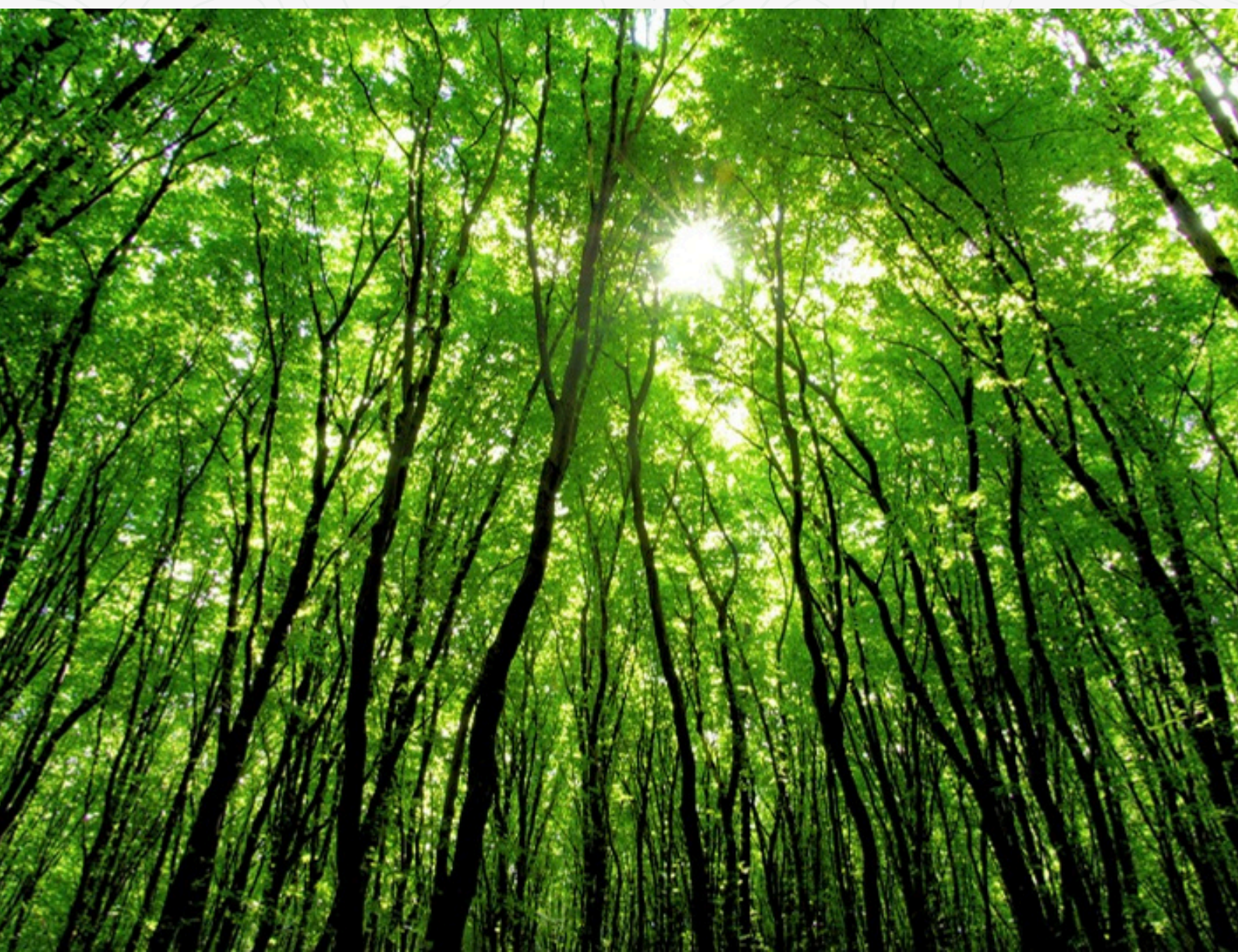




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ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION

The International Ranger Federation (IRF) 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, 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.INTERNATIONALRANGERS.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.

What does IRF do for 'the Ranger'?



INTERNATIONAL
RANGER
FEDERATION



REMARKS FROM THE IRF PRESIDENT

As we look back on 2025 and take time to reflect, one thing is clear: 2025 has been a year of progress and transition for the ranger profession. Building on the success of the World Ranger Congress in France in 2024 and the Hyères Ranger Declaration, 2025 saw the creation of the World Ranger Action Plan. This plan builds on the Ranger Declaration and sets out tangible actions for the IRF, its partners, and rangers around the world to deliver.

It is also important to reflect on what makes the IRF unique—our members. It is rangers who inspire and guide our work, and it is for our members that the Action Plan will deliver. None of this would be possible without our partners. Collaboration has been a key theme of 2025, with the IRF working alongside the Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA) to strengthen our reach and raise the voice of rangers on global conservation platforms, including the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the World Bank's Global Wildlife Program, and the Cambridge Conservation Initiative. The IRF will continue to build on these partnerships to help us deliver more for rangers.

Part of being a ranger is knowing you always have the support of your fellow rangers. This year, we witnessed that network and those connections in action at the African and European Ranger Congresses. These gatherings are more than meeting places; they represent the commitment, friendship, and respect that rangers have for one another.

Looking ahead, we are excited for more regional congresses and ranger gatherings in Asia, Latin America, and Oceania. These will once again provide spaces to gather, share, and work together to drive the ranger profession forward in 2026.



Chris Galliers
IRF President

2025 AT A GLANCE



174

rangers died during service between June 2024 to May 2025 across 40 countries.



AROUND

200

Sernap and community rangers united for the 4th National Ranger Congress in Lima, Peru



IRF has

236

members across

7 regions



28

new member organisations were added to the IRF in 2025



200+

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women gathered in Cairns for the first-ever National Indigenous Women Rangers Network Forum.



350+

participants unite for the The Global Ranger Standards, Competences, and Working Conditions webinar series



8+

major policy events and gatherings, including several activities at the IUCN WCC alongside URSA



50

rangers unite for the 1st Federal Congress of Park Rangers of Argentina



8+

policy documents, briefs and research papers produced and shared



14k+

followers on Facebook, with high levels of engagement, signalling a growing digital community



150+

rangers, managers, and partners from 20 countries unite for the 3rd African Ranger Congress



70 km

expedition covered during the Protected Area Management and Leadership International Seminar in Colorado including rangers from North America and LAC



