



INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE IRF PRESIDENT



Image Credit: Orroral Valley Fire, Canberra Times

It was just over a year ago that many rangers from around the world spent a very productive week in Nepal at the 9th World Ranger Congress. This left us with good memories, newfound ranger knowledge and friends. Who can forget the site of seeing a rhino walking in the streets of Sauraha! In hindsight, we were very fortunate to have had the Congress when we did, for how the world has changed since then, and in a way that we certainly did not anticipate. This past year has been an exceptionally challenging one for rangers around the world. The COVID-19 pandemic has not only affected the way we work, but also the livelihoods and families of rangers. From the Congress we walked away with newly elected members of the IRF board and a number of positive outcomes, particularly the adoption of the IRF Constitution and the Chitwan Declaration. On the former, I would like report that with the new Constitution, we have been able to register the IRF as a legal organisation. This is significant if we are to grow the IRF's relevance and effectiveness in delivering on its mandate. Thus, a big thank you must be made to the previous members of the IEC, under the leadership of Sean Willmore, for the work that was done to pave the way to final registration. Also, the IRF would like to thank the Thin Green Line Foundation (TGLF) for its support in the registration process. Unfortunately, the elected IRF Secretary, Jessica Korhut resigned due to personal reasons. We wish her well and thank her for her volunteered time and contribution to the IRF. A new IRF Secretary will be named early in 2021. The Chitwan Declaration laid out a number of clear action points which we as the IRF need to implement. When reading through it (see page 7), you will understand the enormity of the task and that only through a global collaborative effort will we be able to deliver on the Declaration. With this in mind, the Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA – see page 7) was established with a vision of creating 'A network of well-supported, professionally competent, mandated, motivated, responsible and representative rangers, working effectively as custodians of biodiversity and the life systems upon which we all depend.' URSA is already active and will be producing an action plan in the near future. One of the biggest challenges that the IRF faces is the issue of capacity. Thankfully, with the support of TGLF, the IRF has employed Carlien Roodt in the position of IRF Executive Officer. She has come in at the deep end where some of her tasks have included assisting with the processing of over a dozen new membership applications (see page 8).

MESSAGE FROM THE IRF PRESIDENT continues...



Image Credit: Wildlife Ranger Challenge

In 2020, the World Ranger Day celebrations were subdued by effects of the pandemic, as well as the fact that there were an unacceptably high number of ranger deaths and where 31% of them were homicides. The day also allowed us to position rangers as essential to global health and key in preventing future pandemics. In light of the devastating effects of COVID-19, we must thank the many organisations, civil society groups and individuals for stepping up to support rangers negatively impacted by COVID-19. Their response highlighted what can be achieved when organisations come together for a common cause. A great example of this was the Wildlife Ranger Challenge in Africa, where US\$ 10 million in support was provided to rangers across the continent. The Thin Green Line Foundation also ran campaigns to raise support for rangers through their Emergency Support programmes.

Looking forward...

I recognise that we do need to increase and improve communications with members and also between rangers, so for this reason we have internally established a Communications Working Group. We will be embarking on ramping up the IRF communications (through newsletters and social media) but we have also worked with, and subsequently entered into an agreement, with Force For Nature (FFN) with the Ranger app that they have developed (see page 9) to improve ranger-to-ranger as well as associations-to-ranger communication. Thanks to Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC) through URSA, the IRF has attained funding to undertake a Strategy Development process which will start in the new year. This is an important process for IRF and its members, so we look forward to your engagement and contributions.



Image Credit: Chris Galliers, Nepal

MESSAGE FROM THE IRF PRESIDENT continues...



Image Credit: Chris Galliers, Nepal

The IRF, again with funding from GWC, has created a new position for a Federation Development Officer, to advance its support for existing member associations, manage new ones and develop systems and structures which increase the effectiveness of ranger associations globally. The role will also contribute to research on ranger association effectiveness where we will ultimately look to develop a State of the Ranger and Ranger Association report. Many members have already contributed to various surveys and also to the development of an IRF Code of Conduct and Values. This was identified as a need in the Chitwan Declaration.

In summary we had 163 respondents from 48 countries, representing 575 individuals (78.3% rangers, 20.5% female) to the first draft. The second and final draft was out for comment until 11 December (see IRF website). Having a IRF Code of Conduct, developed by rangers for rangers, will be of great value to our members and partners. The final version will be shared early in the 2021. We are working with partners to conduct more ranger research to provide us with important information and to guide the professionalisation of the sector. The next World Ranger Congress will be hosted by the Portuguese Rangers in the Azores, where a core theme will be on the marine environment. The planning for this in 2022 was starting when COVID-19 hit. With the continued uncertainty around international travel, it was decided to move the Congress out to 2023 (see page 6). Finally, I would like to thank the IRF board for their efforts over the past year and to wish all rangers and their families well, as we close out a most unprecedented and tumultuous year.

