



YEAR IN REVIEW 2023



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ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION

The International Ranger Federation (IRF) is a worldwide, non-profit membership-based organisation, established to develop, advance, and promote the Ranger profession. The IRF recognizes 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.INTERNATIONALLRANGERS.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.



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REMARKS FROM THE IRF PRESIDENT

“As we will soon welcome 2024, the year that will bring world rangers together for the 10th IRF World Ranger Congress in Hyères, France from 7-11 October, we have a lot to be proud of. The collective momentum towards strengthening our global network of rangers and ranger associations has grown steadily since we were first founded more than three decades ago, in spite of the compounding challenges in our work. The fact that the global ranger community has never been so connected means that we have a greater understanding of the needs and challenges rangers face globally. We need to create greater awareness on the urgency for action and investment in ranger workforces across the world and its benefits for sustainable development, nature conservation, gender inclusivity, equity and human rights.

In this ‘Year in Review,’ we look back on key moments in 2023. Some are painful – including the loss of beloved allies in our work, IRF co-founder Gordon Miller and conservationist extraordinaire, Dr. Kathy MacKinnon. Not to mention, the loss of more than 148 rangers who died during service across 39 countries between June 2022 to May 2023. Others are inspiring — such as the first-ever Asian Ranger Forum held in December 2023 and a record-breaking World Ranger Day 2023. But all are now a permanent part of the IRF’s ever-expanding legacy.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to our story in 2023 and in the years that brought us here.”



Chris Galliers
IRF President

2023 AT A GLANCE



148

rangers died during service across **39** countries between June 2022 to May 2023.



OVER
6 MILLION

people reached on World Ranger Day 2023.



IRF has over

160

member organisations across

7

regions.



146+

participants united for the first-ever Asian Ranger Forum.



30+

participants united for the 2023 Oceania Roundtable.



20+

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



100+

participants gathered for over **3** Ranger Roundtable Discussions.



Rangers included in Forest and Communities Initiative Call to Action 2023.



5+

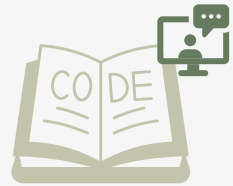
policy documents, briefs and research papers produced and shared .



1 new website revamped and launched.



IRF became a Non for Profit NGO registered in the US.



500+

participants joined the Code of Conduct workshops.



1300+

rangers and **420+** employers from over **80** countries across **17** languages completed the Global State of the Ranger Report survey.



25+

Latin America rangers certified by Global Forest Watch.



1st

ranger association from the Caribbean joined IRF

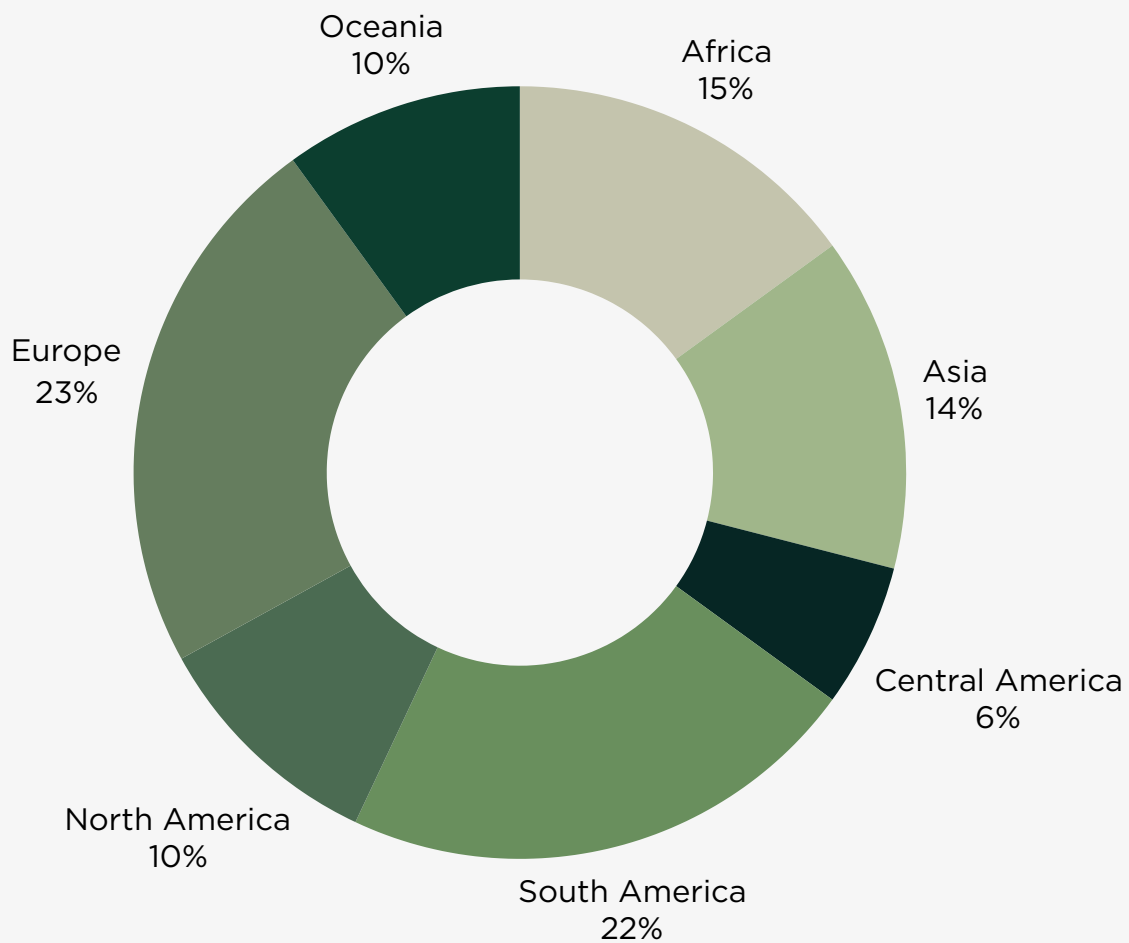


& so much more!

MEMBERSHIP

IRF has over 160 member organisations across 7 regions.

MEMBERS PER REGION



AFRICA

29

Full: 8%
Provisional: 6%
Associate: 15%

ASIA

27

Full: 12%
Provisional: 5%
Associate: 10%

CENTRAL AMERICA

11

Full: 8%
Associate: 0%
Provisional: 3%

SOUTH AMERICA

41

Full: 22%
Associate: 7%
Provisional: 12%

NORTH AMERICA

18

Full: 8%
Associate: 5%
Provisional: 5%

EUROPE

44

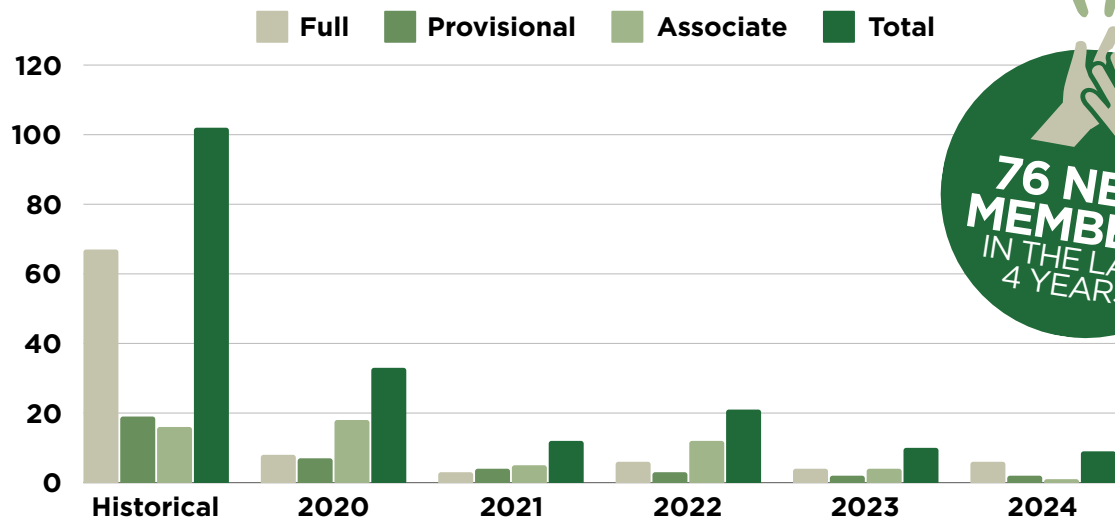
Full: 24%
Associate: 17%
Provisional: 3%

OCEANIA

19

Full: 10%
Associate: 6%
Provisional: 3%

NEW IRF MEMBERS



MAP OF RANGER ASSOCIATIONS (AT A GLANCE)



[VIEW OUR INTERACTIVE MAP >](#)

Act now for a nature-positive world



GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

SPOTLIGHTING RANGERS AT COP15

January 2023 began off the tails of the 2022 United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in Montreal, Canada, where rangers were recognized for their crucial role in fulfilling the 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:

- a) 'Rangers for 30 by 30: New needs and approaches' and
- b) 'The vital role of rangers in achieving global biodiversity and development outcomes.'
- 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.

THE UNIVERSAL RANGER SUPPORT ALLIANCE (URSA) MAINTAINS MOMENTUM THROUGHOUT THIRD-YEAR OF PARTNERSHIP

URSA is a coalition of conservation organisations 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 prioritizes recognition, resources and representation for rangers around the world.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

In 2023, the Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA) made significant strides in fulfilling its Action Plan, many of which are highlighted throughout this report.

Secretariat planning meeting | 21-24 May, Johannesburg, South Africa

To strategize for 2024, both founding and new members — including the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) — gathered for a Secretariat meeting hosted by IRF in South Africa from May 21-24. During this crucial planning session, progress was assessed, and actions were reprioritized. Additionally, URSA was redefined to clarify its purpose and scope.





Consultative Meeting on the Role of Rangers | 26 September, Brussels, Belgium

This high-level meeting hosted by URSA partners 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).

