



INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION

PRESS RELEASE

World Ranger Day 2025:

Rangers, Powering Transformative Conservation

A Global Call to Protect Those Who Protect Nature Record Ranger Fatalities Underscore Urgent Need for Universal Support and Protection Measures

World Ranger Day, celebrated on **July 31st**, is a moment to recognise the extraordinary work of rangers across the globe. Often working behind the scenes, rangers are at the heart of a transformation in conservation—supporting both people and nature in the face of climate change and biodiversity loss.

Rangers are deeply rooted in the communities they serve. They are not only stewards of nature, but also frontline responders in times of crisis. This year, we have witnessed rangers responding in unprecedented numbers to climate-related disasters across Europe, South America, and Asia. Drawing on both traditional knowledge and modern technology, they have served as first responders, climate educators, and guardians of the natural world.

Their actions are helping shape how we adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. However, this vital work comes at a cost. Tragically, this year has seen an increase in the number of rangers killed in the line of duty, with the largest rise in deaths caused by fires.

Despite these risks, rangers continue to stand between communities and the growing impacts of a changing climate. Today, and every day, we recognize their courage, resilience, and unwavering commitment to safeguarding our planet.

Key findings from the past year reveal the following:

- **28%** of the deaths were **homicides**.
- **34%** occurred in **conflict zones**, highlighting the growing dangers faced by rangers in unstable regions.



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- **32 deaths** resulted from **wildlife conflict**, exemplifying the high-risk of rangers trying to conserve dangerous wildlife and sometimes being at the interface between conservation and protecting local livelihoods.
- **36%** of ranger deaths were **fire-related**, a trend that experts warn is strongly correlated with **climate-driven environmental volatility**.
- A troubling number of rangers died from **health-related causes** including **heart attacks, heat stress, and exhaustion**, indicating a dire need for better working conditions and comprehensive health and safety support.

“It is deeply saddening that today we remember those rangers who have fallen—especially knowing that not all of these losses were inevitable but tomorrow, we must honour their memory, by protecting the living.” said Chris Galliers, President of the International Ranger Federation. “They reflect in many places, a systemic failure to prioritize the safety, wellbeing, and fair recognition of rangers who stand on the frontline against environmental degradation and biodiversity collapse.”

As climate change accelerates, and as conflicts intensify around natural resources, rangers are increasingly vulnerable—not only to external threats but to the physical and psychological demands of their work. These issues strike at the heart of sustainability and human rights within conservation.

This World Ranger Day, we call on governments, conservation agencies, donors, and civil society to take urgent, coordinated action as outlined in the [Hyères Declaration](#) which came from the 10th International Ranger Federation World Ranger Congress (2024) by:

- **Investing in ranger health, safety, and wellbeing programs**
- **Ensuring decent working conditions and occupational safeguards**
- **Providing psychological and trauma support services**
- **Elevating the ranger profession with the recognition and protection it deserves**

Rangers are not just defenders of wildlife and protected and conserved areas but they are planetary health workers, often operating in isolation, under-resourced, and under threat—yet they continue to serve with professionalism and commitment.



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List Key words

#Rangers

#Conservation

#WorldRangerDay

#WeStandWithWorldRangers

#Biodiversity

#ClimateChange

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<https://www.internationalrangers.org/world-ranger-day/>

About the International Ranger Federation

The International Ranger Federation (IRF) was founded in 1992 and is a worldwide, non-profit membership-based organization, established to develop, advance, and promote the ranger profession. The IRF recognizes rangers and protected and conserved area workers, whether state, regional, communal, Indigenous, or private, as essential on-the-ground planetary health professionals that are responsible for safeguarding nature, 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.

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