# Focus Session 3



Male Ranger looking out over forest  
(Photo – Agus In Leuser, Jason Savage,  
courtesy of The Thin Green Line Foundation)

## RANGER ROUND TABLE REVIEW #3

### THE IMPERATIVE OF RANGERS WITHIN THE REGENERATIVE ECONOMY

#### DEFINITIONS

A regenerative economy is one that re-defines wealth in terms of capital other than financial capital (remembering that all economies need four kinds of capital to thrive: financial, manufactured, social and natural capital).

Regenerative economics, therefore, takes into account and gives hard economic value to foundational assets, such as natural capital and the goods and services it provides.

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.

Ref: *Natural Capital Solutions*, 2021

#### PRESENTATION #1

##### *PERSPECTIVES ON MAKING THE BUSINESS CASE FOR RANGERS*

*By Mandy Cadman,  
Regional Technical Specialist  
for Ecosystems & Biodiversity,  
Africa, UNDP*

#### Summary

Valuing Rangers requires looking at many direct and indirect values of Rangers including for Natural, Human/ Social and Financial and Built capital.

Mandy explored natural capital accounting with examples from South Africa.

She asked – Can this be leveraged to measure and report on the value of Rangers in the national economy?

Leveraging the contribution of donor-funded projects to drive systemic change by building the enabling environment and direct action to strengthen and capacitate Rangers.

Entrench the value of Rangers in evidence-based financing plans to overcome the problem of systemic funding shortage:

- BIOFIN approach
- Impact Bond/Conservation Bond model
- Natural Capital Accounting model – demonstrate the return on investment in natural capital and contribution to job creation and business opportunities
- Project-based support – need to reduce reliance on this, but still a role for it

Needs:

- Get the taxonomy right
- Build a financing ecosystem informed by analysis and evidence
- Drive systemic change by redefining the role of donor-supported projects
- Lobby in the right place
- Coordinated approach – Task Force?

**“WE NEED RANGERS, MORE IMPORTANTLY THEY NEED US.” DR JANE GOODALL**





# Focus Session 3

## PRESENTATION #2

### RURAL ECONOMIES AND THE ROLE OF RANGERS

By Valerie Hickey,  
Manager of Environment  
& Natural Resources, World Bank

#### Summary

- Natural capital makes up nearly 50% of low-income countries assets
- Natural capital makes up a larger proportion than produced capital in lower income and non-OECD middle-income countries.
- Wealth and income are not the same thing – need to turn wealth into GDP
- Investment in natural capital jobs yields more jobs than investments in other sectors
- In Nepal if you invest \$1 to pay a ranger you get \$2.67 out of the local economy – a massive ROI in remote locations. In Zambia similar figures
- \*Rangers are an engine of development\*
- Opportunity to work towards green, resilient and inclusive rural economies
- Build back better through Ministries of Environment using GRIRE
- Countries have to protect natural assets as 50% of their wealth, but also grow this as a driver of business and then distribute benefits – especially locally (not to company HQs!) who are the stewards of natural economies.
- + Public sector rangers sit in the center of this:

- Adhere to laws which allow businesses to thrive
- Permit benefit sharing
- Protect natural capital

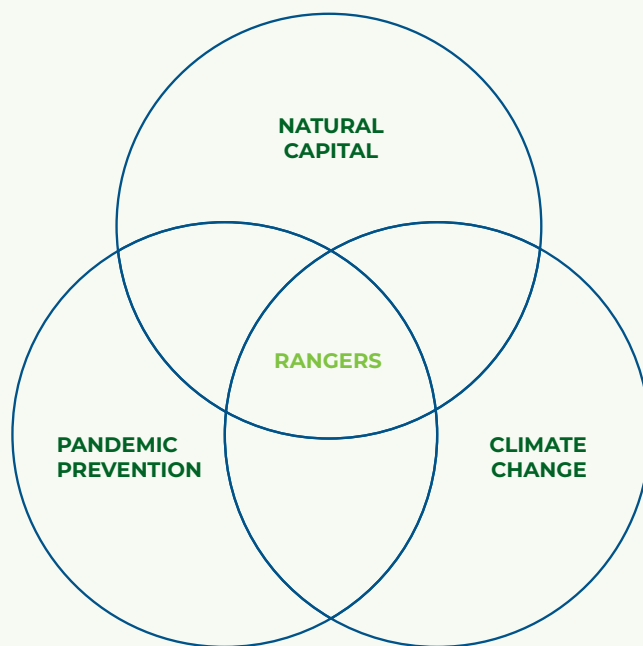
#### What do we need to do

- Modernize Rangers – part of the civil service
- Regulatory reform (regulations need to fit Rangers)
- Strengthen institutions so they can support Rangers
- Invest in infrastructure – right-size to type of park, natural capital, and maintenance budget

#### → Budget:

- + Fiscal – need to be part of the government budgets at the right level
- PES systems have to include funding for community Rangers
- User fees – flat fees that can be replied on with flexible fees on top
- Project finance – focus on regulatory reform and infrastructure

#### Rangers sit at the nexus of rural development



Martu carrying out landscape restoration burns in the Western Desert Region – Western Australia  
(Photo – Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa, Tim Schneider)

# Focus Session 3

## Why do Rangers matter?

They are the account managers or stewards of natural capital.