[LEARN MORE >](#)

Code of Conduct translations continue

In 2023, the IRF Ranger Code of Conduct (CoC) was translated into Swahili and Portuguese, among other languages, to enhance its global accessibility. This work is part of ongoing efforts to spread awareness about the CoC and encourage its adaptation and implementation. The CoC was developed in 2020 in response to the need to professionalize rangers and as a requested outcome of the Chitwan Declaration (2019). It was developed following a global, iterative consultation process with rangers, ranger associations, ranger employers, national and regional government bodies, human rights organisations and other relevant stakeholders, reaching 1,280+ people across 50+ countries.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



IRF and URSA also published the following resources in 2023:

Rangers for 30 by 30



A framework for support from governments, agencies, donors and NGOs to implement Target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework. This document outlines how Target 3 can be achieved, through a commitment to ensuring that a diverse ranger workforce is able to deliver what has been agreed in a professional, responsible and accountable way

[LEARN MORE >](#)

Global Ranger Competences



A concise summary of skills, knowledge and personal qualities needed by a competent, professional ranger. 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.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

The Protected and Conserved Area Rangers Convention



A global standard for ranger employment and working conditions. The standard sets out the minimum generic conditions of work and employment that should apply for rangers working in any part of the world.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

Safeguarding the Rights and Well-being of Rangers

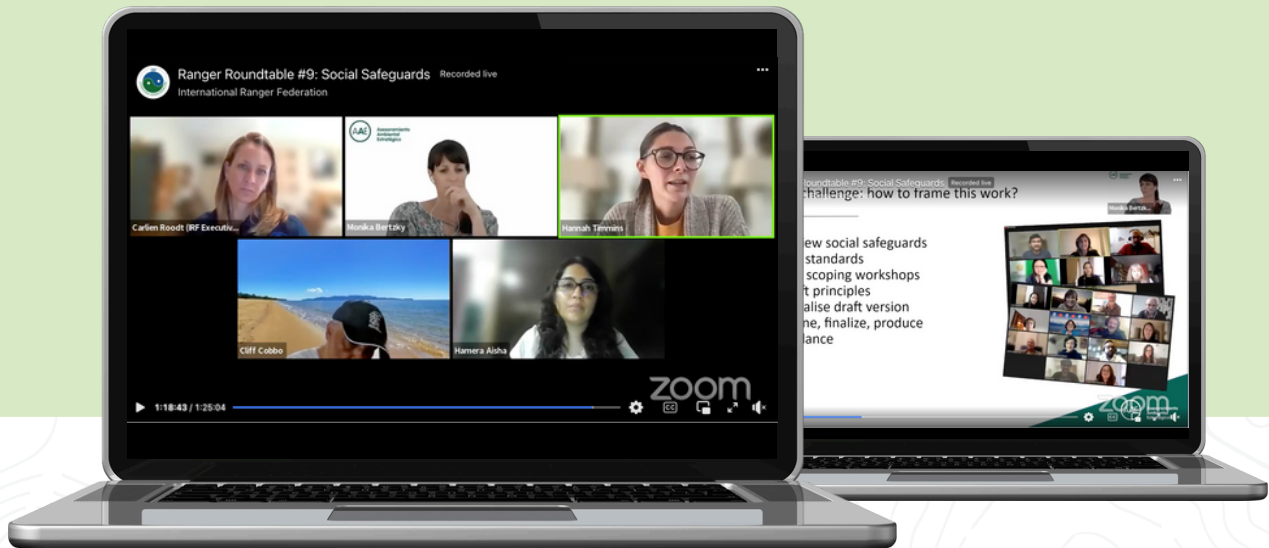


A framework to connect existing efforts to improve the working environment and conditions for rangers, while also filling identified gaps to ensure that rangers are (and feel) safe and supported.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

UNIVERSAL RANGER SUPPORT ALLIANCE PARTNERS





RANGER ROUNDTABLE WEBINARS CONTINUE CONNECTING THE DOTS, PROMPTING KEY CONVERSATIONS

Initiated in July 2020, the Ranger Roundtable Webinar series aims to serve as a vital function in promoting ‘ranger-to-ranger’ dialogue between the World Ranger congresses. They give voice to rangers, facilitate peer-to-peer knowledge transfer, spotlight important challenges and support ranger-led collaboration on solutions. The series is a collaboration between International Ranger Federation, The Thin Green Line Foundation and the Universal Ranger Support Alliance. The Ranger Roundtable has two forums: 1) Focus Sessions: aimed at leaders from global development, health and conservation organisations and 2) Webinars: aimed at rangers and ranger sector leaders.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

9th Ranger Roundtable Webinar | 29 June 2023

Over 50 participants gathered for this session to explore effective solutions for enhancing tools and strategies to better safeguard rangers and the communities they serve.

10th Ranger Roundtable Webinar | 7 September 2023

Over 40 participants joined to discuss the implications of the new Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted at COP15 in December 2022, for rangers.

These multi-partner online discussions aim to elevate the professional profile and support for rangers as vital frontline conservation workers. Initially, the series responded to the immediate impacts of COVID-19 on rangers, their communities, and Protected and Conserved Areas, while also advancing efforts to fulfill the Chitwan Declaration.



THIRD INTERNATIONAL RANGER AWARDS 2023 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 26th July, excellence in ranger work was recognized in the [Third International Ranger Awards 2023](#) hosted by the IUCN and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, in collaboration with the International Ranger Federation, Re:wild, Conservation Allies, Universal Ranger Support Alliance, IUCN US and WWF's Tigers Alive Initiative.

The International Ranger Awards are intended to improve rangers' capabilities, raise awareness about the critical role they play in conservation efforts, and help share rangers' unique stories and perspectives.



ANTON MZIMBA

Timbavati Private Nature Reserve, South Africa



Awarded in recognition of an exemplary career as a ranger and an inspirational leader.



Over 25 years, Anton Mzimba rose through the ranks to become Head of Ranger Services at Timbavati. His career was marked by selfless dedication, courage in the face of threats and danger, and loyalty to his team and the protected area. His perseverance, leadership and commitment to finding lasting solutions to the threats to the area have attracted international acclaim, and his personal story has inspired the next generation of Indigenous conservationists to follow in his footsteps. The tragic murder of Anton Mzimba in July 2022 shocked the world. His legacy lives on among all those he inspired, and in the places and with the animals he loved.



CRISTIAN ANDRÉS VÁSQUEZ

Bermúdez, Reserva Proaves El Dorado, Colombia



Awarded for perseverance, leadership, and achievement in researching and conserving one of the most biodiverse places on earth.



Coming from humble beginnings and overcoming extreme challenges, Cristián Andrés Vásquez Bermúdez has risen to become head ranger of El Dorado Bird Reserve. With his small team, he has endured threats to his life, while successfully tackling poaching, encroachment and forest fires in one of the most biodiverse and irreplaceable places on earth. As a self-taught expert naturalist, he is instrumental in saving numerous species from extinction and to discovering new and lost species. Cristián shares his passion and care with the local community, working with local children and community members to share the wonders of nature and the fruits of his team's work.



FETIYA OUSMAN

Babile Elephant Sanctuary, Ethiopia



Awarded for outstanding resoluteness and leadership, as a head ranger and a pioneer for gender equality.



Fetiya Ousman effectively and successfully leads a team of 60 rangers addressing poaching, encroachment and human wildlife conflict in Babile Elephant Sanctuary; until recently she was the only female member of the team. She has overcome cultural and personal challenges throughout her career and has brought new approaches to peaceably addressing the threats faced by the Sanctuary.

Her quick wit, attention to detail and loyalty to the office have endeared her to her colleagues, and her skilled, powerful communication and fight for gender equality have inspired more female rangers to join the team from the community.



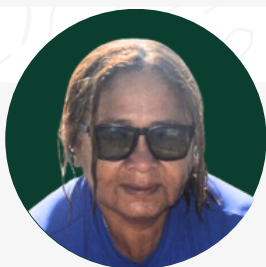
ISMAEL GÁLVEZ GÁLVEZ

El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve, Mexico

Awarded in recognition of more than 40 years' service as a ranger dedicated to protecting a unique ecosystem and promoting mutual trust between local inhabitants and park rangers.

A local community member, Ismael Gálvez Gálvez was the first ranger appointed to El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve in 1980. For more than 40 years he has dedicated himself to protecting the area, acting as a trusted mediator in times of conflict, assisting local communities in time of hardship, and guiding and inspiring generations of students and researchers.

Ismael's hard work and commitment to peace and cooperation have gained widespread respect among his colleagues, visitors, researchers and the communities of El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve.



MARIA BERNADETE SILVA BARBOSA

Brazil

Awarded for inspirational service to marine protected area management.

After 35 years of dedicated work in Marinho dos Abrolhos National Park, Maria Bernadete Silva Barbosa has become a symbol for the promotion of marine conservation in Brazil. She has overcome personal tragedy to become a leader and inspiration in protecting, patrolling and monitoring the Park.

She also works with her team, with fishers, community members, children, researchers and visitors to understand, communicate and respect the values of the park. Her deep knowledge of the area has enabled early detection of new threats such as coral bleaching. Her story and her achievements have earned immense local respect and national and international acclaim.



BIOLOGICAL CORRIDOR 3 RANGER TEAM (10 MEMBERS)

Bhutan

Awarded in recognition of major success in protecting tigers, other threatened species and their habitats.

Operating in remote and often dangerous territory, the Corridor 3 ranger team has demonstrated lasting and deep commitment to their work, taking pride in serving the community, conserving the natural environment, and protecting the tigers and other threatened species it supports.

They have contributed immensely towards minimising wildlife poaching, preventing illegal trade of wildlife products and mitigating human-wildlife conflict in the region, while also conducting exemplary monitoring and community education work.



ROYAL BELUM STATE PARK 'MENRAQ' TEAM (5 MEMBERS)

Malaysia



Awarded for exemplary achievements in community-led conservation of tigers.



'Menraq' is a group formed to mobilise the Indigenous Jahai community to protect the Malayan Tiger. They patrol the remote and hazardous landscapes of the Park, using modern technology and traditional knowledge to monitor wildlife, collect evidence of illegal activities and deter poachers. The team has secured a voice in the management of the Park, building understanding between the Park management and their community. Their dedication has led to an increase in tiger numbers in the Park and has been instrumental in Royal Belum State Park being awarded the Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CATS) in March 2023, the first such site in Southeast Asia.