May you and your families take good health and strength into 2021. Chris Galliers



Image Credit: Sarah Ferguson



Image credit: Wildlife Ranger Challenge



Image credit: PAWA

THE NEWLY ELECTED IRF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Our Mission:

TO PROVIDE A GLOBAL FORUM FOR RANGERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO SHARE THEIR SUCCESSES AND FAILURES IN PROTECTING THE WORLD'S NATURAL HERITAGE AND TO PROMOTE THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY FROM COUNTRIES IN WHICH PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT ENJOYS BROAD PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT, TO COUNTRIES IN WHICH IT IS LESS SUPPORTED.

PRESIDENT:
CHRIS GALLIERS



VICE PRESIDENT:
LINDA NUNN



TREASURER: **CORPORATE SECRETARY:**
MIKE LYNCH **ANDY DAVIES**



Read more here: <https://tinyurl.com/y747fxnw>

IRF REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES & UPDATES

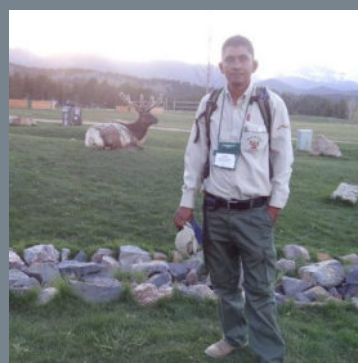
AFRICA:
KOUTOUA AMON



OCEANIA:
JOLENE NELSON



SOUTH AMERICA: **CENTRAL AMERICA:**
WERHNER MONTTOYA **LEONEL DELGADO**



EUROPE:
URS WEGMANN



NORTH AMERICA:
ANDREW WRIGHT



ASIA:
ROHIT SINGH



Read more about the regional representatives here: <https://tinyurl.com/yb3og2p7>

Read more about each region here: <https://tinyurl.com/ybdhzyuu>

WORLD RANGER CONGRESS



Image Credit: Ranjan Ramchandani



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. Attending a congress like this is a once in a life time opportunity for many rangers. Meeting colleagues from around the world gives rangers hope and boosts their morale. Often their jobs are located in remote and isolated areas where they don't have a lot of contact with the world family of rangers.



They don't often have the opportunity to exchange stories and learn from others that may be located half way across the world. The World Ranger Congress is also a forum for the creation of recommendations on issues that affect rangers and the work that they do on the front-line. Having these challenges come directly from rangers makes the message more powerful; the recommendations are presented at conservation forums globally. The 9th World Ranger Congress was held in Nepal in 2019:

Read more here: <https://tinyurl.com/y6vdy4yx>

Images Credit: Ranjan Ramchandani

WORLD RANGER CONGRESS 2023 ANNOUNCEMENT:



The Portuguese Regional Secretary of Energy, Environment and Tourism, welcomed the choice of the Azores as the host of the 10th International Ranger Federation World Ranger Congress – World Congress of Nature Vigilantes, which takes place from 5-9 June 2023. The IRF hosts a World Ranger Congress (WRC) approximately every three years with the first one having been held in 1995 in Zakopane, Poland. Other WRCs' have been as follows:

1997 - San José, Costa Rica

2003 - Wilson Promontory NP, Victoria, Australia

2009 - Santa Cruz, Bolivia

2016 - Estes Park, Colorado, USA

2000 - Kruger National Park, South Africa

2006 - Sterling, Scotland

2012 - Arusha, Tanzania

2019 - Sauraha, Chitwan, Nepal

The choice of the International Ranger Federation (IRF) was announced on 2 February, by its European-based vice-president, Linda Nunn, during the closing ceremony of the National Meeting of Guardas e Vigilantes da Natureza in the Algarve, Portugal. The candidacy of the Azores was presented by the Portuguese Associação Portuguesa de Guardas e Vigilantes da Natureza (APGVN), in conjunction with the Government of the Azores, during the 9th World Ranger Congress, which took place in Nepal, November 2019. Congratulations to Portugal and the Portuguese Rangers in their successful bid to host the next World Ranger Congress", said Chris Galliers (President of the international Ranger Federation), "As an archipelago in the mid-Atlantic, it will provide the perfect setting for rangers to tackle frontline issues around marine conservation and climate change." Marta Guerreiro, believes the World Ranger Congress 2023, is a clear recognition of the growing work done in the region around the conservation of nature and biodiversity, as well as the dignification and enhancement of ranger careers, where ranger corps numbers have increased by 90% in the last three years, meaning that there are now 311 rangers in Portugal, of which 70 are woman."The region has 124 land areas classified within the Framework of the Protected Areas Network of the Azores, which corresponds to more than 24% of the archipelago's Emerso territory. There are also 11 marine protected areas in the Azores totaling 112 635km². "We are growing our investment into nature conservation, with three LIFE projects running, it represents a direct investment of almost EUR23 million," added the Regional Secretary.



WHY JUNE?