## Financing

Financing for this needs to include government funding (to get away from boom and bust of project funding), make sure that financing for payment for ecosystem services includes Rangers; that private sector funding and market mechanisms are supportive (e.g. private sector fees include a flat fee that goes directly to the protected area).

International investment would be well placed to pay for these reforms as governments often unable or unwilling to do so.

Also, capital cost of infrastructure is important – we need to avoid investments that create a burden on countries to maintain the infrastructure.

## How to build back better and cope with climate change?

We need to reduce the risk by managing the planet better. But we may be able to find ways that put **Rangers at the centre of these efforts.**

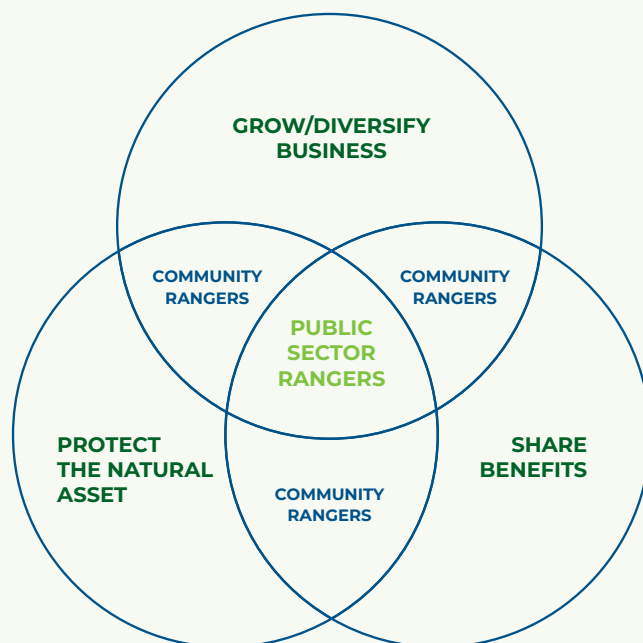
## Discussion

### Key Points

- Community Rangers are critical, but need to be talked about differently and financed differently as they won't be seen as the civil service
- Green economic stimulus could support growth of parks to provide post-pandemic relief, provide jobs to those who have lost them, and adapt to climate change eg: Pakistan, Amazonas state in Brazil, Argentina, Kenya
- Governments are not going to hire enough Rangers, so we need community Rangers – it has to be both (not and either-or situation) and they need to work together and both need certainty of financing

- Natural capital accounts have been done, but few get turned into government fiscal decision making. **Don't need big analyses, need to show job growth in rural areas**
- Where Rangers are being paid, the key is to build professionalization
- Professionalization links to official recognition at the national level – many countries don't recognize Rangers as an official profession. Need to link competence and training to professionalization also
- Clear links to the blue economy, but less clear links to the green economy

### Keys to a green, resilient and inclusive rural community



Adapted from presentation by V.Hickey, World Bank Group, February 23 2021

## BILL JACKSON'S CONCLUSION

"I think there are short to mid-term opportunities for collaboration to **identify, further develop, and promote case studies and other evidence that demonstrates the value of investing**

**in Rangers** and the likely benefits that will accrue in post-COVID economic stimulus packages and how this could also apply to addressing climate change.

In the mid- to longer term there may also be opportunities to further develop NC accounting in situations where this has the potential to help the situation."



# Focus Session 4



Photo courtesy of Mount Kenya Trust and The Thin Green Line Foundation

## RANGER ROUNDTABLE REVIEW #4

### RANGERS AND THE ROLES OF PROTECTED AREAS 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 under-researched area. RRT#4 brought together over 30 cross-sector professionals from global development and conservation organisations. The following is a brief summary of the discussion:**

#### PRESENTATION 1: 'THE IMPERATIVE OF ONE HEALTH'

By Cristina Romanelli (Programme Officer of Biodiversity, Climate Change and Health at the World Health Organisation)

Key points:

- One Health – seeks to link human, animal and ecosystem health through local to global policy
- We have the power to avert future health crises through a whole of government and whole of society approach.
- One Health is not new, but it is now being recognised as a core approach because we realise that wildlife and human health are indivisible
- Global food systems will need to change
- We need to shift from an emergency response to pro-active preparedness. The One Health approach gives us the building blocks for this.
- We need to break down the silos through cross-sector dialogue
- WHO published a manifesto to save human health. The first part of this is protecting nature and Rangers are essential to this.
- Only 3% of all investments are put into prevention – the rest into preparedness and response.

- Priorities: Building relationships of trust, Surveillance and monitoring systems, Raising public awareness of health, Financial resources and institutional collaborations to strengthen prevention
- We need to bring Rangers to the table – to be part of the one health approach

#### PRESENTATION 2: 'BOOTS ON THE GROUND, EYES IN THE FIELD – WORKING THE SPILLOVER FRONTLINES'

By Chris Walzer (Executive Director Health at the Wildlife Conservation Society)

Key points:

- Zoonotic outbreaks are increasing. It won't be 20 years before the next consequential spillover event.
- It's about interfaces – contact areas where naturally evolving pathogens are allowed to spillover.
- We provide spillover opportunities for these pathogens to pass to humans or livestock.
- We provide the infrastructure to spread a pathogen globally quickly.
- Humans are a great vehicle as we are naive to these pathogens. There are lots of us and we move around a lot.