DESNIANSKO-STAROHUTSKYI NATIONAL NATURE PARK RANGER TEAM (9 MEMBERS)

Ukraine

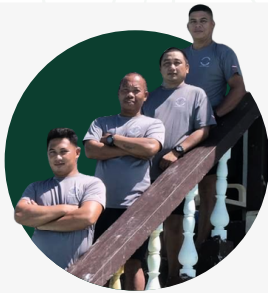


Awarded for exceptional dedication to conservation through peace-time and war.



For over 20 years, the women and men working in Desniansko-Starohutskyi National Nature Park have overcome challenging financial, material, social, legal and administrative challenges to achieve high levels of protection for the Park's biodiversity-rich wetlands and grasslands, a vital refuge for tens of thousands of migrating geese. Team members continued to perform their duties with selfless dedication in the face of war. During a month of occupation, they established the Park as a humanitarian hub, helping local residents. Following liberation, they have resumed operations in the face of constant danger, of shelling of their park infrastructure and of new threats to the Park.





TUBBATAHA REEFS NATURAL PARK RANGER TEAM (4 MEMBERS)

Philippine

**Awarded for dedicated
service and commitment as
marine rangers.**

Based on a remote island in Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, the ranger team, all local community members, lives in isolation for extended periods far from their families and from support. They have persevered in the face of COVID-19, personal problems, typhoons, injuries, sickness, and threats.

Alongside marine research and monitoring, and assisting and educating visitors, the team works tirelessly to intercept illegal fishers, and voluntarily assists in the education and rehabilitation of offenders. As a result of their work, initially resistant local communities have now been inspired to support the park.

“The winners of the 2023 IUCN WCPA International Ranger Awards have been recognised for their extraordinary achievements; the judges were astonished and moved by their stories. The winners are also ambassadors for the 286,000 dedicated women and men in the global family of rangers, whose service on our behalves should not be taken for granted,”



**MICHAEL
APPLETON**

Vice Chair

IUCN WCPA Capacity
Development Thematic
Group and Director of
Protected Area Management



[LEARN MORE >](#)

INTERNATIONAL RANGER AWARDS ARE SUPPORTED BY





THE FOREST AND COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE KICKS OFF FIRST DIALOGUE EVENTS, HIGHLIGHTING BEST PRACTICES

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 >](#)

Throughout 2023, the Forest and Communities Initiative (FCI) united multidisciplinary actors and changemakers from across the world for important dialogue. These initiatives have helped strengthen relationships across relevant groups working towards supporting the invaluable role of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in protecting the world's forests. These virtual and in-person events also enabled platforms for multi-sectoral dialogue on best practices on rights-based and gender-just approaches in forest conservation, with concrete takeaways for all involved. IRF looks forward to building on this work in 2024.

THE FOREST AND COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

Webinar series | 28 March & 17 April

IRF was centrally involved in kicking off FCI's webinar series on 28 March, with the first uniting **70 participants from more than 40 countries**. The event focused on two paramount topics:

- The first session, held on 28 March, "Effective conservation methodology for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities," featured Claudio Marett, an expert from Brazil and Ramiro Batzin from Soz'íl Guatemala as panellists.
- The second session, held on 17 April, was dedicated to "Rights-based approach and gender-just approach in forest conservation," and featured voices from across the world, including Valentina Figueroa (Brazil), Bhola Bhattarai (Nepal) and Andrea Echeverri (Colombia). Participants actively engaged in both discussions, which were moderated by Mónica Alvarez, IRF Federation Officer, and the Global Forest Coalition, respectively.

First International Conference | 21-23 November

The virtual dialogue sessions culminated in FCI's first International Conference, held from 21-23 November, entitled: "Inclusive conservation: Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at the forefront of forest protection." Representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities from around the world, together with experts and renowned scientists, met in Monaco to address the challenges of conserving forest ecosystems through an inclusive approach. A comprehensive program put together by the FCI focused on concrete policy actions and takeaways. The milestone event ended with a call for action signed by all participants, in favour of fairer, more inclusive and more sustainable models of forest conservation. Regional Ranger Association Representatives from Latin America, Asia, Africa, Europe and from the Oceania Ranger Council participated in the event, representing the voices of rangers across their constituencies.

EVENT RECORDING





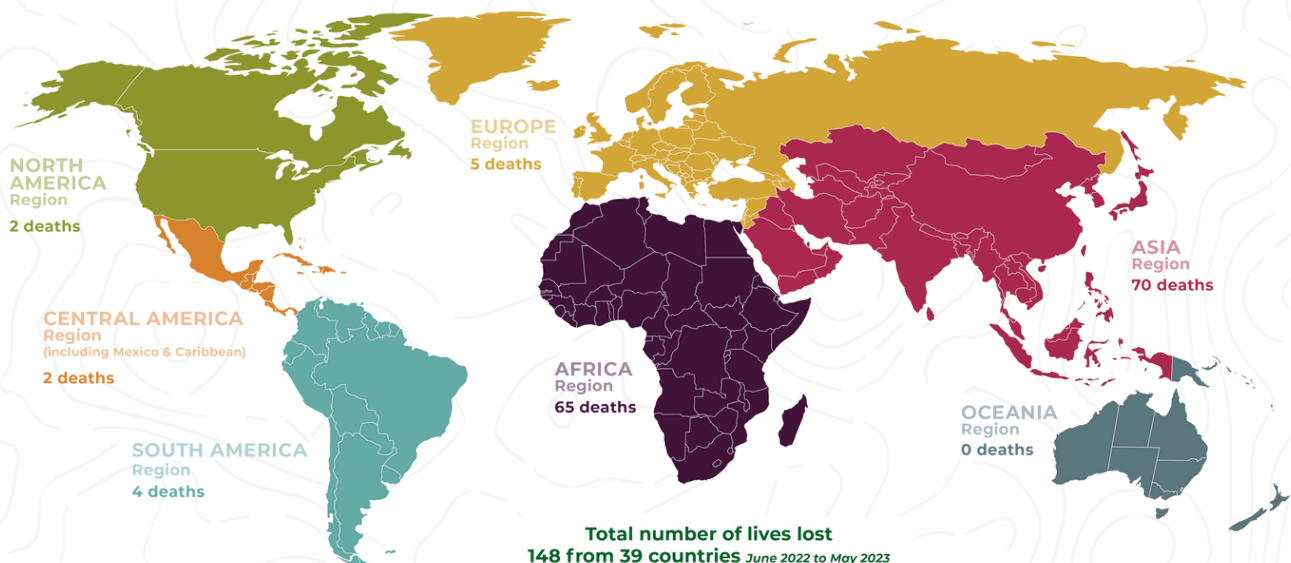
WORLD RANGER DAY 2023 SMASHES RECORDS

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.

[WATCH THE VIDEO HERE](#)



WORLD RANGER DAY 2023 ROLL OF HONOUR Recognising Ranger Deaths in the Line of Duty June 2022 to May 2023



The 148 rangers from 39 countries named on this 2023 Roll of Honour are only those who have been reported to and verified by the IRF. This is not the global picture of Line-of-Duty ranger deaths as there are many countries where it is difficult to access reliable information. In acknowledging these 148 names, we also recognise those unknown rangers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice defending the world's protected areas.

To report Ranger deaths please email: executiveofficer@internationalrangers.org | The International Ranger Federation www.internationalrangers.org
Support the families of rangers who have died in the line of duty www.thingreenline.org.au/donate | info@thingreenline.org.au

2023 theme

The 2023 World Ranger Day theme was **'30 by 30'**, based on the 2022 United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15), where a Global Biodiversity Framework was agreed upon by world leaders and decision-makers. *Target 3 outlined a requirement that at least 30 percent of the planet is effectively conserved and managed by 2030 ('30 by 30')*. Our messaging this World Ranger Day echoed an overlooked reality: **This target cannot be achieved without adequately resourced and trained area-based workforce.**

Reaching over 6 million people

In line with this theme, the IRF supported the Force for Nature's 30x30 Campaign, alongside URSA partners, which issued the following challenge: share [the World Ranger Day video](#) two million times to unlock USD 10,000 in donations for IRF.

We exceeded our goal by 312%. 6,244,988 people and counting have seen the video, showing the power of collaboration across partner teams.

Roll of Honor 2023 Summary

From June 2022 to May 2023, **148 rangers across the world lost their lives while on service.** This includes animal attacks, homicides, death on duty, occupational accidents and unfortunately, second most through vehicles accidents.

- Most rangers were lost in Asia, and 2nd most in Africa, with homicides and vehicle accidents among the greatest contributors to death.