1

World Ranger Action Plan (WRAP) LAUNCHED, signaling focused commitment



260+

rangers across Europe unite for the 6th European Ranger Congress in Romania



100+

rangers unite for the XXIV Park Ranger Meeting in Vila Real de Santo António

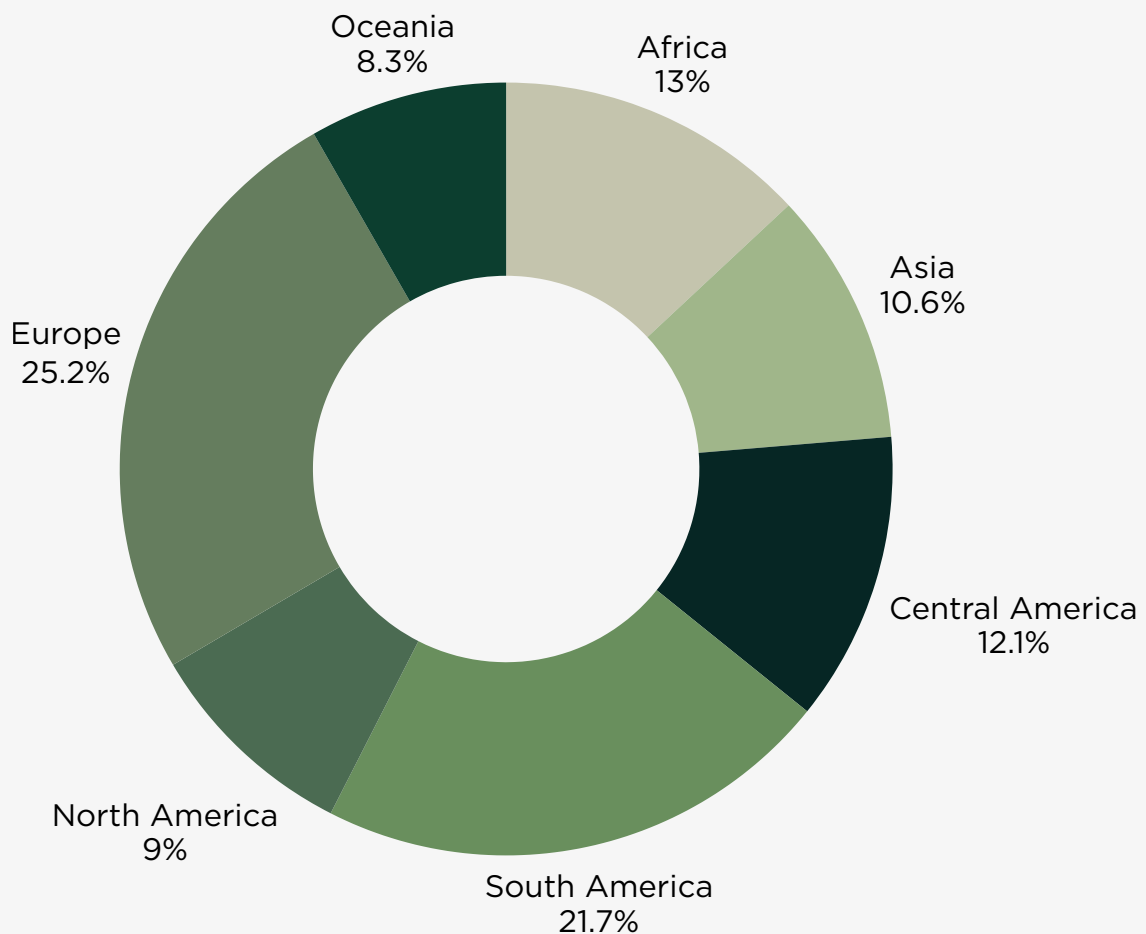


& so much more!

MEMBERSHIP

IRF has 236 member organizations across 7 regions.

MEMBERS PER REGION



AFRICA

33

Full: 7
Provisional: 6
Associate: 20

ASIA

27

Full: 13
Provisional: 5
Associate: 9

CENTRAL AMERICA

13

Full: 7
Associate: 5
Provisional: 1

SOUTH AMERICA

55

Full: 30
Associate: 13
Provisional: 12

NORTH AMERICA

23

Full: 9
Associate: 10
Provisional: 4

EUROPE

64

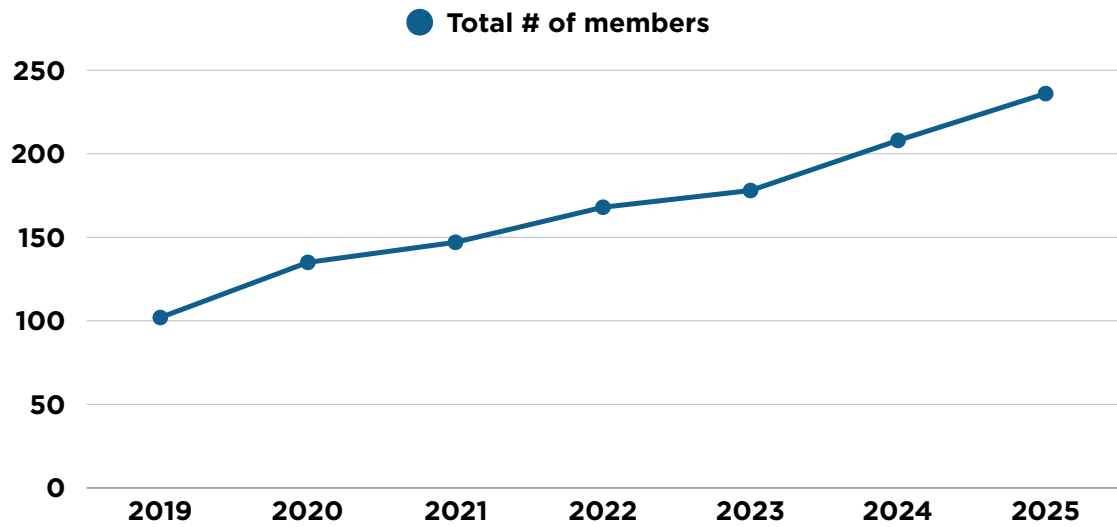
Full: 28
Associate: 31
Provisional: 64

OCEANIA

21

Full: 12
Associate: 6
Provisional: 3

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH SINCE 2019



MAP OF RANGER ASSOCIATIONS



[VIEW OUR INTERACTIVE MAP >](#)

GLOBAL SPOTLIGHTS OF 2025

IRF WORKSHOP AT WORLD BANK GLOBAL WILDLIFE PROGRAM CONFERENCE, PANAMÁ

The IRF was invited to lead a two-hour workshop at the World Bank's Global Wildlife Program Annual Conference in Panamá (20-25 January 2025), one of the world's largest partnerships tackling illegal wildlife trade, advancing wildlife-based economies, and promoting human-wildlife coexistence across 38 countries. With over 100 participants from 30+ nations, the event strengthened collaboration and showcased solutions for global conservation. The session, facilitated by IRF Development Officer Mónica Álvarez, focused on "Professionalising the Ranger Workforce" and began with the latest findings from the State of the Ranger Report. Participants engaged in guided discussions on the challenges and enablers of building a professional ranger community, supported by case studies from around the world. The afternoon roundtable expanded the dialogue, emphasizing the importance of ranger associations in providing legitimacy and credibility to the profession. A highlight came from the Mongolian Ranger Federation, which showcased how IRF resources can be successfully implemented through multi-stakeholder partnerships and government support. This workshop underscored IRF's commitment to strengthening the global ranger workforce and advancing collaborative solutions to biodiversity and climate challenges.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



GLOBAL STANDARDS WEBINAR BUILDS COMPETENCY AND RESILIENCE ACROSS THE RANGER WORKFORCE

From April to September 2025, the IRF delivered The Global Ranger Standards, Competences, and Working Conditions webinar series, engaging more than 350 rangers, employers, and associations from Africa, Asia, Oceania, Europe, North America, and Latin America. The series focused on the Global Ranger Competences — a framework defining the essential knowledge, skills, and values required for rangers across diverse roles — and the Global Standard for Ranger Employment and Working Conditions, which establishes a global benchmark for the minimum welfare and labor rights every ranger should expect. Delivered in multiple regional languages to ensure accessibility, the webinars provided participants with practical tools to strengthen professionalization and improve working conditions across the ranger workforce. Attendance and participation reflected a strong global commitment to advancing ranger welfare, building resilience, and ensuring that rangers are recognized as skilled professionals at the frontlines of biodiversity, climate, and cultural heritage protection.

COMPETENCIES RESOURCES

WORKING CONDITIONS RESOURCES





IRF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER HIGHLIGHTS RANGER CHALLENGES ON *ARISTEGUI NOTICIAS*

On 14 January 2025, IRF Development Officer Mónica Álvarez Malvido was interviewed on *Aristegui Noticias* in Mexico about the critical role rangers play in protecting biodiversity and the challenges they face worldwide. She drew attention to the lack of support and resources available to rangers and noted that fewer than 40% have life insurance despite risking their lives daily. The interview offered an important opportunity to raise awareness of ranger welfare and reinforced IRF's advocacy for their recognition and support.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

IRF VICE PRESIDENT FEATURED ON POD *SAVE THE PLANET*

In August 2025, IRF Vice President Rohit Singh joined Pod Save the Planet to discuss the future of the ranger profession. The conversation covered professionalising the workforce, reaching adequate ranger numbers, building inclusivity, and the role of ranger associations and other support bodies. Singh also reflected on the tools available to rangers today and what the future may hold for the profession. The episode offered listeners an informed perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing rangers, while highlighting IRF's role in supporting and shaping the profession globally.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

IRF AND URSA SPURS DIALOGUE ON CRITICAL NEED FOR FUNDING AND SUPPORT FOR RANGERS

The Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA) is a coalition of conservation organizations 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 >](#)

On May 9, 2025, the IRF and the Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA) hosted a meeting at the Zoological Society of London, bringing together conservation leaders, foundations, and private sector representatives to explore innovative approaches to funding and supporting the world's rangers. URSA — a global coalition backing IRF — is working to professionalise and empower rangers on the frontlines of protecting nature. Together, IRF and URSA are advancing global standards to ensure rangers are supported, recognized, and respected, reinforcing their essential role in safeguarding biodiversity and cultural heritage.