# Focus Session 4

- Rangers focus on the pre-spillover phase – where we need to place more emphasis. There is very little talk about prevention and lots about preparedness. Need to focus on prevention and Rangers are key to this.
- Spillovers occur in remote areas. Public health services are not in these remote areas. Rangers are a key opportunity to flow health data into health systems which are in urban centers.
- Rangers can be trained in sample collection and disease diagnosis. For example, Africa – Ebola, South America – vicuna disease, Vietnam – coronaviruses.
- SMART has a disease model – [website](#)
- How do we help make Rangers stronger players in this field?
  - First aid training
  - Training in health: data collection, necropsies, use of PPE etc
  - Rangers have data on environmental health – few others have this data in the One Health approach
  - Work with policy makers and public authorities to value data from Rangers

## Links:

<https://www.wcs.org/get-involved/updates/a-primer-on-the-coronavirus>  
<https://oneworldonehealth.wcs.org/>

## PRESENTATION 3: 'LESSONS FROM VIRUNGA'

By **Emmanuel de Merode**  
 (Director of Virunga National Park, Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature) and starring some mischievous baboons!

- Disease needs to be looked at in an integrated way, as difficulties can compound each other
- Rangers have a role in preparedness – we need to prepare for the unexpected.
- Preservation of ecological diversity allows more resilience and preparedness
- Virunga has faced many epidemics – Cholera in the 70s, Ebola in 2018-2020 (longest outbreak in history), COVID.
- Rangers were able to respond to a broad set of challenges, not all focused on wildlife preservation. This requires strong park management structures and capacities.

- Ecosystem service provision is the key to adaptability
- The Ebola response committee recognized that natural space was a 'natural firewall' to stop the spread of the disease so a number of Ebola checkpoints were set up along the roads and rivers crossing the park – only sites where 100% surveillance could be set up. This provided a significant role in preventing the spread of the disease into cities and east Africa. Rangers managed this natural firewall.
- Disruption of the natural environment (forest loss) has been linked with Ebola outbreaks.
- Clean water provision from natural sources has many health implications for the communities living around natural areas
- Natural services link to growth of the economy which is also a pathway to better health



Photo courtesy of Mount Kenya Trust and The Thin Green Line Foundation.



# Focus Session 4

## DISCUSSION:

Cross-sector perspectives:

- New language: Rangers are planetary health workers. One Health Rangers. 'Natural firewalls' – we need to re-phrase the role of protected areas beyond just wildlife.
- Barriers to establishing Rangers as essential workers:
  - In many countries in Africa, Rangers were recognized as essential workers during initial lockdown periods and allowed to work. The problem is they are not supported like essential workers – under resourced.
  - Rangers are not even listed as occupation list in International Labour Organisation. So, you can't really fight for their labour rights.
  - 300 Rangers in India lost to COVID in last 6 weeks, but they are getting no compensation because they are not essential services.
- Forest Rangers are the Managers of Ecosystem services, managers which are not visible in open eyes. They are suppliers of Food, Oxygen, Rain, Ecology, Soil conservation/ sustainable development, Tourism and also development officers of 250 million forest people in India.
- Rangers are often the only 'health' workers in remote locations. Often taking people to hospital etc. Rangers are often the main salaried people in remote areas – providing health support to whole communities
- Rangers are doing work not focused on wildlife but health. Can we use this to find new sources of funding to support Rangers?
- Rangers helped to find new medicines (secret medicines), they help to protect cultural knowledges about medicines, protect vital flora and active principles.
- Flag: Rangers go beyond their traditional role to support the wellbeing of communities.
- There is limited support for Rangers around their own mental health – PTSD is a big problem for Rangers on the front line
- Core duties need to be carried out – can't put too much more on them.
- Only 3% of 'giving' goes to the environment, much more for education and health. The more funding spent in communities on health and education, the less funding is needing to be spent on law enforcement
- In Brazil, many Indigenous park Rangers had to flee to the middle of the jungle to protect themselves from COVID-19, with the help of the TGLF we will try to help them sustain that situation.
- Forest Rangers work 24x7 for the protection of wildlife and its habitats without any medical facility even this pandemic time, so there is heavy chance to spread deadly COVID to the wildlife and vulnerable tribal people reside inside the forest.

## Links:

Article – Special Issue of PARKS journal on PAs and Covid-19 – [here](#)  
 Study – Colombian Rangers supporting Indigenous community health research, links between mercury contamination and illegal gold mining – [here](#) (in Spanish)



Sumatran Ranger, Photo by Tom Broadhurst & courtesy of The Thin Green Line Foundation.

# Focus Session 5



Image Credit: Ranger Ariana Henderson fighting bushfires in December 2019.  
Photo by Lachie Sparks (Parks Victoria), courtesy of The Thin Green Line Foundation.

## RANGER ROUNDTABLE REVIEW #5

### RANGERS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**From natural disasters like Australia's Black Summer bushfires and severe hurricanes in the Bahamas to the encroachment of Amazonian forests for agriculture and prolonged drought across Africa, investment in Protected Areas and their stewards has never been more important. As part of World Ranger Month (July) 2021, we explored Rangers' roles in climate adaptation and action through an interactive discussion with cross-sector leaders.**

#### SUMMARY

- Climate change is making many threats to biodiversity worse and increasing the frequency and intensity of emergencies. Communications and collaborations between agencies is key.
- Climate change is having a cumulative stress impact on Rangers (pessimism, increased threats, resource conflicts, increased emergencies, more dynamic world).
- Adaptive management based on demonstrable changes is going to be very important. Rangers are having to develop new skills to deal with these new or increased threats – trainings need to be adapted and/or developed.
- We need to reposition Rangers to show their impact on supporting climate change prevention as well as climate change adaptation – Rangers are the frontline around nature-based solutions!
- We need to make value proposition of climate action through Rangers more explicit to potential funders.