[LEARN MORE >](#)





WORLD RANGER DAY 2023

ROLL OF HONOUR

Recognising Ranger Deaths in the Line of Duty
Deaths by Region/Country - June 2022 to May 2023



AFRICA Region (65 deaths)

Benin	Nestor Naka	Car crash on duty
Botswana	un-named	Vehicle overturned
Burkina Faso	Alidou Alexis Kiy	Went missing on patrol
Burkina Faso	Idrissa Belemouigou	Went missing on patrol
Burundi	Niyonzima Schadrack	Hippo attack
Cameroon	Blaise Saoulhou	Shot by poachers
Cameroon	Enyang Julius Ayuk	Killed by timber traffickers
Central African Republic	Éric Rama Doungous	Ambushed by insurgents
Cote d'Ivoire	Ballo Vanoumahan	Died from head injury
D R Congo	Mahomet Meddy Kengu	Killed by Mai Mai
D R Congo	Benoit Hakizimana Ndamira	Killed by Mai Mai
D R Congo	Pascal Fatakanwe Tulinabo	Killed by Mai Mai
D R Congo	Alain Lukinga	Attacked by illegal miners
D R Congo	Paluku Mahamba Ovide	Hippo poaching firefight
D R Congo	Musubao Mubulya Justin	Hippo poaching firefight
D R Congo	Muhindo Kasay Nickson	Hippo poaching firefight
D R Congo	Kakule Nzonda Djiku	Convoy ambush by Mai Mai
D R Congo	Ngerageze Kamuzungu Daniel	Convoy ambush by Mai Mai
D R Congo	Paluku Kiyana	Died in Mai Mai attack
D R Congo	Jean-Luc Sekibibi Munyekuri	Accident during duty mission
D R Congo	Théophile Janvier Sebutama	Accident during duty mission
D R Congo	Papy Akilimali Kwabo	On-duty crash
D R Congo	Ushindi Banyungu Jean	Vehicle overturned
Ethiopia	Ayta Torsi	Shot in the park
Ethiopia	Atnafu Isho	Shot by poachers
Kenya	Aron Onyapindi Osere	Drowned chasing illegal loggers
Kenya	Geoffrey Matanya Tabu	Drowned chasing illegal loggers
Kenya	Daniel Eboaso Ambale	Drowned chasing illegal loggers
Kenya	Ali Hamza Kimango	Killed by Al Shabaab IED
Kenya	Lodiye Ngathiki Kukmi	Killed by livestock rustlers
Kenya	Mark Jenkins	Died piloting patrol plane
Kenya	Peter Jenkins	Died in above plane crash
Kenya	Amos Mutisya Rukia	Vehicle crash during firefighting
Kenya	Peter Kisilu	Work related accident
Malawi	Pemphero Tambala	Killed by elephant
Malawi	Isaac Katunga	Trampled by elephants
Malawi	Ivano Banda	Killed by buffalo
Malawi	Bendius Amasi	Hacked to death by poachers
Mali	Mamadou Seyba	Killed in jihadist attack
Mali	Youssef Diarra	Killed in jihadist attack
Mali	Ousmane Tall	Killed in armed attack
Mali	Un Agent Eaux et Forêts	Suspected jihadist attack
Mali	Un Garde du Forêts	Suspected jihadist attack
Mozambique	Fernando Mavunbi Salimo	Cerebral malaria
Niger	Seyni Mamoudou	Killed by armed individuals
Niger	Mamoudou Hombo	Terrorists attacked his post
Nigeria	Yahya Halidu Balarabe	Shot dead on duty
Nigeria	Muraina Ayoola	Killed by kidnappers
Senegal	Kéba Gueye	Motorcycle collision
Senegal	Safiatou Sané	Motorcycle collision
South Africa	Kabelo Mashao	Gored by elephant
South Africa	Anton Mzimba	Assassinated
South Sudan	Mario Akayak Haworu	Shot during attack
Tanzania	Taiko Olesalei Marau	Buffalo attack
Tanzania	Mathias Abraham Mgongolwa	Drowned pursuing a poacher
Tanzania	James Chacha Kalomba	Attacked by cattle herders
Tanzania	Shinini Simel Mayang'ui	Died from injuries
Tanzania	Bernard Shayo	Patrol plane crash
Tanzania	Aman Mgogollo	Patrol plane crash
Tanzania	TANAPA Ranger	Patrol plane crash
Uganda	Samuel Loware	Collapsed on duty
Uganda	Charles Okawa	Died in firefight with poachers
Zambia	Langson Mapulanga	Attacked by elephants
Zambia	Happy Kasonde	Attacked by elephant
Zambia	Stanley Ng'andwe	Shot by poachers

ASIA Region (70 deaths)

Bhutan	Pema Tshering	Fatal fall
India	Budhram Rotiya	Killed by elephant
India	Jasbin Salkar Aind	Trampled by elephant
India	Kishore Kumar	Elephant attack
India	M. Murugan	Trampled by elephant
India	T. Kalpur Hussain	Elephant attack
India	Sarat Ghadei	Trampled by elephant
India	Mahadeva Swamy	Trampled by elephant
India	Shakthivel	Trampled/gored by elephant
India	Noushad	Trampled by elephant
India	Pradip Borah	Wild elephant attack
India	Lakshmi Naryana	Trampled by elephant
India	Jaroop Singh Saini	Snake bite
India	Bomma	Trampled by elephant

India	Taniu Dupit	Unexplained on-duty death
India	Subramanian	Collapsed on duty
India	Rambabu Verma	Discovered collapsed
India	Anand	Epileptic attack on patrol
India	Prabin Boro	Died from respiratory problem
India	Tarun Kumar	Found in river
India	M.H.Chinnappa	Fell into lake
India	Mofij Ali	Drowning while on patrol
India	S.J.Sundares	Died 80% burns
India	Bidya Singh Lehte	Killed by timber mafia truck
India	Srinivasa Rao	Stabbed to death by tribals
India	Bimal Kumar Jena	Shot by poacher
India	Nandu Rawat	Slipped and fell into gorge
India	Dharmeswar Basumatari	Fall at anti-poaching camp
India	Jhooja Siddhi	Electrocuted
India	Babu	Slipped and fell
India	Manoj Kumar Srivastava	Road traffic accident
India	Naren Rabha	Railway accident
India	Bhuwan Chandra	Road traffic accident
India	Sambit Das	Knocked down
India	Jagdish Maru	On duty-Car crash
India	Himanshu Verma	On duty-Car crash
India	Muhammad Ashraf	Car fell into gorge
India	Kishore Lal Bahuguna	Bus overturned at checkpoint
India	Suryakant Mehra	On duty-Car crash
India	Narendra Kumar	Motorbike accident while on duty
India	Gyaneshwar	Patrol M/cycle crash.
India	Shankar Anand Bhatt	Official vehicle crashed
Indonesia	Gunawan Saifullah	Struck by falling tree
Indonesia	Pak Sudirman	Struck by falling tree
Iran	Mohammad Farahmand	Shot by illegal hunters
Iran	Reza Bahrampour	Shot by illegal hunters
Iran	Boroumand Najafi	Shot dead outside court
Iran	Mohammad Asadi	On-duty accident
Malaysia	Joe Fred Lansou	Gored by pygmy elephant
Malaysia	Fadil al Sah	Died from malaria
Malaysia	Muhammad Nazli bin Ajis	Line of duty death
Malaysia	Rainbow bin Taboi	Sepsis from forest infection
Pakistan	Muhammad Dar	Heart attack on duty
Pakistan	Mushtaq Ahmad Shaheed	Shot by timber smugglers
Pakistan	Mohammad Adnan Khan	Slipped and fell into gorge
Pakistan	Ijaz Ahmed	Motorbike accident while on duty
Sri Lanka	Ishara Madusanka Wanasooriya	Trampled by elephant
Sri Lanka	Thushara Meththananda	Trampled by elephant
Sri Lanka	Praboda Wijekoon	Elephant attack
Thailand	Arthit Phiewngam	Elephant attack
Thailand	Somphop Sri-Ngam	Elephant attack
Thailand	Aphinan Kongket	Cold water shock
Thailand	Thanongdej Sunthornworachan	Shot by poacher
Thailand	Suwan Muenthong	Shot by vehicle smugglers
Thailand	Anantasak Seethon	Killed in ranger station
Thailand	Pongsuwan Chalona	Vehicle accident
Thailand	Parinya Boonpanya	Motorcycle collision
Thailand	Aknarin Kongkae	Motorbike accident
Vietnam	Ha Dinh Phuong	Swept away in river
Vietnam	Le Viet Huong	Stabbed to death by intruder

CENTRAL AMERICA Region (2 deaths)

Belize	Norman Williams	ATV rollover on duty
Costa Rica	Roberto Molina Ugalde	Died following patrol

EUROPE Region (5 deaths)

Spain	Juan Pedro de la Cruz Sagredo	Car swept away in floods
Turkey	Mehmet Ali Koşar	Shot by snake eagle poachers
Ukraine	Serhii Salivonik	Car ran over a mine
Ukraine	Sergei Plev	Car hit with small arms fire
Ukraine	Vladimir Dmitrenko	Killed by shrapnel

NORTH AMERICA Region (2 deaths)

USA	Louis (Phil) Navarro	Heart attack at work
USA	Collin Hagan	Killed by falling tree

OCEANIA Region No Ranger Line of Duty Deaths

SOUTH AMERICA Region (4 deaths)

Brazil	Janildo Oliveira Guajajara	Ambushed
Brazil	Jael Carlos Miranda	Deliberately run over
Chile	Jorge Salvo Vergara	Cardiac arrest
Peru	Eddenson Yomar Tume Negrón	Lost control of vehicle

The Unknown Ranger

Total number of lives lost - 148 from 39 countries
(June 2022 to May 2023)

The International Ranger Federation www.internationalrangers.org

SEE PAST ROH DATA



IRF IMPROVES ORGANISATION'S RESILIENCE AS A RESULT OF FAUNA AND FLORA SMALL GRANT

The IRF received Fauna and Flora International's 'Conservation Resilience Small Grant Fund' to start operationalizing our Organisational Strategy and set a strong foundation for future growth and long-term resilience.



Main outcomes of this grant include:

- A draft Operational Strategy ready to be shared with IRF membership;
- Staff trained on donor outreach;
- Financial Analysis developed to understand where IRF needs to focus on in future years to become resilient;
- Dialogue and collaboration between Regional Ranger Associations and IRF Bodies
- Communication channels active across three languages;
- State of the Ranger final phase secured to be published at the upcoming World Ranger Congress.

DIALOGUE WITH THE INSURANCE SECTOR ON AVENUES TO IMPROVE RANGER SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

Safeguarding rangers and the services they provide through equitable and accessible insurance continues to be a key point of focus for IRF. Along these lines, we've continued strengthening our engagement with the insurance sector. In November, the IRF, United for Wildlife and the Universal Ranger Support Alliance, organised a meeting that brought together conservation and insurance experts to explore a collaborative and meaningful approach to insurance. We thank Boston Consulting Group (BCG) Singapore for hosting the meeting.



