



**INTERNATIONAL  
RANGER  
FEDERATION**

## OUR CHALLENGE

The work of rangers globally has never been more important. Rangers play an indispensable role in protecting natural resources, cultural heritage and providing ecosystem services. Their work significantly contributes to climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, prevents biodiversity loss, and helps to meet global sustainable development goals.

Compared to other professions, rangers are disproportionately responsible for protecting our planet's land, marine and seascapes. They are tasked with operating in some of the world's most remote and challenging environments, yet they are continually overlooked, under-resourced and undervalued.

Strengthening the global ranger community is imperative for developing confident and resilient rangers, capable of effectively protecting our planet for years to come.



## RANGERS ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL POLICY - 30 BY 30

In 2022, 188 countries signed the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework, committing to the protection and conservation of 30% of the earth's land and seas by 2030. This initiative, known as "30 by 30," is regarded as one of the most significant biodiversity protection policies of our time.

Rangers, with their essential responsibilities within protected areas, will play a critical role in achieving this target. However, research from our network indicates that we require at least one million additional rangers globally to provide the necessary protection to meet this objective. The International Ranger Federation's network of experienced rangers possesses the skills and expertise needed to facilitate the expansion of the global ranger workforce, ensuring the successful implementation of the 30 by 30 target.

## OUR FOCUS

The International Ranger Federation (IRF) was established in 1992 to advance the work of rangers and promote their critical role in conservation.

Founded by rangers, for rangers, IRF facilitates a global network which nurtures a common bond among protected area workers and provides space for rangers to share knowledge and best practice. Through our thirty years of operation, we have established a network of over 150 ranger associations in over 50 countries, representing an estimated 80,000 rangers.

Through our network we understand the challenges that rangers face, and their aspirations for the future. We acknowledge the profound responsibility of this position and actively use our broad knowledge base to support and promote rangers. We are recognised as the representative voice, and primary advocate, for rangers globally.

## OUR FUTURE

We know the aspirations of the global ranger workforce and we are committed to advancing the ranger profession through communication, building capacity, sharing best practices and learning from one another.

Over the next five years, we need to take bold actions to support rangers to reach their full potential following our 2030 Strategic Plan. Our actions will focus on:

### Nurture

- Foster a global network of rangers to cultivate a shared sense of purpose and camaraderie.
- Support new Ranger Associations in their development and strengthen existing ones.
- Organise events, such as the IRF World Ranger Congress, to raise awareness and elevate the profile of rangers.

### Develop

- Enhance professional standards through comprehensive training, effective communication, and continuous learning.
- Develop best practice guidelines to be shared across the community.
- Encourage professional exchanges among rangers through initiatives such as twinning agreements.

### Advocate

- Increase global awareness and understanding of the role of rangers in the conservation of natural and cultural resources.
- Advance the objectives of rangers through strategic partnerships.
- Influence international policy and business to acknowledge and support the ranger profession, thereby enhancing conservation outcomes.

## HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Partnering with the International Ranger Federation will have a direct and significant impact on the well-being of frontline rangers dedicated to protecting our natural environment. Together, we can drive positive change that enhances conservation efforts and ensures a sustainable future for generations to come.

Running the only global organisation dedicated to ranger empowerment requires resources. To sustain and expand our vital work, we are seeking long-term partnerships to help:

- Operationalise the IRF strategy
- Strengthen the capacity of regional ranger bodies
- Develop best practice guidelines
- Communicate with our network in diverse languages
- Enable global ranger exchanges and ranger events
- Advocate for rangers within international policy
- Conduct regular research to inform conservation decision making

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