#### PRESENTATION 1: GLOBAL STRATEGIC AND POLICY PERSPECTIVES

By **Valerie Kapos** (Head of Programme, Climate Change & Biodiversity at UNEP – World Conservation Monitoring Centre)

##### Key Points:

- The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity direct the global community on these issues. There is growing emphasis on the links between these agendas that have strong implications for national and local action.
- One result is the growing and more mainstream role of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for both mitigating and adapting to climate change are being mainstreamed, supported by international mandates such as the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.
- The value of nature for storing and sequestering carbon is recognised in growing carbon markets and beyond.
- Non-carbon values, including biodiversity conservation and delivery of ecosystem services that support people's resilience to climate change, are also starting to get more attention.



# Focus Session 5

- Rangers have a strong role to play in ensuring that NbS development and implementation both contribute to conservation objectives and deliver benefits for communities by: engaging with communities to identify potential benefits; sharing their practical experience; monitoring ecosystem integrity and impacts; and mobilising information from the field.

## PRESENTATION 2: LINKAGES BETWEEN RANGERS AND THE CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY CRISES

By [Virginia Young](#) (IUCN WCPA Protected Areas Climate Change Specialist Group; & Director of International Forests & Climate Programme, The Australian Rainforest Conservation Society)

Key Points:

- Integrated solutions to the climate and biodiversity crises are building momentum. [IPBES](#) report is great at making the connection; degrading ecosystems through biodiversity loss makes them more vulnerable to carbon loss.
- Rangers play a critical role in keeping carbon in the ground rather than being released into the atmosphere.
- The Australian fires of 2019-20 highlighted the importance of maintaining and restoring the integrity of ecosystems. Management plays a direct role on fire risk and severity. Australia had very few specialized Rangers left to address fires and many unique natural assets were lost. More efforts need to be put into letting forests grow old. Resource: [www.bushfirefacts.org](http://www.bushfirefacts.org)
- Areas around parks are critical to buffer and connect irreplaceable places. More Rangers are needed to manage these areas outside of parks and work with local stakeholders.
- Much more focus needs to be on restoring natural ecosystems and Rangers are essential to this.

## PRESENTATION 3: INSIGHTS FROM THE FIELD (BAHAMAS)

By [Ellsworth Weir](#) (Park Manager, Grand Bahama Parks)

Key Points:

- Climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of hurricanes.
- Storm surge of Hurricane Dorian reached 30 feet, destroying habitats.
- Recovery post-hurricane is slow, but nature can repair itself.
- Park infrastructure destroyed and 'resilience' management shifted to restoration (eg: growing and planting of mangroves and coral, invasive species control).
- Rangers needed to upskill through training and certification programs.

## DISCUSSIONS

### How is climate change impacting protected areas & Rangers' frontline work?

- Managing stress as a Ranger in climate emergencies is tough, with many Rangers close to breaking point while addressing these extreme situations.
- Fire intensity and behaviour is changing due to the impacts of climate change.
- Impacts are only going to get worse, including wildlife rehabilitation centers being overwhelmed.
- Little collaboration between Rangers and other frontline staff – Rangers are being left to deal with emergencies in parks. Need to create better communications between agencies and ensure Rangers aren't looked at as second-class front-line workers.
- This may call for the powers of Rangers / Wardens to be enhanced. eg: In the Bahamas National Trust Act, Wardens have the powers of arrest within protected areas but this is rarely if ever utilised because they don't necessarily have recognition or proper training from relevant government agencies. Similar capability restrictions relate to being able to issue spot fines that could be paid directly to the public treasury.

- Before the Black Summer bushfires in Australia, the request for \$20mill. on fire prevention was turned down, but over \$2bill. was paid out in reparations after the fires.
- Species migration patterns are being disrupted, eg: humpback whales in Australia.
- Human-wildlife conflict is increasing as water is getting scarce in some places (eg Zimbabwe) so community support for the wild is undermined – Rangers require better community interaction skills.

### What kinds of Ranger-led innovations & adaptations could strengthen climate action?

- Climate funding is only available if climate benefits are made explicit – this can be done but means new/better 'Ranger and Climate Action' messaging. Eg: through quantifying carbon or adaptation outcomes or links to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.
- NbS can deliver significant benefits, helping both to limit climate change impacts on ecosystems and people and supporting adaptation to those impacts.
- Natural solutions have significant benefit and buffering impact on adaptation to the impacts of climate change.
- Private sector is starting to look at adaptation and if the messaging is right Rangers could benefit from this.
- Bahamas National Trust experience: educating Rangers is key. Powers of gathering data to demonstrate impact/changes. Then respond with adaptive management practices based on data.
- We undervalue the role of protecting what we have – it should be a far higher priority than restoration after damage is done.
- Need more Rangers. Need more and better training. Need the Ranger's voice in wider climate action forums.