IRF LAUNCHES A REVAMPED WEBSITE

In line with World Ranger Day 2023, the IRF also launched a fully revamped website. It includes a refreshed look, a more organized 'Resources' section, Postcards from the Field, and a whole host of other information and tools for ranger teams across the world. Access it now here:

[LEARN MORE >](#)





GEARING UP FOR THE 10th IRF WORLD RANGER CONGRESS

The IRF World Ranger Congress brings together Rangers from all over the world, giving them the opportunity to learn new skills, share knowledge and create partnerships. It occurs every three years in a different location, allowing host countries from each IRF region to raise the profile of Rangers locally and internationally. It allows them to showcase their successes, to identify how they're addressing their regional challenges and share their knowledge and skills with colleagues from around the world.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

On 24 November, a crucial meeting took place in preparation for the 10th IRF World Ranger Congress in Hyères, France. We shared a detailed presentation of the congress with our French partners, highlighting the essential involvement of several organizations.

Special thanks to:

Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères, Ministère de la Transition écologique et de la Cohésion des territoires, Office français de la biodiversité, Région Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Métropole TPM, Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco, Fédération des réserves naturelles de France, Conservatoire du littoral, Mairie de Hyeres, Office du tourisme de Hyères Agence Française de Développement, Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial Commission européenne. These collaborations will contribute to making this event an unforgettable experience.

Summary of past World Ranger Congresses:



2019

Chitwan, Nepal

Declarations

[ENGLISH >](#)

[ESPAÑOL >](#)



2016

Estes Park, Colorado, USA

Declarations

[ENGLISH >](#)

[ESPAÑOL >](#)



2012

Arusha, Tanzania

Declarations

[ENGLISH >](#)

[ESPAÑOL >](#)



2009

Santa Cruz, Bolivia

Declarations

[ENGLISH 1 >](#)

[ENGLISH 2 >](#)

[ESPAÑOL 1 >](#)

[ESPAÑOL 2 >](#)



2006

Stirling, Scotland

Declarations

[ENGLISH >](#)



2003

Wilsons Promontory National Park, Australia

Declarations

[ENGLISH >](#)



2000

Kruger National Park, South Africa

Declarations

[ENGLISH 1 >](#)

[ENGLISH 2 >](#)

[ESPAÑOL 1 >](#)

[ESPAÑOL 2 >](#)



1997

San Jose, Costa Rica

Declarations

[ENGLISH >](#)

[ESPAÑOL >](#)



1995

Zakopane, Poland

Declarations

[ENGLISH >](#)

[ESPAÑOL >](#)





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FIRST STATE OF THE RANGER REPORT COMING SOON

The International Ranger Federation (IRF) as the global representative body for rangers, is leading the development of the first ever report on the global state of the ranger profession, which will be published at the next 10th IRF World Ranger Congress in Giens Peninsula, Hyères, France in October 2024.

In September 2023, IRF and the University of Central Florida kicked off the data collection phase in our ambition to launch the world's first State of the Ranger report. An online survey for rangers and ranger employers was circulated across our ranger networks. The survey included 17 languages and **1300+ rangers and 420+ employers from over 80 countries completed the survey.**

What?

The report will be the first global baseline of where the ranger profession currently stands, including the assimilation of the best available, internationally comparable data on the ranger workforce.

When?

The State of the Ranger Report will be published every 3-4 years during the IRF World Ranger Congress. This will enable the comparison of data with previous reports in order to track the level of progress against global efforts and investments channeled towards improving the ranger sector.

Why?

We know that rangers play a key role as planetary health professionals in the current biodiversity and climate crisis. Despite the significant value to humanity and the environment, the work of rangers is not recognized as a profession by the International Labour Organization. **The report aims to raise the profile of rangers, their role as an essential planetary service so that it gets the much-needed support it deserves.**

How?

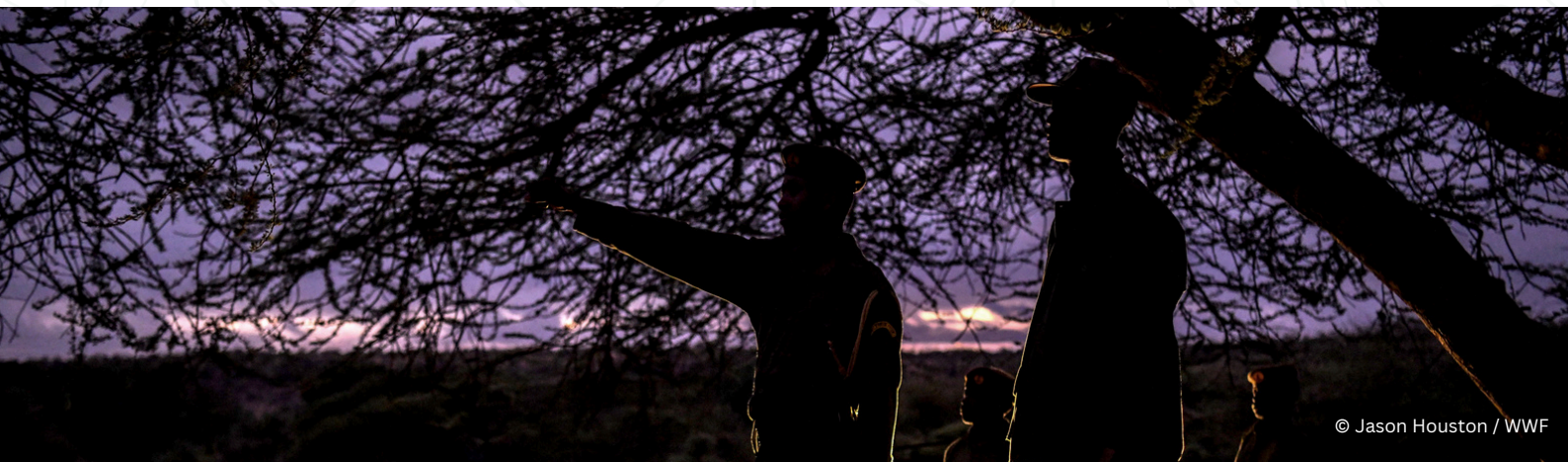
The IRF, with the support of Re:wild and Fauna and Flora International through the URSA partnership, has provided funding to initiate the project. To date, the framework and surveys have been developed through a participative and collaborative process among regional ranger associations, experienced professionals from NGOs and academic institutions that form the action group. A wider advisory committee has been established, which provides oversight and guidance to the process.

IRF BECOMES AN NGO REGISTERED IN THE UNITED STATES

In 2023, The International Ranger Federation (IRF) was incorporated in the United States (California incorporation #575182) as a nonprofit, public benefit, charitable, and tax-exempt (U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) 501(c)(3)) organisation, U.S. Tax ID number 93-1900925.

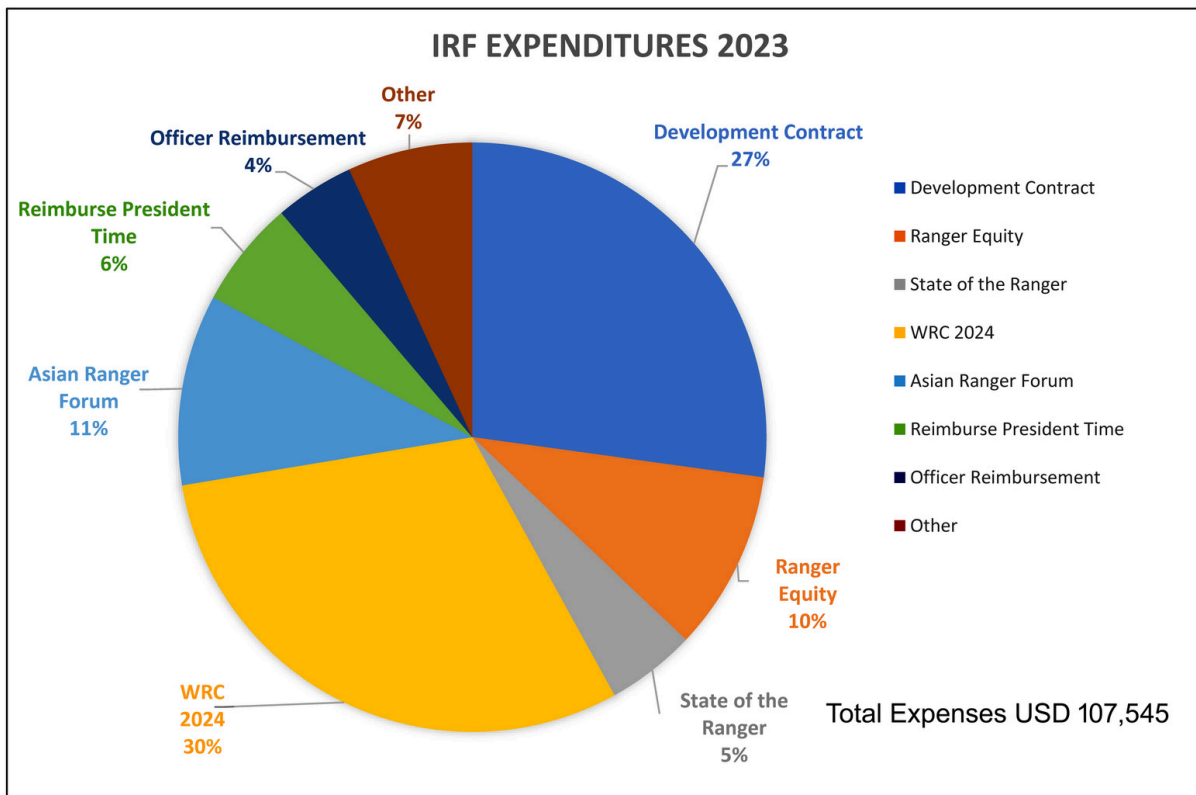
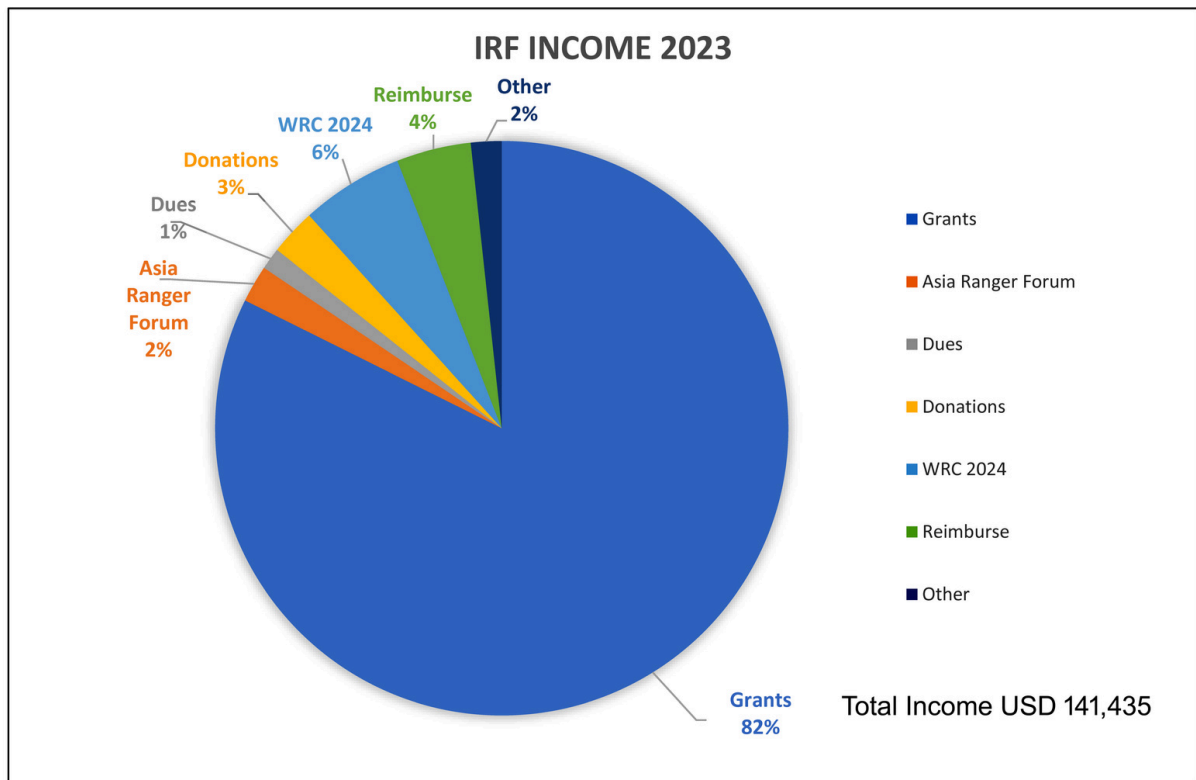
Our official registration statement:

The International Ranger Federation (IRF) is incorporated in the United States (California incorporation #575182) as a nonprofit, public benefit, charitable, and tax-exempt (U.S Internal Revenue Service (IRS) 501(c)(3)) organisation, U.S. Tax ID Number 93-1900925.



IRF SHARES FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2023

In 2023, IRF's total income was USD 141,435 and total expenditure was USD 107,545.



Net Income USD 33,891

The Force For Nature Ranger App

A **free** online community connecting Rangers around the world, for social interaction, knowledge exchange and training

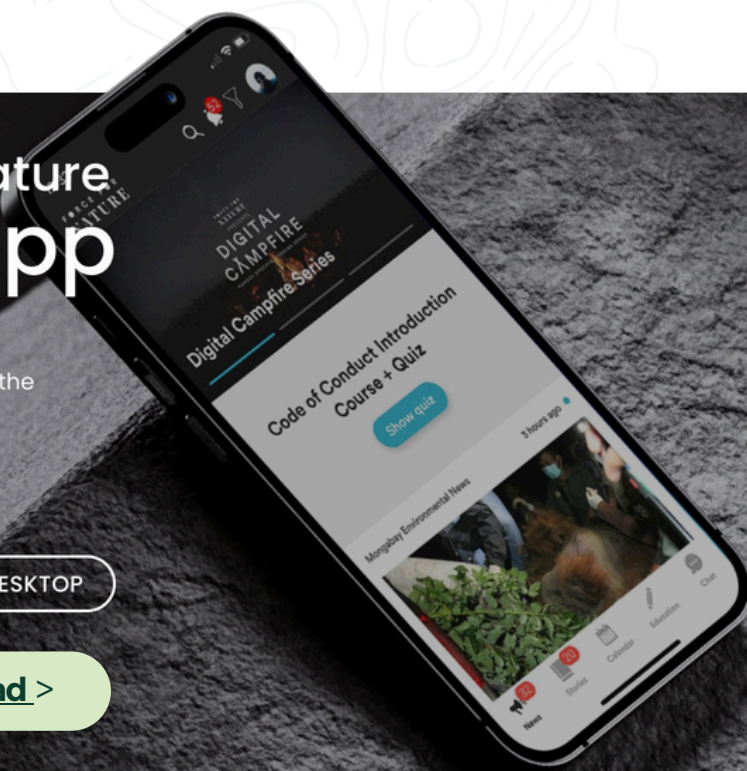
Download:

IOS

ANDROID

DESKTOP

[Click here to download >](#)



FORCE FOR NATURE'S 'RANGER APP' CONTINUES TO UNITE RANGERS AND SPUR DIALOGUE

The Force for Nature Ranger App connects tens of thousands of Rangers to each other, with more than 80 countries already represented.

Record number of publications

In 2023, the Ranger App hosted more than 1,732 publications, a testament to the growing sense of community among platform users.

'Digital Campfire' training sessions

More than 277 participants united for eight 'Digital Campfire' training sessions, key ranger-led dialogue events that promote learning and build community. Topics in 2023 ranged from 'Bushcraft for rangers' to 'First aid for remote areas' and 'The courage of female rangers.'

World Ranger Day 2023

In 2023, the Force for Nature launched a 30x30 Campaign, alongside URSA partners including IRF, which spotlighted how rangers contribute towards Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Force for Nature also issued a challenge: share [the World Ranger Day video](#) two million times to unlock USD 10,000 in donations for IRF. The world united to achieve this goal, with more than 6 million people viewing the video across platforms.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



REGIONAL SNAPSHOTS

REGIONAL RANGER ASSOCIATIONS UNITE TO SHARE LESSONS, STRENGTHEN TRANSBOUNDARY COORDINATION

In 2023, IRF organized the first-ever meetings with Regional Ranger Association Representatives. The objective of these meetings was to encourage dialogue on contexts across regional ranger associations in an effort to spur learning, collaboration and future growth. These fruitful discussions included a focus on associations' history, challenges and their future priorities as well as opportunities for regional and international alignment.

In-person meeting in Monaco | 23 November 2023

On the backs of the [Forest and Communities Initiative's first conference](#), Regional Ranger Association representatives from the Latin America Ranger Federation (FLG), Asian Ranger Federation (ARF), Game Rangers Association of Africa (GRAA), European Ranger Federation (ERF) and from the Oceania Ranger Council (CORA) met for their first-ever in-person meeting. Regional priorities and opportunities for collaboration were discussed.

Virtual meeting | 19 December 2023

The in-person event spurred an additional virtual meeting, which kicked off with a welcome message from Chris Galliers, IRF President. This was followed by detailed presentations from representatives from the Game Rangers Association of Africa (GRAA), Latin America Ranger Federation (FLG), Asian Ranger Federation (ARF) and the Council of Oceania Ranger Associations (CORA), with each representative illuminating challenges, opportunities and needs across regional contexts.

ASIA

WORKSHOP AT THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WILDLIFE OF SAUDI ARABIA

From 30 July - 3 August 2023, IRF assisted a workshop held by the National Centre for Wildlife of Saudi Arabia under the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Marine and Terrestrial Park rangers and managers as well as protected area managers and park staff from Royal Commissions and National Protected Areas attended the workshop.

Key outcomes include:

- Received guidance on setting frameworks for national Ranger Competencies, aligned with the Global Ranger Competences developed by the IRF with the support of URSA.
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre's CEO, that looked at longer term collaboration with IRF in developing Saudi Arabia's ranger workforce. Meetings with the Head of Conservation, General Manager of Terrestrial Environments and the General Manager of the Marine Environment were also held.

The workshop also included a site visit to a number of protected areas, particularly Saudi Arabia's stronghold for the Ibex (*Capra aegagrus*), where IRF met with park managers and rangers. The visit helped instil a ground-level understanding of the challenges that they faced and how these challenges are universal across the ranger workforce.





A SUCCESSFUL FIRST-EVER ASIAN RANGER FORUM

The 1st Asian Ranger Forum (ARF) was held in Guwahati, India, from December 5-8, 2023. The event was attended by 168 participants from 21 countries. More than 61% of attendees were active rangers, 23% were women, and 31% identified as Indigenous people or local community members.

The three-day event provided a unique opportunity for rangers and organisations supporting rangers from all over Asia to share knowledge, create partnerships and build capacity through plenary sessions, workshops, training and other activities.

The forum also focused on the role of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in protecting biodiversity and their role in the delivery of the Global Biodiversity Framework. *We thank all our regional and national co-hosts and associations, including Aaranyak, the Ranger Federation of Asia, the International Ranger Federation, the Universal Ranger Support Alliance, the Assam Forest Department and the All India Forest Officers Federation.*

[LEARN MORE >](#)



A HISTORIC DECLARATION

The Asian Ranger Forum's Guwahati Declaration recognised that Asia is home to 70% of the world's Indigenous People and emphasized the crucial role Indigenous People, local communities, women and other underrepresented groups play in effective protected and conserved area management. It also underlined the pressing need to improve access to equal opportunity ranger employment without prejudice or any form of discrimination and put in place anti-discrimination training, policies and monitoring systems that are communicated and enforced throughout all levels of the ranger workforce.

"Asia is a highly biodiverse region, yet it has lost half of its natural capital in the last 50 years alone. Rangers serve as critical biodiversity guardians, safeguarding Asia's rich wildlife and ecosystems and enabling the achievement of the Global Biodiversity Framework's target of effectively conserving and managing 30% of the planet's land mass, oceans, coastal areas and inland waters by 2030 (30 by 30)."