[LEARN MORE](#)





IRF AND URSA PRESENT TO THE CAMBRIDGE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

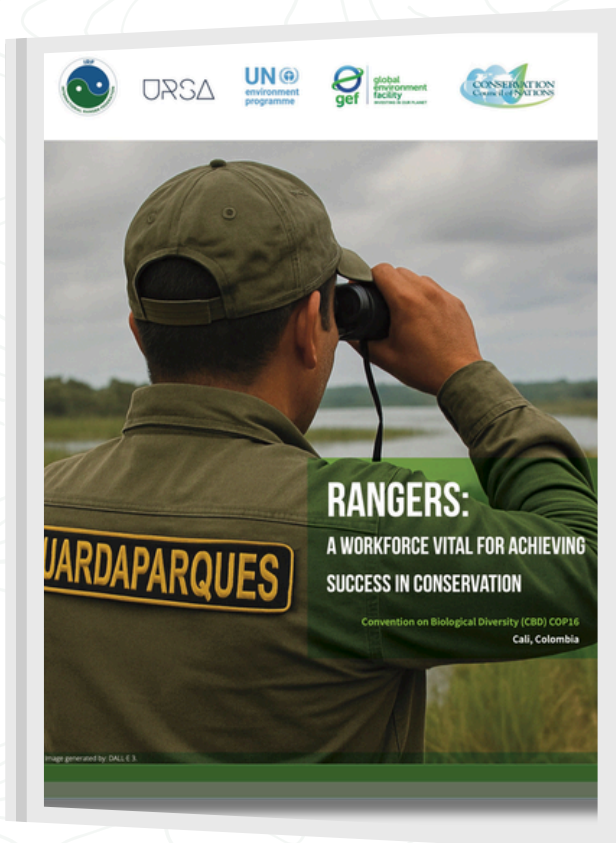
In April 2025, the International Ranger Federation, in partnership with the Universal Ranger Support Alliance, delivered a presentation titled “The Vital Role of Rangers” to the Cambridge Conservation Initiative during the Student Conference on Conservation Science. The session highlighted the essential role of rangers to employers, donors, and conservation partners, while also providing an opportunity to hear how IRF can better support them in delivering change. Discussion focused on implementing the Code of Conduct, the Competences Framework, and the Ranger Assurance Checklist — standards that only strengthen rangers if they are understood, incorporated into practice, and used to support them. This engagement reinforced IRF’s commitment to working collaboratively with partners to embed these global standards and ensure rangers are recognized and supported in their frontline conservation work.

[LEARN MORE](#)

IRF AND URSA PUBLICATION ON RANGERS AND LABOUR RIGHTS

In October 2025, the International Ranger Federation and the Universal Ranger Support Alliance released Protecting Those Who Protect: Rangers and Labour Rights, a paper calling for formal recognition of rangers as essential workers. The publication underscores how rangers safeguard biodiversity, ecosystems, and cultural heritage, yet their labour rights remain largely unrecognized. It urges the establishment of regulated labour standards to ensure fair wages and the right to advocate for safer, better working conditions. By protecting the workforce that defends nature, IRF and URSA reinforce their commitment to ensuring rangers are supported, respected, and empowered in their vital role.

[LEARN MORE](#)



IRF, URSA, AND ICCF ADVANCE DISCUSSIONS ON POLICY REFORM FOR RANGERS, BUILDING ON CBD COP16

In 2025, the International Ranger Federation (IRF), URSA, and the ICCF Group launched a Policy Brief compiling recommendations from Latin American legislators on strengthening the ranger workforce. The resource, now available in English and Spanish on the IRF website, is designed to guide ranger associations and partners in developing legislative frameworks that provide recognition, support, and sustainability for rangers worldwide.

The Brief builds on discussions held during COP16 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Cali, Colombia (October 2024), where IRF and partners hosted the event “Rangers: A Workforce Vital for Achieving Success in Conservation” at the British House. That gathering brought together Conservation Caucus members — including Julia Miranda (Colombia), Karol Paredes (Peru), and Edna Díaz (Mexico) — alongside conservation experts and ranger representatives to exchange lessons learned and success factors in advancing ranger legislation.

[BRIEF IN ENGLISH](#)

[BRIEF IN SPANISH](#)



IRF AND URSA CONVENE LEADERS AT THE WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS 2025

The IRF attended the IUCN World Conservation Congress – 8-13 October in Abu Dhabi with thanks to funding to cover the registration cost from URSA partners. IRF oversaw a number of events at the Congress, including presentations and roundtable meetings. — including a dedicated meeting of CEOs and senior leaders of URSA's Steering Committee member organizations. The gathering acknowledged IRF and URSA's vital role in advancing global recognition and support for rangers, celebrating efforts that have strengthened their visibility, professionalism, and welfare worldwide. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to this shared mission, underscoring the continued growth of the global ranger movement and its impact for both people and nature.

LANDMARK MOTION 102 PASSED AT THE IUCN WCC

In 2025, IRF, in collaboration with the French Government and supported by URSA organizations, successfully submitted Motion 102 at the IUCN WCC Congress in Abu Dhabi. The motion — unanimously approved — formally recognizes rangers as essential planetary health workers, vital to achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's 30x30 goal. Building on the Hyères Declaration from the 10th World Ranger Congress, this milestone calls for greater investment, professionalization, and inclusive policies to strengthen the ranger workforce. Special thanks went to the Zoological Society of London for their instrumental role in drafting and submitting the motion under their IUCN membership.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TAKES PLACE

The IRF Annual General Meeting brought together global representatives to reflect on a year of strategic progress, strengthened governance, and growing membership. Highlights included the successful implementation of the IRF Strategy 2030, the launch of the World Ranger Action Plan, and impactful advocacy at international forums such as COP15 and the IUCN Congress. Regional updates showcased vibrant ranger activity and collaboration, while working groups reported on key initiatives from communications to female ranger empowerment. Despite financial challenges, the IRF remains committed to advancing the ranger profession and preparing for the 2027 World Ranger Congress in Argentina.

[MEETING MINUTES](#)





IRF AT THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORERS FESTIVAL IN DC

The IRF shared amplified the voice of rangers at the National Geographic Explorers Festival 2025, held from 9-12 June at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., where Development Officer Mónica Álvarez Malvido presented key insights from the State of the Ranger Report and the Ranger Hyères Declaration to an audience of filmmakers, researchers, storytellers, and conservation leaders. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with more than 15 professional filmmakers and storytellers expressing interest in collaborating with the IRF to help amplify ranger stories worldwide.

IRF BYLAWS AND REGULATION CHANGES 2025

The IRF has completed an important update to its governing Bylaws, with the proposed revisions formally approved by Regular Members at the 2025 Annual General Meeting. These updates, developed by the Governance Working Group, strengthen the IRF's operational framework by redefining the Bylaws as the core enabling document while shifting detailed procedures into the Regulations, removing outdated sections, updating terminology, and introducing new provisions such as those relating to Regional Ranger Associations. This modernisation ensures the IRF remains aligned with its evolving needs, including the adoption of the Ranger Code of Conduct. While the revised Bylaws have now been adopted, the corresponding updates to the Regulations were reviewed and approved by the Board at its August meeting.