# Focus Session 6



**RANGER  
ROUNDTABLE**  
*focus session*



*Huellas que vulneran / Footprints that violate, Venezuela,  
Photo by Jean Martínez courtesy of International Ranger Federation*

## Ranger Roundtable 6 Summary

Rangers & biodiversity loss – gaps between policy, investment & action

**In this follow up to the IUCN World Conservation Congress, twenty nine participants came together to better understand the critical role of Rangers in achieving the CBD Goals.**

**Our distinguished speakers presented perspectives on the gaps between policy, investment and Ranger-led action which continue to act as barriers to achieving these targets. Special note is given to a compelling presentation from Ranger Verónica Proaño, Head of the Cofán Bermejo Ecological Reserve, who shared valuable insights from the Amazon.**

### SUMMARY

- If global targets for biodiversity, climate and health are to be met, we need to invest in nature-based solutions
- Protected Areas and Rangers are keys to these solutions
- We are beginning to recognise the role and function that Rangers play beyond conservation, and we're seeing the Environment sector starting to be integrated into all global agendas
- Rangers and their voices need to be present in decision-making discussions and agendas relating to Health, Development and Security
- A key focus is positioning Rangers in discussions with government Ministries to establish an awareness that their work is essential for countries to achieve their biodiversity, climate and health commitments, consequently that Ranger professionalisation and capability building becomes a key avenue for investment.

*"Without Rangers we will never reach the 1.5°C climate target."*

*Carlos Manuel Rodríguez Echandi,  
CEO & Chairperson,  
Global Environment Facility  
and former Ranger*



# Focus Session 6

## Ranger Roundtable 6 Summary – Rangers & biodiversity loss – gaps between policy, investment & action

### PRESENTATION 1: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

By John Scanlon (Chairperson, Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime; CEO, Elephant Protection Initiative Foundation; Chairperson, UK Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund)

#### Key Points

- There is an increasing recognition that biodiversity is a key part of the climate agenda and natural solutions to climate change need to be addressed
- CBD targets will need active human intervention, including Ranger-led action, including:
  - 30x30 target
  - Human-wildlife conflict reduction
  - Control of invasive species
- The role of Rangers is not fully recognised as the front line of conservation, climate and One Health. If the financing for health care workers or teachers was as low as Rangers' there would be an outcry – why is this not happening for Rangers?
  - Pandemics and public health = nurses & doctors
  - Pandemics and education = teachers
  - Pandemics and zoonotic disease prevention/climate action/biodiversity conservation = Rangers
- Rangers on the ground are delivering country's commitments to international CBD and SDG commitments. Example shared of Rangers in Garamba National Park in the DRC – [read speech](#)
- Financing of Rangers is key and the first step to securing this is recognizing the roles of Rangers in the prevention of pandemics, climate change and biodiversity loss

### PRESENTATION 2: GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY INVESTMENT

By Carlos Manuel Rodríguez Echandi (CEO & Chairperson, Global Environment Facility and former Ranger)

#### Key Points

- Political integration between climate change and biodiversity workers is facilitating a more comprehensive approach to international climate agreements, with the increasing understanding of the role of biodiversity and people are starting to see the opportunities
- Nature-based solutions to climate change is 30% of the solution but they're not getting the recognition they deserve
- Protected Areas are the core of nature-based solutions (informed by experience in Costa Rica)
- 80% of Protected Areas are 'paper parks' where existing protection activities are insufficient
- Parks don't work without Rangers – so Rangers are on the front line of the climate fight
- Climate mitigation is where the most funding for parks will come from in the coming 20 years
- Without Rangers we will never reach the 1.5°C climate target
- GEF funds governments – we will promote support to the rule of law and positive incentives for conservation
- GEF will push for countries to be nature positive and carbon neutral by 2030 – Rangers are a key part of this – identified as non-state stakeholders
- Needs:
  - A minimum for Ranger operational standards (challenge: many different legal statuses and regimes which position Rangers without authority) – GEF will support research, South-South collaboration to develop this standard
  - Rangers positioned at same level as police (challenge: Ministry of Environment budgets were cut first during pandemic which led to job uncertainty)
  - Designing projects with Rangers in recognition of direct financial benefits enabled by enforcement, technology and positive incentives

### PRESENTATION 3: INSIGHTS FROM THE AMAZON (ECUADOR)

By Verónica Proaño (Head of the Cofán Bermejo Ecological Reserve)

#### Key Points

- Work as a Ranger is beautiful and the profession is practiced with pride, but it is also dangerous.
- It is particularly dangerous for Rangers that work in border territories like us. We face legal and illegal extractive activities in the buffer zones of the protected area such as: the hydrocarbon industry, logging, trafficking of species and substances and gold mining.
- In some cases, the threat to biodiversity is a threat to Rangers as well and without Rangers there is no conservation.
- Financing is a major challenge for protected areas that are not as popular as others in the country. In our case not having resources to purchase a boat does not allow us to do river patrols.
- We need our authorities to support projects that do not harm the environment and local communities.
- We also need authorities to not to leave protected areas as conservation islands but rather that work with a landscape approach to assure good and healthy connectivity between ecosystems.
- I invite authorities and NGOs to also support border protected areas that are not always the most popular or may not have great attractions.
- The local communities are our allies, and we work closely with them. In our case, the Cofán community is the one that promoted the creation of the protected area in the first place.
- It's important to work with communities on environmental education and to create awareness of the value of natural resources to prevent them from accepting attractive jobs that may pay more but are harmful for the environment and for them in the long term.



