

**MEETING SUMMARY**

# Role of ranger workforce to enhance the implementation of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

26 SEPTEMBER, BRUSSELS



## **RANGERS: PLANETARY HEALTH WORKERS**

Rangers play a critical role in conservation across the world. They are the primary workforce responsible for safeguarding nature, and our cultural heritage, for present and future generations. The ranger profession is diverse, including state employees, volunteers, indigenous people, local community workers and many others. The recently adopted Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) sets an ambitious “30x30” target (Target 3) of effectively conserving and managing at least 30% of the world’s lands, inland waters, and coastal and ocean habitats. It is unlikely that this target can be achieved without a professionalised, and effective ranger workforce. Additionally, by supporting rangers, we not only protect our environment but also enhance economic opportunities through eco-tourism, benefitting both local communities and global efforts to combat climate change. It is essential to recognize and support the invaluable work of rangers as they continue to stand as guardians of our planet’s ecological and cultural treasures.

## **WHO IS URSA?**

URSA is a coalition of conservation organisations supporting and promoting the International Ranger Federation 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.

[www.ursa4rangers.org](http://www.ursa4rangers.org)

## **OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING:**

The purpose of the high-level consultative meeting was to discuss how to strengthen, support and enable a professional, accountable and equitable ranger workforce, building from the priorities outlined in the global action plan.

The meeting brought together 45 attendees representing multilaterals, bilaterals, NGOs, philanthropies, and experts from UN OHCHR and ILO. The goal was to identify and agree on how we can collectively implement appropriate policies, funding strategies, innovative projects, and effective partnerships to implement Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).



## KEY OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING:

- **To ensure uniformity in the understanding and implementation of the ranger agenda, URSA will**
  - i. Provide briefing guide/points to consider for donors who support conservation projects involving rangers.
  - ii. Organise training and orientation session for each donor agency on rangers, ranger issues and the URSA tools and standards.
  - iii. Create and/or identify monitoring indicators pertaining to rangers and work with governments to integrate the indicators within the monitoring framework for the Global Biodiversity Framework.
  - iv. Update its website to make key documents more apparent and disseminate the weblinks to key stakeholders.
  - v. Follow up with individual participating organisations to explore collaboration in more detail.
  
- **All organisations attending the event will work to**
  - i. Promote the wider role of rangers as planetary health workers among ranger employers, grantees, conservation organisations, bilateral and multilateral agencies globally.
  - ii. Use their individual and collective influence to professionalise the ranger occupation by promoting URSA tools and standards with ranger employers, conservation organisations and international groups such as the International Labour Organisation.
  - iii. Seek to integrate URSA tools and standards within any current and future project and grant designing process to ensure a responsible and accountable workforce.
  - iv. Promote the dissemination and implementation of the State of the Rangers report by ensuring wide reach of the survey through project grantees, as well as using the findings to strengthen project design. The report will act as a global monitoring framework covering areas such as human rights training, social safeguards skills, welfare conditions, ranger capacity, misconducts and inclusivity within the workforce.
  - v. Support piloting of URSA tools and standards in projects/sites/landscape/countries that can serve as model sites for further learning and knowledge exchange. Work with URSA to develop appropriate measures and projects.
  - vi. Continue collaboration and networking within and beyond this forum by hosting calls and sharing e-newsletters.
  - vii. Seek to support the participation of rangers, especially from the global south, at the World Ranger Congress to be held from 7-11 October in Heyers, France in 2024. In particular, facilitate the participation of women, indigenous people and local community rangers.



## FEEDBACK FROM THE PARTICIPANTS

The meeting was an eye opener to hear about the other side of the law enforcement issue and focus on rangers not as potential human rights threats to others but their own individual rights and welfare. ”

“ To consider the COC in the development of projects and to include dialogue about human-based approaches into political dialogue.

Include guidelines as part of our grant making cycle, pass the survey to our partners/ grantees to make visible the situation of rangers for marine protected areas. ”

“ Provide funds for the equipment and training of rangers.



*Participants of the Consultative Meeting on the Role of Rangers, 26 September 2023, Brussels*