BBC EARTH'S *GUARDIANS* REACHES MILLIONS, ELEVATING RANGERS WORLDWIDE

On May 23, 2025, the IRF worked with The Royal Foundation's United for Wildlife program to launch **a six-part BBC Earth documentary series that seeks to raise global awareness of rangers and their critical role in protecting nature.** The series, titled *Guardians*, highlights rangers as frontline defenders of biodiversity, climate, and cultural heritage — professionals who make immense sacrifices yet whose contributions are often misunderstood or overlooked. Prince William praised the rangers featured, calling them “an inspiration to us all” for their courage in standing between poachers and endangered species, supporting coexistence, and fighting habitat loss. IRF President Chris Galliers emphasized that rangers are “on-the-ground planetary health professionals” whose tireless work secures natural and cultural heritage and underpins the stability of global economies. By showcasing the lived experiences of rangers worldwide, *Guardians* strengthens recognition of their indispensable role in conservation and underscores the need for greater support and resources for the profession.

I've had the privilege of meeting a number of rangers throughout my life and have seen firsthand the vital work they do. Yet their stories are often overlooked or misunderstood. The reality is that protecting our natural world has become one of the most dangerous jobs on the planet. We need to understand and recognise Nature's Guardians, and the critical work they do. The rangers we meet in this series are an inspiration to us all. Every day, they take huge risks as nature's frontline of defence, standing between poachers and endangered species, supporting sustainable human-animal coexistence and fighting habitat loss.”



**PRINCE
WILLIAM**

HRH PRINCE OF WALES
IUCN WCPA On behalf of
the Royal Foundation's
United for Wildlife program

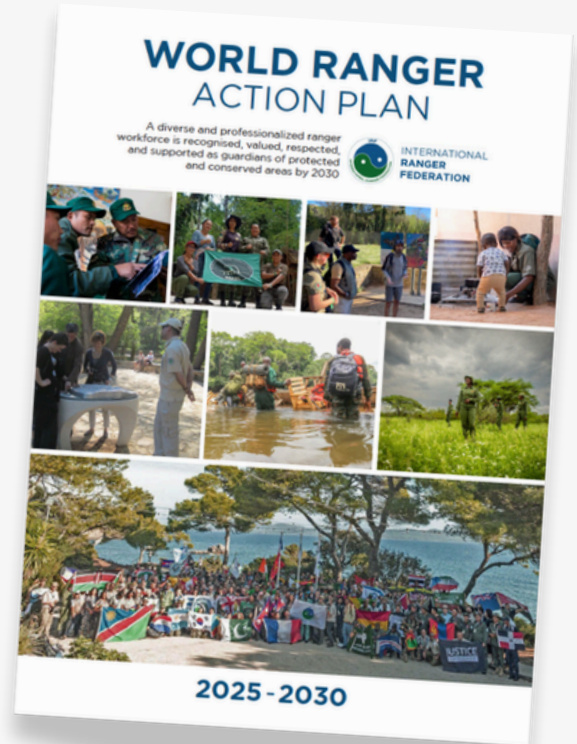
[WATCH SERIES](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)

IRF UNVEILS WORLD RANGER ACTION PLAN TO STRENGTHEN GLOBAL CONSERVATION EFFORTS

The IRF, in partnership with URSA, launched the World Ranger Action Plan (WRAP30), a global framework designed to strengthen the effectiveness, safety, and recognition of rangers worldwide. Building on the Hyères Declaration from the 10th World Ranger Congress, WRAP30 transforms the collective priorities of rangers into concrete actions focused on improving training and inclusivity, enhancing safety and wellbeing, increasing recognition and policy support, and deepening community engagement. Developed through extensive global consultation, the plan responds to the urgent need to better equip and support rangers—frontline defenders of biodiversity who often work under dangerous and under-resourced conditions. The IRF calls on governments, conservation organisations, and partners to join in implementing WRAP30, with progress to be monitored through the State of the Ranger Report to ensure accountability and lasting impact.

[LEARN MORE](#)



MOMENTUM BUILDS FOR THE 11TH WORLD RANGER CONGRESS

In 2025, preparations for the 11th IRF World Ranger Congress advanced with the unveiling of its logo, inspired by Iguazú Falls and Argentina's ranger heritage. The chosen theme, "Recognition for Rangers: Advancing the Profession to Safeguard Our Future," set the tone for global discussions on improving working conditions, training, and recognition. These steps built strong momentum toward the Congress in Puerto Iguazú.



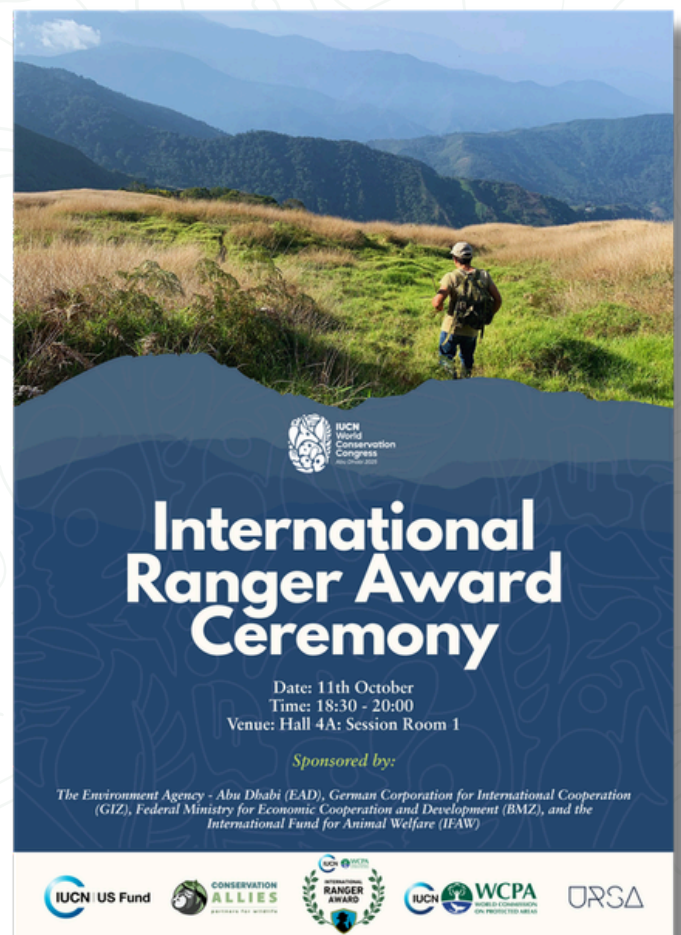
IRF PARTICIPATES IN THE IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS

The IRF participated in the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi from 8–13 October, using the platform—made possible through URSA partner support—to elevate global recognition of rangers as essential conservation professionals and to strengthen policy influence, funding pathways, and international collaboration. A major milestone of the Congress was the unanimous approval of Motion 102, submitted by the IRF with the French Government and URSA partners, formally recognising rangers as planetary health workers vital to achieving global biodiversity goals such as 30×30. Building on the Hyères Declaration, the motion calls for greater investment, improved working conditions, and a more inclusive ranger workforce, underscoring the indispensable role rangers play in climate resilience, cultural stewardship, and community empowerment. This achievement not only amplifies ranger voices in global conservation governance but also provides a powerful tool for governments, NGOs, and ranger networks to drive meaningful, real-world change.

IUCN WCPA INTERNATIONAL RANGER AWARDS 2025

The 2025 International Ranger Awards, celebrated at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi, honoured 13 exceptional rangers and ranger teams whose courage, resilience, and dedication safeguard some of the world's most precious ecosystems—from Kenya's coral reefs to Bhutan's forests and Ukraine's estuaries. Presented by the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, the awards highlighted the vital role rangers play in advancing global conservation goals, including the #30x30 target, through anti-poaching efforts, community engagement, and frontline protection. With heartfelt recognition from IUCN Director General Dr Grethel Aguilar and support from partners such as Conservation Allies, EAD, GIZ, BMZ, and IFAW, the event reaffirmed that rangers are true guardians of nature whose work underpins the future of our planet.