# Focus Session 6

## Ranger Roundtable 6 Summary – Rangers & biodiversity loss – gaps between policy, investment & action

### LIFE AS A FRONTLINE PLANETARY HEALTH WORKER

Rangers need to love their job, nature, and working with local communities.

Photos courtesy of Verónica Proaño



Photo © Andre Dib / WWF-Brazil





# Focus Session 6

## Ranger Roundtable 6 Summary – Rangers & biodiversity loss – gaps between policy, investment & action



*"Rangers can have the best of intentions but without resources Rangers can only achieve so much."*

*Verónica Proaño,  
Head of the Cofán Bermejo  
Ecological Reserve*

Photo by Aaron Gekoski / WWF-US

### DISCUSSIONS:

Goal-setting, policy development, investment – how do we build Rangers into biodiversity decision-making conversations?

- Rangers need to be properly recognised and supported by their employers
- GEF has the Wildlife Program and Amazon Sustainable Landscape projects are working on Ranger exchanges
- How do we enhance Ranger needs within GEF and other projects?
- How to draw the links between Ranger professionalisation and impacts on climate, biodiversity & health targets?
- There are many existing global financing mechanisms (GEF, Green Climate Fund, UNDP, etc), but how to get Rangers and their work into financing-government dialogues?
- Ministries of Environment may understand the importance of Rangers, but other ministries do not, eg: labor, finance etc
- Need to include Rangers in these dialogues so they can state the needs themselves

Beyond tourism and iconic projects – how do we fund Rangers' core work as part of a long-term biodiversity investment strategy?

- National and State health, development and security benefit from Ranger's work so these budgets should also pay for Ranger work – we need to tap into all agendas
- [UNDP BioFin](#) (Biodiversity Finance) as an option
- PFPs could also be an option ([Project for Permanence](#)) – Amazon, Peru, Colombia, Bhutan.
- [Enduring Earth Initiative](#)
- [Legacy Landscape Fund](#) – Germany
- Drive the message and ensure that financing reaches all the way to the field – "without Rangers parks won't be managed and climate agenda won't be met"
- [Chitwan Declaration](#) give us a good outline of needs. The [URSA Action Plan](#) provides the framework on what and how to do things.
- IRF are the conduit between high level policy and the Rangers on the ground and are willing to play this role.

# Focus Session 7



**RANGER  
ROUNDTABLE**  
*focus session*



*Photo by Maryory Velado, courtesy of Paso Pacífico & The Thin Green Line Foundation*

## Ranger Roundtable 7 Summary

What roles do Rangers play in rural community development?

Every day there are Rangers working closely with local communities. However, beyond the stereotypes of wildlife protection and law enforcement, their roles are not well understood. Focus Session #7 brought together leaders from global development and conservation organisations to examine the contributions of Rangers to issues like civic rights, education, cultural security, climate adaptation, public health and human-wildlife conflict. This builds upon the collective purpose of repositioning Rangers as essential frontline workers.

### SUMMARY

- Rangers are a source of **pride** for communities, acting as role models and a positive force for change
- Rangers provide direct and indirect **security** services for communities and wildlife; protecting against natural resource extraction, livestock poaching and armed incursions as well as a general sense of safety in rural and remote areas
- Rangers are involved in **human-wildlife conflict**, including systems of compensation
- Rangers organise, facilitate and **educate** the community through discussions on sustainable development, including at schools
- Rangers provide **relationship links** between government and 'mainstream' urban populations and remote Indigenous Peoples
- Rangers enable the provisioning of **basic rations** in times of need, as the main government agencies in remote areas
- Rangers are first responders providing **first aid** and ambulance support
- Rangers are a direct **employment pathway** for rural and remote communities, which can have major impacts to individuals sense of purpose and wellbeing
- Rangers' activities in ecosystem restoration can drive **tourism** and the associated economic flow-on benefits to communities
- Rangers are **part of the community** and can't be partitioned out as stereotypical law enforcers. In many cases around the world, they are valued support mechanisms for communities and their livelihood choices.

*"There is a lot in there if you dig and see the diversity and complexity of the work of Rangers."*

*Dilys Roe, Principal Researcher & Team Leader of Biodiversity, IIED*





# Focus Session 7

## Ranger Roundtable 7 Summary – What roles do Rangers play in rural community development?



Photo: A Ranger with members of his local community, courtesy Nelson Guda, Grevy's Zebra Trust

### PRESENTATION 1: INSIGHTS FROM THE PHILIPPINES

By Annabelle Trinidad  
(Senior Technical Advisor on  
Environmental Finance for  
UNDP-BIOFIN)

#### Highlights:

- [Video from presentation](#): Indigenous Mangyan 'Frontliners' caring for the critically endangered Tamaraws of the Philippines despite the impacts of COVID-19, enabled by crowdfunding
- The pandemic led to a loss of jobs and loss of tourists
- Rangers continued and are still operating without proper equipment or social security
- Indigenous Rangers are playing a key role in community development, bridging relationships between rural and urban populations

### PRESENTATION 2: INSIGHTS FROM AFRICA

By Dilys Roe  
(Principal Researcher/Team Leader  
(Biodiversity) at IIED and Chair, IUCN  
Sustainable Use and Livelihoods,  
Specialist Group)