[READ MORE >](#)

ANNOUNCING THE RANGER FEDERATION OF ASIA'S NEWEST PRESIDENT, BUNTY TAO

At the first Asian Ranger Forum, Bundy Tao was welcomed as the Ranger Federation of Asia's new President. He has worked under the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, India for 30 years as an Indigenous ranger from the Nishi tribe, in various capacities. He has been passionate about environment and biodiversity conservation since a young age and discovered a new species of tortoise, *Manouria Impressa* (Impressed Tortoise) in India, increasing India's turtle species number from 28 to 29. Bundy was selected to attend 9th WRC at Nepal in 2019 by the Government of India and was invited by the 2nd Asia Park Congress (APC) to be a panel member in side events at Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia in May 2022, where he spoke about his experience as an Indigenous ranger and his role in the tribal communities. Bundy currently works as a Range Forest Officer in Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary, Wakro, Lohit district, Arunachal Pradesh.

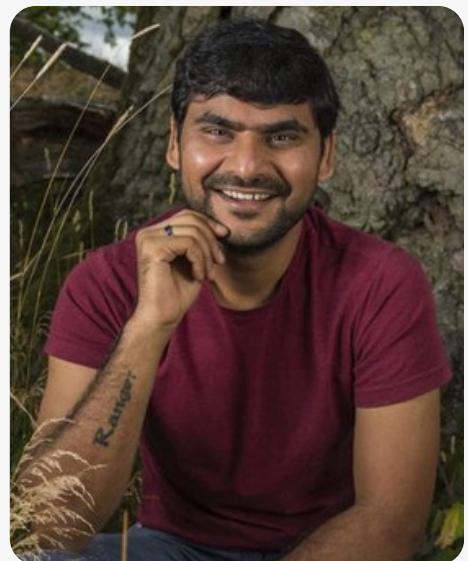
[READ MORE >](#)



RECOGNIZING THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT, ROHIT SINGH

As the ranger community welcomed Bundy Tao in his new leadership role, IRF also recognized Rohit Singh, the outgoing RFA president, for his significant contributions to the Asian ranger community, especially his leadership at the 9th World Ranger Congress. Rohit will continue to serve RFA as an advisor. Learn more about him and other leaders [here](#).

[WATCH HIS OUTGOING MESSAGE >](#)



AFRICA

WILDLIFE RANGER CHALLENGE 2023

The Wildlife Ranger Challenge is the world's largest celebration of solidarity, support and fundraising for the ranger profession, launched in 2020 in response to the global pandemic. More than a 100 teams of rangers spanning the African continent compete every year in a series of challenges through June-September, culminating in a 21km race across their respective protected areas in September. It is coordinated by Tusk and the Game Rangers Association of Africa.

On 16 September 2023, more than 1,500 rangers from 103 teams spanning the diverse and varied terrains of Africa's protected areas competed in a coordinated 21 km race across their respective landscapes.

What's different in 2023?

For the first time, select teams gathered at different locations in Kenya, Zambia, South Africa, and Uganda for regional 'hub events', allowing ranger teams to compete directly with their regional counterparts.

The top three teams at the WRC23 were:

- African People & Wildlife — Tarangire National Park — Tarangire Ecosystem Team (A) — Tanzania — 2:01:25
- African People & Wildlife — Tarangire National Park — Tarangire Ecosystem Team (B) — Tanzania — 2:04:26
- Gonarezhou National Park — Gonarezhou Conservation Trust Team — Zimbabwe — 2:20:07

[READ MORE](#)





AFRICAN CONSERVATION AWARDS 2023

The 2023 African Conservation Awards ceremony was held on 16 September, hosted by the Game Rangers' Association of Africa (GRAA) and sponsored by CNEI, at the Southern African Wildlife College in Greater Kruger, South Africa. These prestigious awards recognise outstanding conservation work across the continent. The primary objective of the awards is to give recognition to the leading role players in African conservation and in doing so raise awareness of their amazing work.

Reflecting on the journey that led to the 2023 gathering, Dr. Larry Hansen, the visionary Founder of the African Conservation Awards said, "13 years ago on a visit to The Kruger National Park, there were three rhinos poached on the day I arrived. This shocking day led me to start the Rhino Conservation Awards 12 years ago together with Ms. Yu to honor and celebrate the brave conservation heroes that protect and do research on our wildlife, which later became the African Conservation Awards."

[LEARN MORE >](#)

RUN FOR RANGERS BABANANGO EDITION

Founded by Harry Bailey, Run for Rangers, endorsed by the International Ranger Federation and the Game Rangers Association of Africa, raises awareness and funds, through a fully immersive experience centred around running. 2023 saw the second-ever Run for Rangers event, which was held over the course of two days in the Babanango Game Reserve in Zululand, with participants completing 50 km on both days. To complete the challenge, they needed to average between seven and nine minutes per kilometre which, in the rugged surrounds, was not a simple requirement.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

LATIN AMERICA RANGER FEDERATION MEETS IN ARGENTINA TO WORK ON WORKING CONDITIONS OF RANGERS

From 27 March - 3 April, the Latin American Ranger Federation (FLG) organised its first meeting at the Center for Training in Protected Areas of the National Parks Administration (APN), city of Embalse, Province of Córdoba, Argentina. FLG was re-established in 2019 at the Congress of Protected Areas of Latin America and the Caribbean in Lima, Peru, as an alternative entity to face new regional challenges and strengthen regional cohesion in the wake of growing opportunities and threats. This initial meeting marks an important step forward in this ambition.

8 organizations from 7 countries (Argentina, Ecuador, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay) attended the event in-person. The National Council of Park Rangers Chile, the Dominican Association of Park Rangers, the Association of Park Rangers of the Federal District (Brazil), the Association of Park Rangers of Amapá (Brazil) and the Park Rangers Association of São Paulo also participated through virtual media.



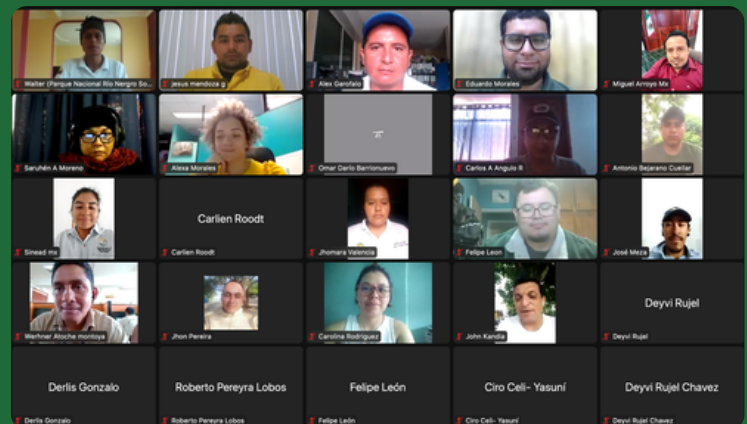
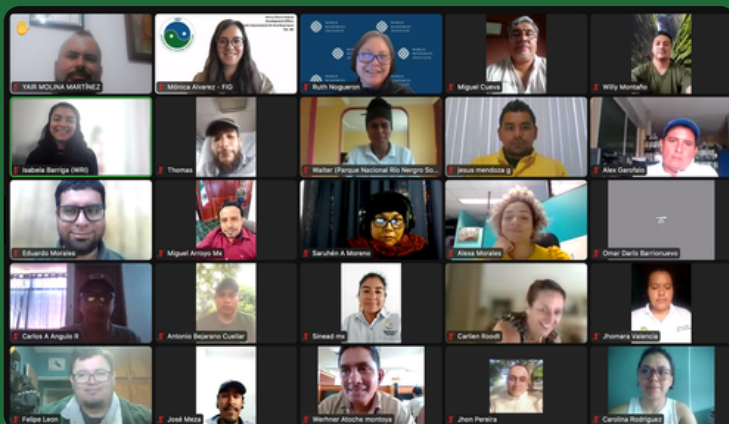
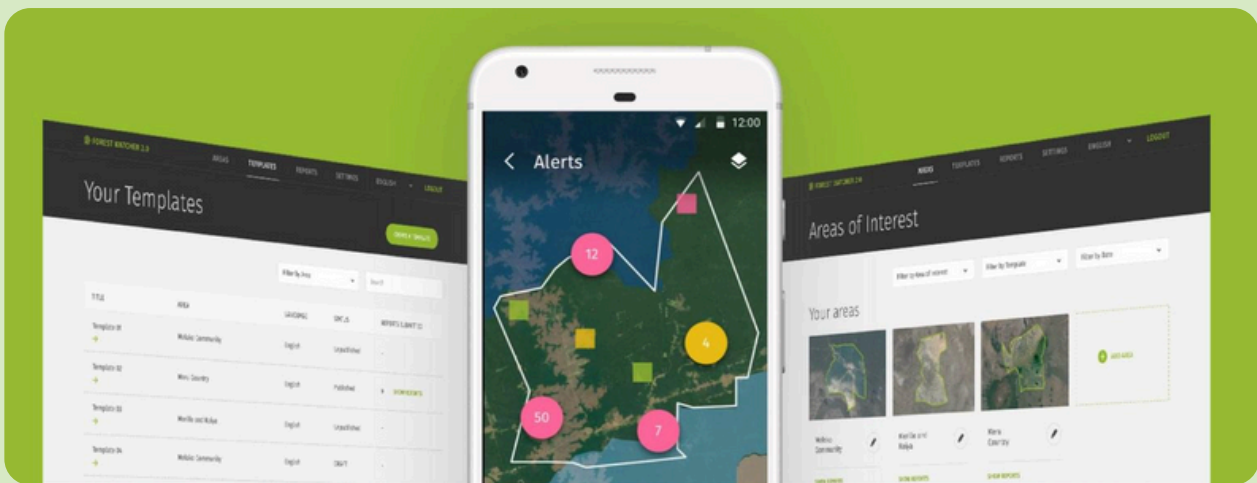
GLOBAL FOREST WATCH TRAINING BY WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

On 24 February, 25 rangers from across the Latin America and the Caribbean region participated in a two-hour training on Global Forest Watch, an open-source web application to monitor global forests in near real-time. Participants were oriented about the freely available tools, including examples of their direct application in ranger work. They also had the opportunity to share experiences, challenges and expectations about using the tools. The training was jointly organised by the World Resources Institute and IRF.