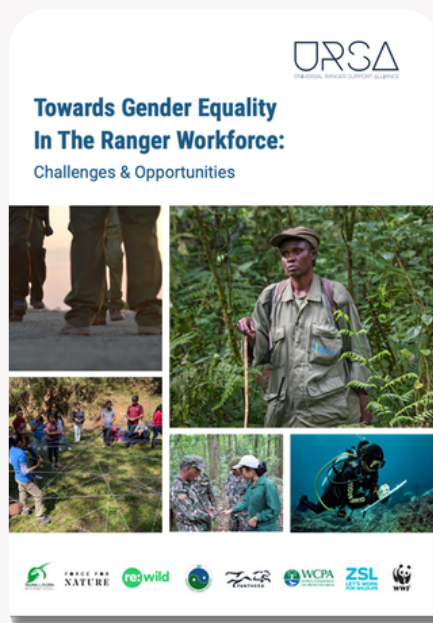
[LEARN MORE](#)



HIGHLIGHTS FROM FEMALE RANGER WEEK 2025

Marking the 5th annual World Female Ranger Week (June 23–30, 2025), the IRF celebrated the extraordinary contributions of female rangers worldwide, highlighting their leadership, resilience, and growing influence in a profession where they still make up less than 11% of the workforce.

SPECIAL NEWSLETTER



RESHARING TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY IN THE RANGER WORKFORCE

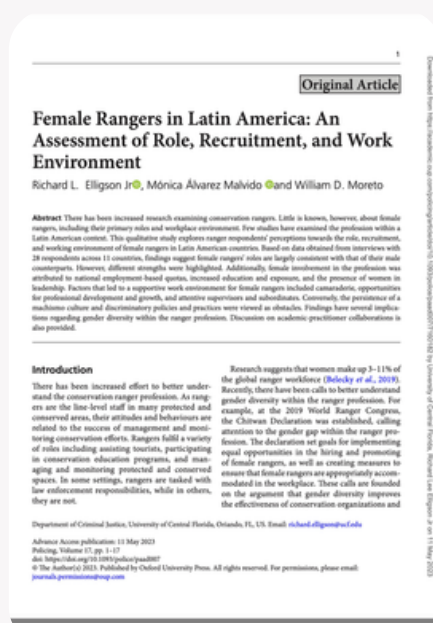
IRF reshared findings from *Towards Gender Equality in the Ranger Workforce* — the first comprehensive and global analysis of the challenges and opportunities for bringing gender equality into ranger workforces. Evidence, presented in this report, suggests that bringing gender equality into the workforce has the potential to improve conservation, relationships with communities, park management, and wildlife management.

LEARN MORE

STUDY ON FEMALE RANGERS IN LATIN AMERICA

IRF reshared *Female Rangers in Latin America: An Assessment of Role, Recruitment, and Work Environment* — one of the first studies examining the attitudes and experiences of female rangers in Latin America. Findings showed that women are increasingly joining the profession, supported by employment quotas, education, and female role models in leadership. Respondents emphasized camaraderie, growth opportunities, and supportive supervisors as positive factors, while discrimination and machismo culture remained barriers.

LEARN MORE



HIGHLIGHTS FROM FEMALE RANGER WEEK 2025

SPOTLIGHTING FEMALE RANGERS

Video messages from female rangers and allies were also shared throughout the week, spotlighting inspiring success stories while highlighting the leadership, resilience, and innovation that women bring to the ranger profession.



AMANDA DUDGEON

RANGER, NSW NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE AND IRF OCEANIA REPRESENTATIVE

[WATCH](#)



RANADI CAVU

HEAD RANGER, NATIONAL TRUST OF FIJI ISLANDS

[WATCH](#)



CAROLE D'ANTUONI

PRESIDENT, GARDES NATURE DE FRANCE

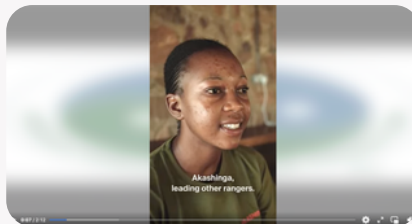
[WATCH](#)



PEERANUCH KAPPELLE

RANGER, THAI RANGER ASSOCIATION

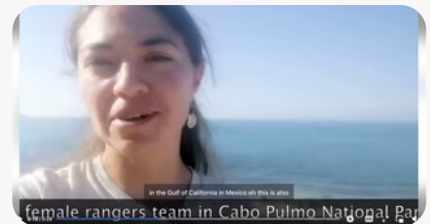
[WATCH](#)



SGT. MARGARET DARAWANDA

DEPUTY HEAD OF OPERATIONS, AKASHINGA EAST ZIMBABWE

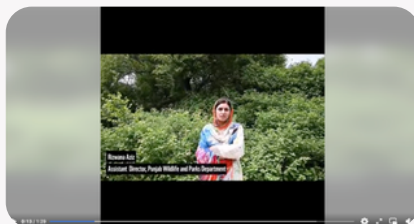
[WATCH](#)



DONAXI BORJES

RANGER, CABO PULMO NATIONAL PARK IN MÉXICO

[WATCH](#)



RIZWANA AZIZ

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, PUNJAB WILDLIFE PARKS DEPARTMENT

[WATCH](#)



LEANDRIA NUNES

RANGER, MACAPÁ AMAPÁ, BRAZIL

[WATCH](#)



CHRIS GALLIERS

PRESIDENT, IRF

[WATCH](#)

[MORE SPOTLIGHTS](#)

WORLD RANGER DAY 2025: SPOTLIGHTING RANGERS' ROLE IN 30x30

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 IRF and the Thin Green Line Foundation to mark the 15th anniversary of IRF's founding.

© Tasmanian Ranger Association

[LEARN MORE >](#)

At a glance

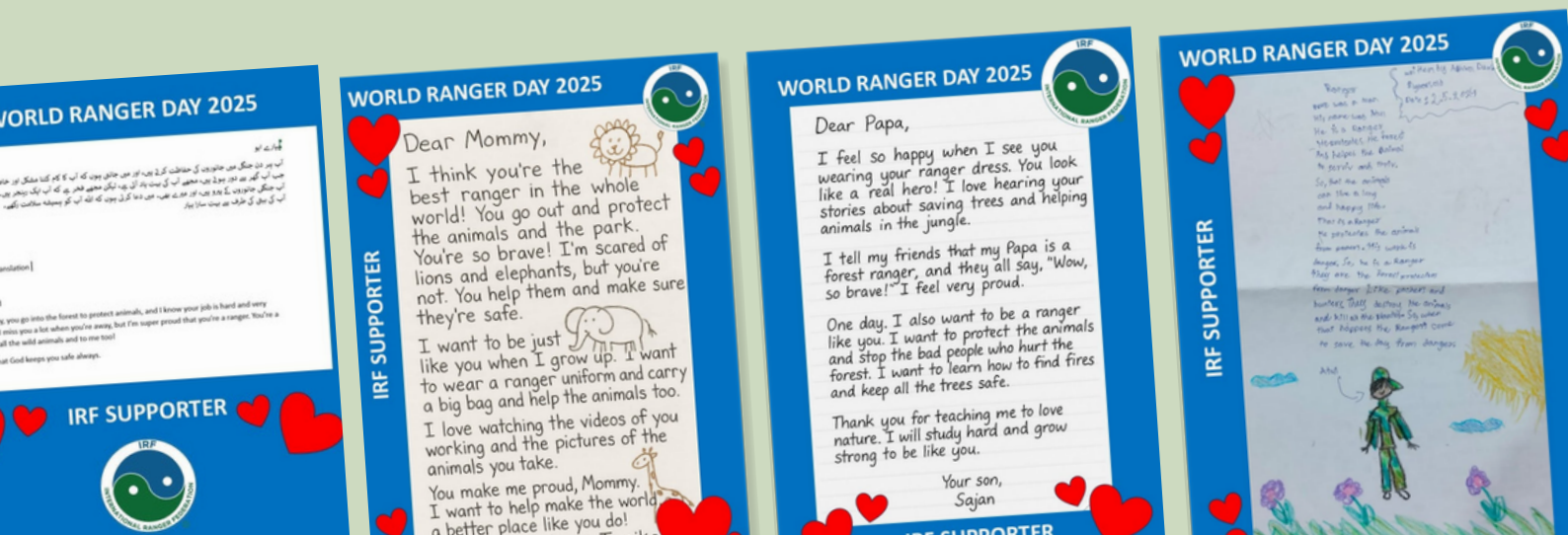
In 2025, the IRF and the global ranger community commemorated 174 rangers from 40 countries who lost their lives in the line of duty in the 12 months from 1 June 2024- 31 May 2025. Their unwavering commitment to protecting our natural and cultural treasures will never be forgotten.