#### Highlights:

- Initially had not thought about Rangers' role in community development
- Rangers (Community Conservation Wardens) are community outreach agents in Uganda, organizing meetings and addressing human-wildlife conflict
- Black Mambas are seen as role models in the community, while Rhino Rangers act as tourist guides
- Rangers are seen as a positive force for change

### PRESENTATION 3: INSIGHTS FROM KENYA

By Daniel Ole Sambu  
(Predator Protection Program  
Coordinator, Big Life Foundation)

#### Highlights:

- Big Life works beyond Protected Areas and has a workforce of 320+ Rangers
- Ladies Rangers Unit performing strongly, including in community relationships
- Ranger vehicles act as ambulances when needed
- The Masai Olympics and the livestock compensation fund are great examples of cultural adaptation and leadership

### PRESENTATION 4: INSIGHTS FROM ICELAND

By Torfi Stefán Jónsson  
(Ranger & interpreter, Þingvellir National Park, Iceland)

#### Highlights:

- Rangers manage relationships with the local community as well as international visitors
- This involves balancing intense pressures on focused areas within the park
- Rangers provide emergency support for visitors, including for vehicle accidents
- 1.6 million tourists visit per year, their absence led to the return of some wildlife like eagle

# Focus Session 7

## Ranger Roundtable 7 Summary – What roles do Rangers play in rural community development?



Photo: Masai Rangers and community, courtesy of the Big Life Foundation and The Thin Green Line Foundation

### DISCUSSIONS

#### What does Rangers' work as frontline development workers look like to you?

- Imagery is important – military uniforms are the quintessential image – Rangers are often part of the community and this needs to be shown.
- Rangers should not be defined only as civil servants as there are community and Indigenous Rangers also
- Outside of Africa, for example in Latin America, Ranger work is much more community driven. They are seen as part of the community and have integrated roles, working as community convenors, and supporting community development.
- In Colombia, Rangers are helping communities deal with narcotics threats.
- In Lebanon – Rangers are building terraces and helping community needs, very much seen as 'us' not 'them'

- Their role is often about sustainable management of natural resources, which requires a protection component to ensure a closed system
- Where communities don't have strong rights over resources, Rangers are critical to securing community livelihoods
- To be able to perform these roles it is important they are professionalized.

#### What are the examples of Rangers' providing diverse benefits to rural communities?

- Act as the link between government, aid, lowlanders to Indigenous Protected Areas – example from Mindoro, Philippines
- Uniforms provide authority but can give the wrong perception also

#### Shared Links

- 'Together Tamaraws' BIOFIN case study – [here](#)
- 'Risking Lives to Protect Wildlife and Wildlands: Stories from Rangers in the Field', article by World Bank, July 30 2020 – [here](#)
- 'Redmond Reports: Mount Elgon Elephant Monitoring Team and Elephant Orphans in Sri Lanka', Ian Redmond in Wildlife Times, Magazine of the Born Free Foundation, 2001 – [here](#)
- Rainforest Rangers protecting Gorillas in DRC, The Gorilla Organisation – [here](#)
- KJ Social Return on Investment Report, Martu Indigenous Ranger case study, Aus – [here](#)

*"Rangers are often part of the community and this needs to be shown through imagery"*



# Focus Session 8



**RANGER  
ROUNDTABLE**  
*focus session*



Rangers Jose and Max, Reserva de Sama, Bolivia  
(Credit: Tom Broadhurst, courtesy of The Thin Green Line Foundation)

## Ranger Roundtable 8 Summary

Invest in Nature-based Solutions, Invest in Rangers

Imagine a professionalised, global Ranger workforce effectively managing 30% of the Planet's terrestrial and aquatic environments by 2030.

The returns on investment would be significant – increases in climate resilience and biodiversity, strengthened pandemic prevention as well as marked progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, especially for rural and Indigenous communities. Focus Session #8 was a call to action for governments and private investors to reconsider their investment strategies. As the Ranger Roundtable has demonstrated since July 2020, we can no longer afford for Rangers to be the missing link in strategic Natural Capital management. So, to start a roadmap for redistributing resources, we gathered a cross-sector panel of leaders at the forefront of the emerging Nature-based Solutions market.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The global economy is underpinned by Nature
- Local economies and culture are also underpinned by Nature – in Colombia and Australia we've seen two great examples from very different regions
- The economic system is not set up to support the natural system but this is changing, including the emergence of Nature-based Solutions markets
- The corporate world is changing to account for Nature
- The focus right now is on carbon, but biodiversity or Nature credits can also be developed
- The question: How to channel these funds to support Rangers professionalization?
  - The roles of IGO and Government finance, at global and national scales?
  - The roles of Private Sector finance, at local and ecosystem scales?