Capacitación para guardaparques en Global Forest Watch

GLOBAL
FOREST
WATCH





IRF PARTNERS WITH CENTRE FOR PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT (UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO) TO DELIVER AN ONLINE RANGER COURSE FOR LATIN AMERICA

IRF was a key collaborator in the development of the online course, “Basic Techniques for Rangers,” with the Centre for Protected Area Management. The course is a 6-week, intensive, self-paced course for Latin American rangers. The aim of the virtual offering is to provide fundamental tools to carry out ranger duties in a professional, ethical and efficient manner. Staff and Board members advised on contents for Module 1 of the course, which included: *Ranger Code of Conduct*, *What a Ranger is*, *Guidelines on Equity and Equality in the workforce*, *Guidelines on Building Trust Between Rangers and Communities* and other resources. 20 rangers in Latin America graduated from this course in April 2023.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

FIRST RANGER TRAINING COURSE OF THE FEDERAL DISTRICT IN BRASILIA

From the 3-23 April, The Brasília Ranger Association (AGP-DF) together with its partners, initiated the first-ever ranger training course across Brasília's Federal District (DF). The course was geared towards training rangers to act in public and private Protected Areas of the Central-West region of Brazil (Savannah). It also aimed to contribute towards the professionalisation of rangers, who are fully trained to exercise their broad, diverse and highly vital functions in local Protected Areas.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

NORTH AMERICA

HIGH-LEVEL RECOGNITION OF TENNESSEE PARK RANGERS

On 26 October, the Tennessee Park Rangers Association (TPRA) was recognized by 50th Governor of Tennessee, Bill Lee, for their service and dedication to protecting Tennessee's most precious resources.

Earlier in the year, Governor Lee proclaimed 31 July as "Tennessee State Park Ranger Day." This day coincides with "World Ranger Day," a day to appreciate and celebrate the conservation efforts of Rangers around the world, and to remember those who have lost their lives in the park ranger profession. In 2023, there are over 250 Tennessee State Park Rangers who serve as commissioned state law enforcement officers, protecting and preserving the states greatest treasures. TN State Park Rangers are also licensed emergency medical responders, EMTs, and paramedics. They also hold many additional licensures and certifications such as search and rescue technicians, wildland firefighters, certified interpretive guides, and much more. TPRA is proud to represent the men and women who risk their lives each day to protect and preserve Tennessee's natural, cultural, and historical resources for generations to come.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



EUROPE

EUROPEAN RANGER FEDERATION WORKSHOP IN DARTMOOR, UK

In early October 2023, 20 rangers of 13 European countries met in Dartmoor National Park, UK for the European Ranger Federation's Image & Fundraising Workshop. The aim: To raise awareness about the importance of rangers through image work and determining fundraising strategies. As a starting point, participants agreed on a list of ranger tasks that deliver on global conservation goals — a guiding list of tangible contributions that deserve more attention and recognition.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



SPOTLIGHTING LUXEMBOURG'S FIRST RANGER & WELCOMING OEWERSAUER NATURE PARK

To welcome one of Europe's smallest countries into the European Ranger Federation, ERF spotlighted their first ranger, Tom Schmit, in a webstory.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

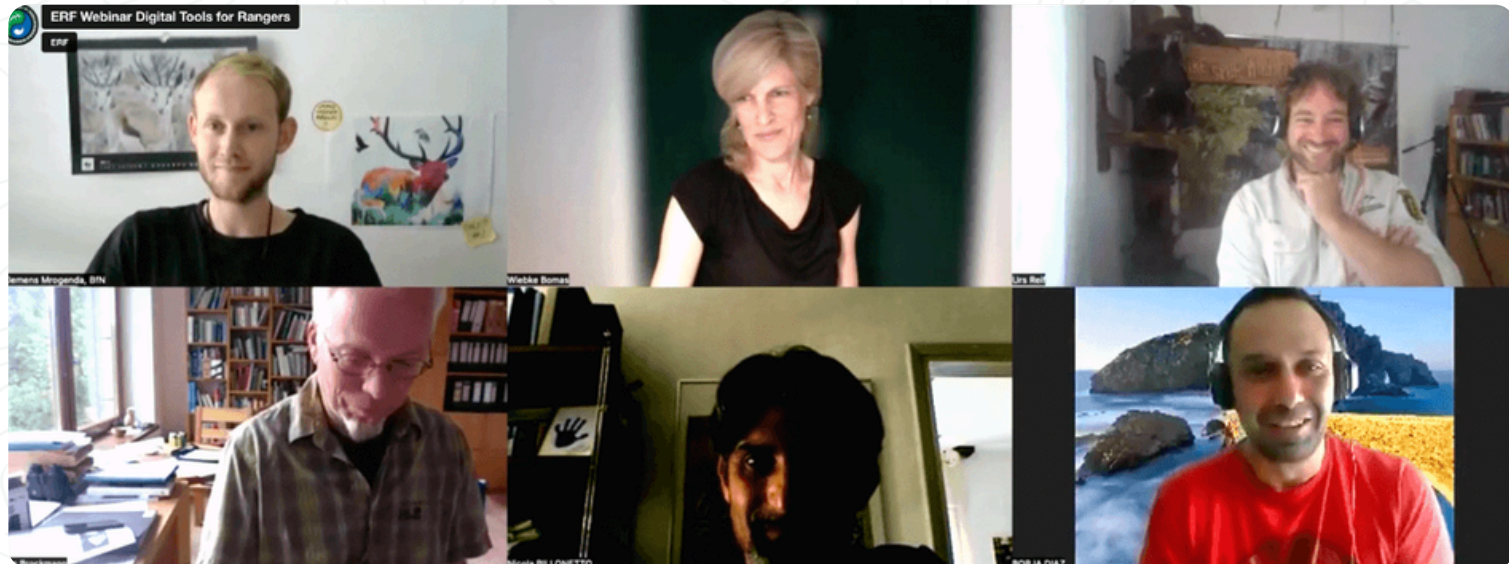




HARNESSING THE EUROPEAN RANGER NETWORK TO SHARE LEARNING ON TACKLING WILDFIRES

In December 2023, a firefighting training was held for Macedonian rangers with fire suits donated by Spanish Rangers. The critical training, which was first discussed as an idea at the 2022 European Ranger Congress, was organized by Aleksander Gugoski from Macedonia with support from Borja Díaz, Spanish ranger and current ERF Training Officer. Macedonia's rangers are also mobilizing to establish their own ranger association, which would enable them to officially become part of the ERF network and thus access support and training offers more easily. The training is a great example of the power of this network!

[LEARN MORE >](#)



TRAINING HELD ON DIGITAL TOOLS FOR RANGERS

25 participants from about 20 different countries united for a skills development session led by Klemens Mrogenda, a digital strategist from the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN). The session dived deep into the multifaceted world of digital tools for nature conservation and their benefits for rangers.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



FIRST K9 TRAINING FOR RANGER-SPECIFIC WORK

The European Ranger Federation held its first international K9 Training in cooperation with the Special Canine Group (GEK9) of the Rural Agents Corps from Catalonia in Montserrat. The training was attended by rangers from across the world, including South Africa and various parts of Spain.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

AUSTRALIA & OCEANIA

MONTH-LONG AWARENESS RAISING EFFORT COMPLETED IN SAMOA

In May 2023, representatives from the Council of Oceania Ranger Associations (C.O.R.A.) travelled across Samoa to raise awareness about the Samoa Ranger Association, which was first established in 2020 as a first-step to organize voluntary and paid rangers. The month-long visit included high-level meetings with government officials to awareness-raising at schools and youth clubs.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



FIRST OCEANIA RANGER ROUNDTABLE TO DISCUSS HOW TO COLLABORATE EFFECTIVELY AS A REGION

On 4 October, approximately 30 rangers, protected area workers and conservationists united for the first-ever Oceania Ranger Roundtable, supported by IRF and the The Thin Green Line Foundation. Countries represented included: Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and the Solomon Islands. The event was facilitated by Regeneration Projects and designed as an online 'Yarning Circle' to encourage inclusive dialogue, the conversation highlighted the challenges being faced in the Pacific as well as possible grassroots solutions, including how Oceania Rangers can collaborate more effectively.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

TASMANIA GOES GREEN FOR WORLD RANGER DAY 2023

On World Ranger Day 2023, the Tasman Bridge in Hobart was donned in green, thanks to the Tasmanian Ranger Association (TRA). In partnership with the Thin Green Line Foundation, TRA also hosted a number of stalls and other events that raised more than USD 3,000 in donations that will go towards supporting rangers in Uganda.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

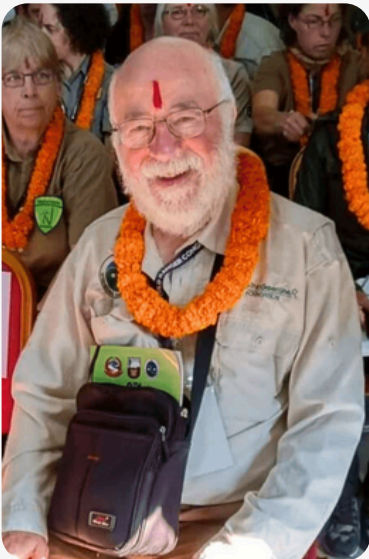


REMEMBERING TWO KEY IRF SUPPORTERS



Remembering Dr. Kathy MacKinnon

On 20 March, we mourned the passing of Dr. Kathy MacKinnon. She leaves behind a long distinguished career where her passion and commitment to conservation was evident in all her work. She was also an absolute champion for rangers globally and was directly involved in supporting the International Ranger Federation's work. Most recently, she participated in the IRF events at both the Asian Parks Congress and the African Protected Areas Congress. Read more about her extraordinary legacy [here](#).



Remembering Gordon Miller

On 27 May, the IRF announced, with a heavy heart and great sorrow, the passing of Gordon Miller, IRF's co-founder and longtime advisor, after his long and courageous battle with illness. A resolution was proposed to the IRF Board by the APNR after Gordon's passing to rename the IRF Lifetime achievement Award to the "Gordon Miller IRF Lifetime Achievement Award." The award's first recipient will be honored at the upcoming 10th World Ranger Congress.

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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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