Theme

The theme “*Rangers, Powering Transformative Conservation*,” aligned with the upcoming IUCN World Conservation Congress, underscored rangers' essential contribution to global goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Biodiversity Framework's 30x30 target. Messaging reinforced the urgent need for fair wages, quality training, and recognition of rangers as essential workers. By combining traditional knowledge with modern technology, rangers are reshaping conservation and driving inclusive, community-led approaches that strengthen both people and the planet.

Social media kit

IRF developed a [social media toolkit](#) to assist ranger associations to promote World Ranger Day, as well as promote rangers across the world and spotlight this year's theme.





WORLD RANGER DAY 2025

ROLL OF HONOUR

Recognising Ranger Deaths in the Line of Duty

1st June 2024 to 31st May 2025



The 174 rangers from 40 countries named on this 2025 Roll of Honour are those who lost their lives in the 12 months between 1st June 2024 and 31st May 2025, as verified by the International Ranger Federation. Therefore, the actual number of rangers who have died in the Line of Duty is likely to be much higher. However, in acknowledging these 174 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

UNDERSTANDING THE ROLL OF HONOR

Dedicated webinar

World Ranger Day was also marked by a World Commission on Protected Areas WCPA Vital Sites webinar titled "*Rangers: Powering Transformative Conservation.*" The event celebrated the bravery of rangers across Asia and beyond, showcasing their evolving roles in managing protected areas, responding to disasters, and building community trust. It amplified rangers' voices, highlighted their challenges, and reaffirmed the urgent call for greater protection, recognition, and investment in their wellbeing and professional growth. Inspiring stories shared during the session honored the diversity of rangers who safeguard our planet's wildlife and wild places.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

Video messages and letters

Throughout the day, video messages from across the global ranger community were shared, including from each IRF regional representative. This year, IRF also collected and shared [letters to rangers](#) from across the world.

STATE OF THE RANGER REPORT – VOLUME 2 UNDERWAY

The State of the Ranger Report, the first ever publication on the global state of the ranger profession, was published at the 10th IRF World Ranger Congress. It is revealing for the sector and acts as a baseline for the next iteration (planned for 2027), where we aim to see measurable improvements from our efforts.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

The first State of the Ranger Report, launched at the World Ranger Congress, gave IRF and partners unprecedented insight into the realities of the ranger profession, helping shape targeted action to improve support worldwide. Building on that success, IRF, URSA, and partners are now collecting data for Volume 2. As IRF's key monitoring tool, the report tracks progress, identifies gaps, and strengthens advocacy for rangers globally. Broad participation from rangers and employers will ensure this next edition truly represents the profession and guides future investment in ranger welfare and capacity.

STATE OF THE RANGER REPORT Vol. 2

Be part of the global report on the ranger profession worldwide

If you are a **RANGER** or a **RANGER EMPLOYER**, please answer the **online survey!**



REMEMBERING TWO KEY IRF SUPPORTERS



REMEMBERING BILL HALAINEN

This year, we honoured the remarkable Bill Halainen, a founder of the IRF, whose vision and dedication to strengthening the ranger community— most notably through the ‘Morning Report’ — continue to inspire us. Bill served as a ranger with the US National Park Service for 35 years, retiring in 2015. He became known as the unofficial voice of the NPS, producing over 2,500 issues of the Morning Report, which connected rangers nationwide for more than three decades. He later launched The Thin Green Line, sharing global ranger and park news with IRF members. In 1991, Bill’s work with the US Association of National Park Rangers led to international collaboration with colleagues in Scotland and England, culminating in the founding of the IRF in 1992. He always credited Gordon Miller as the guiding spirit of the Federation and was proud to receive the IRF Outstanding Service Award.



REMEMBERING RICHARD B. “RICK” SMITH

This year, we also honored the remarkable Rick Smith, former President of the IRF and lifelong conservationist, whose vision and leadership continue to shape the global ranger movement. Rick’s career spanned decades with the US National Park Service and extended into tireless support for rangers across Latin America and beyond. He was instrumental in founding the Association of National Park Rangers (US), leading the Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks, and strengthening international collaboration through the IRF. In 2024, Rick was awarded the IRF Gordon Miller Lifetime Achievement Award, recognising his extraordinary dedication to empowering rangers, protecting natural landscapes, and advancing global conservation.

REGIONAL SNAPSHOTS

ASIA

SHEROS OF THE WILD: WOMEN RANGERS AT WOW FESTIVAL PAKISTAN

In February, the IRF and the Ranger Federation of Asia joined the Women of the World Festival Pakistan in Lahore to moderate the session “*SHEROs of the Wild: Women Rangers Shaping a Legacy in Nature Conservation*.” This all-women ranger panel celebrated the rare but powerful presence of female rangers in Pakistan, amplifying their voices and spotlighting their exceptional contributions to biodiversity conservation. The event provided a platform for trailblazing women to share their stories, highlight the impact of their work, and inspire greater recognition of women’s role in shaping the future of conservation.

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KOREA NATIONAL PARK SERVICES FEATURED AT THE IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS

At the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 in Abu Dhabi (9-15 October), rangers took centre stage at the Korea Pavilion during the session “Rangers Beyond Borders: Building Capacity Together.” Co-organized by the International Ranger Federation (IRF) and the Korea National Park Service (KNPS), the event highlighted innovative ranger practices across Korea’s protected areas. Topics included visitor safety and rescue management, AI-based ecological monitoring, habitat (sand dune) restoration, interpretation programme as a community engagement and role of public and private sector in park management. The session emphasized cross-border collaboration and the growing skillset required of modern rangers from technology use to public outreach. The presence of KNPS at the Congress, alongside international ranger recognition awards, reinforced one clear message: rangers are the heartbeat of conservation, connecting people, technology, and nature to protect the world’s most valuable landscapes.

ARF SPOTLIGHTS FEMALE RANGERS ACROSS ASIA

In March 2025, the Ranger Federation of Asia released a special edition of its bi-monthly newsletter featuring powerful stories of women rangers across Asia. These accounts showcased their unique journeys, invaluable contributions, and deep connections with nature and communities.

[NEWSLETTER](#)

ARF LAUNCHES FIRST-OF-ITS KIND PUBLICATION ON WOMEN RANGERS IN PAKISTAN

ARF also launched *Hidden Figures*, the first publication to spotlight the powerful and often overlooked contributions of women rangers in Pakistan working on the front lines of conservation across the country. Authored by the IRF Asia Representative with a foreword from the IRF Female Ranger Working Group, the booklet highlights the resilience, passion, and diverse expertise of 18 women who protect ecosystems from mountains and forests to rivers and wetlands, working with species ranging from leopards and pangolins to bears and birds.

HIDDEN FIGURES

NEW PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTING RANGER VULNERABILITIES DURING DISASTERS

In 2025, IRF published *In the Line of Floods: Rangers As First Responders To An Extreme Weather Event in Pakistan* spotlighting the overlooked role of rangers as first responders during natural disasters. The study drew on experiences from the 2022 Pakistan floods, where rangers led evacuations, rescued livestock, and delivered aid despite personal losses. Survey findings revealed that 100% of rangers reported major disruptions to their duties and lives due to extreme weather. The publication calls for rangers in resource-constrained areas to be recognized, trained, and supported as planetary health workers, and urges global policy to reflect their dual role in conservation and climate response. It also emphasizes the need for further research into ranger vulnerabilities and contributions during climate disasters worldwide.