#### IUCN Definition

Nature-based Solutions are actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  
(Source: IUCN, May 19 2022)

*"I believe that if Rangers can produce quantifiable and auditable estimates of the benefits they are producing, there should be companies willing to invest in those projects and claim credit for such accomplishments in their ESG/CSR reports. I would encourage companies to concentrate their CSR investments to produce significant and measurable improvements in a few key areas that become 'strategic' for them."*  
*Bob Kaplan, Harvard University*

# Focus Session 8

## Ranger Roundtable 8 Summary – Invest in Nature-based Solutions, Invest in Rangers



Ranger Faber Jimenez planting a Frailejón  
(Photo courtesy of Gustavo Pisso Florez)

### CASE STUDY #1: INVESTING IN INDIGENOUS RANGERS & COMMUNITIES

By Ranger Gustavo Pisso Florez,  
*Puracé National Natural Park, Colombia*

#### Highlights:

- The park covers the headwaters of three important rivers for Colombia, connecting national resources to the Papallaqta Indigenous community
- Financial support from European Union is enabling ecotourism, access to natural medicines, artistic expression and handicrafts
- Indigenous people are guardians of Nature and there are education programs being run to engage the youth, such as planting native and endemic species like frailejón
- Promotion of restoration ecology and conservation

### CASE STUDY #2: INVESTING IN NATURE-BASED TOURISM

By Ranger Peter Cleary,  
*Phillip Island Nature Park, Australia*

#### Highlights:

- A success story that includes removing a housing estate, rehabilitating land, eradicated the red fox, conducting invasive removal (plants, cats etc)
- 32,000 penguins breeding now
- Attracts over 1 million visitors annually, adding \$125AUD million per year to economy
- Employs 240 staff (including 40 Rangers per night, caring for up to 5000 penguins)
- Community benefits including pride
- "Beautiful marriage between environment and economy and sustainable development"

*"We really need to include Rangers in the carbon market sequestration schemes and be able to measure their impact. At least in Latin America all the big companies are committed (even if it is not mandatory at this stage) in investing into carbon markets and are moving away from the traditional financing of nature conservation."*

Mónica Álvarez Malvido,  
International Ranger Federation officer,  
Latin America



# Focus Session 8

## Ranger Roundtable 8 Summary – Invest in Nature-based Solutions, Invest in Rangers

### PRESENTATION #3: TRENDS IN CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR)

By [Bob Kaplan](#), Professor of Business Administration at [Harvard University](#)

#### Highlights:

- Corporate Social Responsibility reporting is increasing rapidly
- US\$3.2trillion has been invested into equity funds that claim to have CSR/ESG objectives
- Cost of a product (including all component manufacturing of that product) should include the cost of carbon emissions
- Carbon offsets can reduce the net Green House Gas emissions
- Higher quality measurement requires higher quality carbon products
- If you can produce valid and measurable carbon offsets, companies will buy these to fund Ranger efforts
- Rangers can be trained to provide verification and assurance of offsets – certified carbon accountants need certified carbon credits and certified Natural Capital auditors (Rangers)
- Companies often want to add 'Social' value, opportunities with biodiversity credits and potential links with specific species

**Publications** – Harvard Business Review – Carbon accounting articles – [2021](#), [2022](#)

### PRESENTATION #4: NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS PRODUCT EXAMPLES

By [Ariadne Gorring](#), Co-CEO at [Pollination Foundation](#)

#### Highlights:

- How to accelerate Nature-based Solutions with local communities at the core?
- How do we link corporate risk to Nature risk?
- We are experiencing Nature loss at an unprecedented rate
- Private and public sectors are mobilizing to address systemic risk that Nature loss poses to the global economy
- \$44 trillion (over half of global GDP) is moderately or highly dependent on Nature
- How could we aim for a Nature positive economy by 2030? What could be Rangers' roles?
- [Business for Nature](#) Coalition is made up of over 1000 companies now – a growing movement

#### Nature-based Solution product examples:

- [Indus Delta – Mangrove Restoration, Pakistan](#)
- [Traditional Fire Management – Arnhem Land Australia](#)
- Non-Fungible Tokens – Amazon Forest Peru – [Video](#) & [Nfts](#)
- [Ecoaustralia™ Credits – Southern Australia](#)
- [Rhino Bond – Species Recovery, South Africa](#)
- [Reef Credits – Water Quality, Great Barrier Reef, Australia](#)

### DISCUSSIONS

#### What are the emerging trends and opportunities for investing in Nature-based Solutions by investing in Rangers?

- We need to invest in the whole system (i.e. beyond projects, Natural Capital.)
- We need economic systems that value wildlife beyond carbon
- We need to value and measure the diverse net benefits of Ranger's work
- How to position Rangers themselves to benefit from ecosystem restoration?
- There are no global agreements on how to measure Nature so it's hard to quantify
- How do you show improvement over time to quantify impact (i.e. ROI) and therefore warrant payment? Having good measures is critical.
- Need certified Natural Capital auditors (i.e. Rangers)
- There's no balance sheet for Nature so there's no penalties for destruction, only incentives for restoration
- There are many apps out there to collect data to show impact (i.e. Phillip Nature Park Rangers example)
- [STAR](#) is a global metric to measure biodiversity extinction risk. Also there's the [AFN](#) method
- Once we have a global way to measure Nature we can create nature/biodiversity credits. But how do you get Ranger system funded?
- We need to focus on Value Creation rather than Value Extraction.

### SHARED LINKS

- Blog – [Endangered species day not just about endangered species](#)
- [Rebalance Earth](#) – Investment in carbon via Elephants and Rangers – [Theoretical framework for Rebalance Earth](#) & [article](#)
- Project that combines science, knowledge and AI to inform management actions and measure change – [here](#)
- Force for Nature Ranger App – [iOS](#) & [Google Play](#)
- Article – [Banking on protected areas](#)
- Balanced Scorecard for corporate responsibility – [here](#)





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