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RANGERS

Women Reshaping The Conservation



Deepali Atul Deokar



WOMEN RANGERS OF INDIA RESHAPING CONSERVATION: NEW BOOK LAUNCHED

At the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 in Abu Dhabi, the inspiring book *Rangers - Women Reshaping Conservation* was released, featuring 14 powerful stories of women rangers across India — from the Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal and beyond. Authored by Deepali Atul Deokar and supported by the Exploring Womanhood Foundation, the booklet highlights the courage and leadership of women protecting biodiversity. With forewords by IRF President Chris Galliers, Dr. B. C. Choudhary, and Sean Southey, the publication reinforces the growing recognition of women rangers as vital guardians of nature and culture.

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AFRICA

3RD AFRICAN RANGER CONGRESS FOCUSES ON IMPROVING RANGER WELFARE AND STANDARDS

The 3rd African Ranger Congress, held from 17–21 September 2025 at [Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya](#), brought together over 150 rangers, managers, and partners from 20 countries to advance the theme “Improving Ranger Welfare and Standards.” The key outcome was the [Lewa Call to Action—the 3rd ARC Declaration](#)—crafted by rangers themselves to articulate their lived realities and affirm their essential role in conservation, calling for improved welfare, stronger standards, and greater recognition across Africa. The Congress also spotlighted mental health, conflict-zone challenges, marine conservation, technological innovation, and celebrated excellence through the African Conservation Awards, while the Female Ranger Workshop reinforced the vital contributions of women in the sector. With strong support from sponsors and hosts at Lewa, the event echoed [GRAA](#) Chairperson Nic Funda’s message that African solutions emerge from a united African voice. The [International Ranger Federation](#) contributed by presenting findings from the [State of the Ranger Report](#) and previewing Volume 2, underscoring the global importance of professional development, advocacy, and support for rangers on the frontlines.

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NEW GENERATION OF PROTECTED AREA MANAGERS IN CENTRAL AFRICA

In the first semester of 2025, momentum grew for a new generation of conservation leaders across the Congo Basin. Twenty-five young rangers and professionals from countries under the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) — including DR Congo, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Gabon, Burundi, and Equatorial Guinea — began specialized training in Protected Area Management at the Garoua Wildlife School in Cameroon, supported by GIZ and COMIFAC. Already active in parks and NGOs, these participants are not just future managers but emerging leaders.

RANGER GRADUATION AT BALE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK, ETHIOPIA

On World Ranger Day 2025, Ethiopia celebrated a landmark moment with the graduation of the first cohort of 34 rangers at Bale Mountains National Park. After three months of rigorous training — incorporating IRF tools such as the Ranger Code of Conduct — these rangers became the first to benefit from a pioneering program under the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority's national strategy to upskill rangers across all protected areas. The ceremony, attended by government leaders, ambassadors, and the Ethiopian Wildlife Ranger Association, reflected high-level recognition of rangers as essential for biodiversity protection and climate resilience. Supported by Frankfurt Zoological Society, Chengeta Wildlife, EWCA, and the National Police Service, this initiative positions Ethiopia as a regional leader in adopting global best practices to meet commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.



THE WILDLIFE RANGER CHALLENGE RETURNS, UNITING THOUSANDS ACROSS AFRICA FOR COORDINATED 21 KM RACE

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. It is coordinated by Tusk and the Game Rangers Association of Africa.

On Saturday 20th September, the 2025 Wildlife Ranger Challenge brought together more than a thousand rangers from across 20 countries in Africa. They ran in a coordinated 21km race from their respective protected areas. Public supporters from around the globe joined them in solidarity – running, or walking, wherever they were in the world, to show they are #ForWildlifeRangers.

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NIGERIA EMBRACES CUTTING-EDGE CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGY

In 2025, Nigeria's Environment Minister Balarabe Abbas Lawal championed a bold shift toward modern conservation, calling for innovative tools such as drones, tracking software, and cyber surveillance to protect the nation's natural heritage. Under Conservator-General Dr. Ibrahim Goni, the National Park Service has already integrated helicopters, drones, SMART tech, and cyber trackers to safeguard biodiversity. This momentum was further strengthened by the election of DCP Dikko Mohammed Bala as IRF's African Regional Representative, underscoring Africa's growing leadership in global ranger networks. Together, these advances highlight how technology and ranger leadership are transforming conservation across Nigeria and beyond.

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AFRICAN CONSERVATION AWARDS 2025

The African Conservation Awards are hosted annually by the Game Rangers' Association of Africa (GRAA) and are endorsed by the Republic of South Africa's Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment. His Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco, who is committed to the protection of endangered species through the support of his Foundation, is the Patron of the African Conservation Awards.

The 2025 African Conservation Awards celebrated the courage and dedication of rangers and supporters across the continent. Thin Green Line partners were prominently recognized, highlighting their leadership and impact in safeguarding Africa's wildlife and communities.

Winners include:

- Best Ranger Team – First Place: Conservation South Luangwa (Zambia) – Quick Reaction Force
- Best Ranger Team – Second Runner-Up: Mount Kenya Trust (Kenya)
- Best Ranger Supporter – First Place: Alain Mukiranya (DR Congo)
- Best Ranger Supporter – First Runner-Up: Conservation South Luangwa (Zambia)

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LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

4TH NATIONAL RANGER CONGRESS IN LIMA, PERU

The IRF participated in the 4th National Ranger Congress in Lima, Peru, where around 200 Sernanp and community rangers gathered on 15-16 October to exchange experiences on vigilance, sustainable livelihoods, natural resource management, and environmental education. IRF President Chris Galliers delivered a keynote address emphasising the importance of ranger associations, the role of supportive employers like Sernanp, and the global significance of rangers in building climate-resilient, nature-positive ecosystems. His remarks were followed by IRF Development Officer Mónica Álvarez Malvido, who announced the launch of State of the Ranger Vol. 2 data collection, and by South America Representative Werhner Atoche Montoya, who highlighted IRF's achievements and growing presence in the region.

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CELEBRATION OF PROTECTED AREAS IN LATIN AMERICA

The Celebration of Protected Areas in Latin America, held on 17 October, once again brought together communities, organisations, governments, and businesses from 14 countries in a collaborative effort to strengthen the conservation of protected and conserved areas across the region. Now in its third year of IRF participation, the event highlights the power of regional integration and shared commitment to safeguarding nature. This year, the IRF Development Officer presented on the importance of ranger associations, the World Ranger Action Plan, and key findings from State of the Ranger Volume 1, reinforcing the essential role rangers play in effective conservation.

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FIRST VOLUNTEER PARK RANGER TRAINING IN SECHURA

In March 2025, the Association of Park Rangers of Sechura, together with SERNANP and local allies, held the first Volunteer Park Ranger Training to inspire youth participation in conservation. Sixteen participants — including biology and tourism students and community representatives — engaged in three days of theoretical and practical sessions on biodiversity, protected area management, surveillance, and the use of digital tools. Case studies highlighted local initiatives such as Médano Blanco and the Illescas National Reserve. Led by Association president Pablo Martínez with support from Illescas rangers, the training strengthened local conservation capacity. It built on earlier efforts supported by IRF and Thin Green Line Foundation, who funded a control post in 2022 to enhance surveillance in the region.



ADVANCED DRONE TRAINING IN THE AMAZON

In 2025, Amapá, Brazil hosted an advanced drone training where rangers from Spain, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Brazil came together to learn cutting-edge conservation techniques led by Spanish rangers. The course highlighted how drones are transforming wildlife monitoring and ecosystem protection, while embodying the spirit of Rangers training Rangers through cross-border skill sharing. This collaboration showcased how technology and ranger expertise can work hand in hand to strengthen conservation efforts across the Amazon and beyond.



HIGH LEVEL SUPPORT FOR RANGERS IN PARAGUAY

On National Park Ranger Day 2025, Paraguay honored its rangers with an emotional ceremony recognizing their dedication to conserving protected areas. Awards were presented to outstanding rangers by Minister De Barros, highlighting their daily commitment to safeguarding biodiversity despite immense challenges. A special audiovisual presentation showcased their invaluable work through images and testimonials, reaffirming the Ministry of the Environment's support for these true heroes of conservation.



FIRST FEDERAL CONGRESS OF PARK RANGERS OF ARGENTINA

The 1st Federal Congress of Park Rangers of Argentina, held from 24–27 September 2025 in Tucumán, brought together 50 rangers from across the country to review the progress of the Federal Union of Park Rangers of Argentina (UFGUA) since its founding in 2017 and to share insights into their diverse working conditions, challenges, and strengths. The Congress featured presentations from different jurisdictions and a workshop focused on five key themes—gender and equity, regulations and agreements, training and professionalisation, inter-institutional collaboration, and working conditions—culminating in a collective Roadmap for 2025–2026 and the approval to host the next Congress in Córdoba. A major milestone was the formation of a new UFGUA Board of Directors representing multiple provinces, alongside a review of the organisation's objectives as it prepares for formal registration in Tucumán.

NORTH AMERICA

FREE VIRTUAL TRAINING BY THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS SKILLS INSTITUTE

On June 3-4, 2025, the United States hosted the National Wilderness Skills Institute (NWSI), a free virtual training workshop bringing together wilderness and river rangers, managers, academics, and partner organizations. The program offered an evolving model for field-based learning, covering wilderness character and wild & scenic rivers management. IRF contributed on the opening day with a session on the role of ranger associations in strengthening the ranger workforce, reinforcing the importance of collaboration and shared knowledge across the global ranger community.

PEACE OFFICER EXEMPLARY SERVICE MEDALS AWARDED IN BANFF

On October 21, 2025, Parks Canada honored 34 park wardens at Banff National Park with the Peace Officer Exemplary Service Medal, recognizing over 20 years of frontline service protecting people, nature, and Canada's treasured places. Presented by Parks Canada President and CEO Ron Hallman, the ceremony celebrated the courage, professionalism, and lasting impact of wardens whose work embodies a proud tradition of public service and conservation.



BUILDING LEADERSHIP FOR PROTECTED AREAS: IRF AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

In July–August 2025, IRF participated in the Protected Area Management and Leadership International Seminar at Colorado State University, sponsored by WCPA-IUCN, Re:wild, and U.S. ranger supporters. Over four weeks, ranger leaders from seven Latin American countries joined U.S. agencies to share experiences, tackle challenges, and gain hands-on skills through activities like trail work in Rocky Mountain National Park and a 70km river expedition. The IRF presented on ranger associations and the State of the Ranger Report, while building partnerships that included uniform donations for rangers in Paraguay and Costa Rica and a World Ranger Day session. The seminar strengthened regional networks and emphasized resilience, wellbeing, and mental health, leaving participants with renewed skills and determination to advance conservation across the Americas.



RANGER TO RANGER ARTICLE

In 2025, the International Ranger Federation proudly contributed to the U.S. Forest Service Wilderness Advisory Group Newsletter. The *“Ranger to Ranger”* article featured insights from rangers worldwide, while the IRF Communications Group added a chapter on ranger associations strengthening the workforce.

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EUROPE

6TH EUROPEAN RANGER CONGRESS SIGNALS UNITY, COMMITMENT

The 6th European Ranger Congress took place in the wild and beautiful Carpathian Mountains of Romania, bringing together more than 260 rangers from across Europe and beyond. This year's theme — “Rangers: The Voice of Nature – Building a Bridge Between Local Communities and Nature Conservation” — captured the spirit of the event perfectly. The congress created an inspiring space for rangers to connect, collaborate, and speak with one unified voice for nature. A key outcome of the congress was the European Ranger Declaration, which calls for greater collaboration across borders to address shared conservation challenges. The declaration also emphasizes the need for stronger support for rangers, including better working conditions and improved job security. The congress was also a moment of transition — as we thanked the outgoing European Ranger Federation board for their dedication and welcomed the new board, led by Florin Hălăştăuan. The IRF looks forward to working closely with the new leadership to continue strengthening ranger networks and support across Europe.

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PORTUGUESE RANGER CONFERENCE

The Portuguese Ranger Association hosted the XXIV Park Ranger Meeting in Vila Real de Santo António from 30 January to 2 February, bringing together over 100 rangers and conservation professionals from around the world under the theme “Biodiversity without Borders.” With speakers including Borja Díaz of the European Ranger Federation, Camilla Appelgren of the Malta Ranger Unit, and Branko Štivić of the Croatian Ranger Association, the event highlighted diverse challenges and innovations across the profession—from small island contexts to urban protected areas. Participants from countries such as Croatia, Malta, Spain, Brazil, and Cape Verde contributed to a vibrant exchange of knowledge and experience, demonstrating the strength of global collaboration in protecting the planet’s biodiversity.

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ERF LAUNCHES “RANGER LEAVES” SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

In 2025, the European Ranger Federation introduced the *Ranger Leaves* programme to strengthen international ranger exchange and provide essential equipment. The initiative allows donors, individuals, or companies to “purchase a leaf” in support of rangers or actions benefiting those in need. Together, these leaves form a symbolic tree — representing the global ranger network rooted in mutual help and recognition of ranger work. This creative sponsorship model embodies the spirit of rangers supporting rangers and reinforces solidarity across borders.

AUSTRALIA & OCEANIA

POWERFUL FIRST FOR INDIGENOUS WOMEN

In 2025, more than 200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women gathered in Cairns for the first-ever National Indigenous Women Rangers Network Forum. This historic event celebrated the strength, leadership, and cultural knowledge of women rangers from across Australia. Through empowering workshops, storytelling, and the launch of the inaugural National Indigenous Women Rangers Awards, the forum honored their vital role in caring for Country, culture, and community. A collaborative artwork created during the gathering symbolized unity, resilience, and wisdom, marking a powerful milestone for Indigenous women in conservation.

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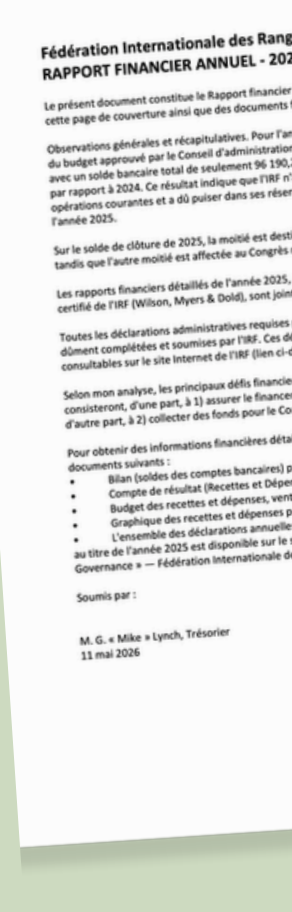


IRF FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2025

General Summary Comments

For 2025, the IRF operated within the budget approved by the Board. However, the IRF ended 2025 with a total of only USD 96,190.20 in its bank accounts, a bank balance decrease of USD 81,919 from 2024. This reflects that the IRF did not realize the anticipated income for basic operations and used reserves to cover these costs in 2025. Of the 2025 ending balance, half is to maintain a small reserve and other half is committed to the World Ranger Congress. All the required IRF nonprofit government filings were completed and submitted. These nonprofit 2025 annual filings are on the IRF website. The main financial challenges for the IRF for 2026 will be to 1) realize funding for the ongoing operational costs and 2) raise funds for the 2027 World Ranger Congress (WRC).

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KEY NEWSLETTERS IN 2025

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2025

12 Dec 2024

May Highlights

6 May 2025

Spotlighting Female Rangers

27 May 2022

World Ranger Action Plan Launched

26 September 2025

WORLD RANGER DAY TOOLKIT

16 July 2025

September Highlights

9 October 2025

November Highlights

19 November 2025

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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