It is spring in the Azores, which means up to 28 species of whales and dolphins can be seen, including the occasional Beaked Whales, Dwarf Sperm Whale, Humpback Whales, Orcas and False Killer Whale. The most common are, Fin Whales, Sei (or Baleen) Whale and largest, the Blue Whale, which come from the south where they spend the winter and have their young and then migrate to Northern Atlantic, which is their summer feeding grounds.

THE CHITWAN DECLARATION:

We the rangers declare...

Each World Ranger Congress culminates in a Declaration, setting out the primary work for the IRF and its Associations and partners, agreed during Congress.

The new IRF IEC will be focusing on how best to take its recommendations forward in earnest.

The Chitwan Declaration was the key outcome of the 9th World Ranger Congress. It was voted on and announced during an afternoon ceremony. The Declaration, a product of review from over 100 ranger associations across the world and all registered participants at the Congress, called for countries to urgently invest in rangers to protect the planet's natural resources, life support systems, mitigate climate change, and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. The Declaration recognizes the essential role of rangers, the dangers they face in their work and the global importance of conservation areas.

Read more here: <https://tinyurl.com/yaxt3oly>



UNIVERSAL RANGER SUPPORT ALLIANCE

"NEW DEAL" FOR CONSERVATION RANGERS SIGNALS A CRITICAL STEP FOR THE PLANET'S HEALTH - JULY 31, 2020

A group of international conservation organisations have formed the Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA), which will deliver a "new deal" for wildlife rangers, including Global Welfare Standards and Code of Conduct. URSA is a coalition of seven international conservation groups that have joined forces with the IRF to support rangers. The action plan, launched July 31 2020, on World Ranger Day, is a response to, and will help implement, the Chitwan Declaration; a declaration endorsed by more than 550 rangers from 70 countries at the International Ranger Federation (IRF) World Ranger Congress in 2019. The Chitwan Declaration called on NGO's and other conservation groups to act on a detailed list of needs and priorities for rangers. Much of the evidence for these needs came directly from rangers, including the more than 7,000 rangers from 28 countries who contributed to a global survey. The global community is asking rangers to protect 30 per cent of the planet from poaching, deforestation and other threats to the ecosystems that keep the planet healthy.

Read more here: <https://tinyurl.com/ya7rzfud>

NEW IRF MEMBERS

The International Ranger Federation membership base is made up of: 1) Full members (existing Ranger Associations, 2) Provisional Members (Ranger Associations that are currently being formed), and 3) Associate Members (conservation organisations and individuals who are involved in conservation). We actively promote and support the formation of Ranger Associations around the world to ensure rangers are more adequately supported and represented. We wish to welcome the following new members to the IRF:

VIEW THE LIST OF NEW MEMBERS HERE: <https://tinyurl.com/yck8zwr3>

Membership applications can be found here: <https://www.internationalrangers.org/get-involved/>



THE THIN GREEN LINE FOUNDATION

The Thin Green Line Foundation is a charitable organisation working in partnership with the International Ranger Federation. Their purpose is to protect nature's protectors – the men and women working on the front line of conservation across the world.

1) Support to Rangers:

TGLF work with ranger associations across the world with four main pillars of support: training; personal field equipment; compensation for rangers' families when a ranger dies in the line of duty; and advocacy on behalf of Ranger Associations. Their support for rangers is funded by individual donors, and major agencies and organisational partners.

2) Emergency Response: Fallen Rangers:

Since its inception, the Thin Green Line Foundation has supported the families of rangers whose lives are lost in the line of duty. Their Fallen Ranger Fund is a financial lifeline that can support children's schooling fees or assist the family to find a way forward. Each Fallen Ranger grant is USD \$2000. Last year they supported 40 Fallen Ranger families in 14 countries. In the past ten years alone over 1000 rangers have died in the line of duty.

Fallen Ranger Fund application:

<https://d2prha5ogoalkm.cloudfront.net/wpcontent/uploads/2020/08/TGLF-Fallen-Ranger-Fund-Application-Form-2020.pdf>

3) Personal Field Equipment:

The Thin Green Line Foundation aims to reduce the risks and hazards rangers face so often. They can provide rangers with essential equipment, such as: boots and uniforms, fire-fighting equipment, first-aid supplies, or even rations and salary supplements. Recently, with the help of their generous supporters and donors, they have equipped over 1000 rangers through projects that include Ranger Care Box grants, and in-kind uniform donations.

4) Applications for support:

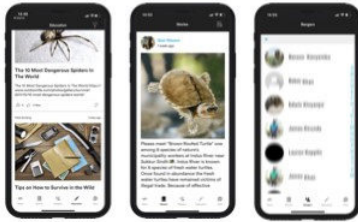
The Thin Green Line Foundation will consider applications for support for teams of rangers and for individuals supported by their Ranger Association. Any funding will require a detailed written application. Applications will be considered in line with the priorities of Thin Green Line and the needs of other ranger associations. They welcome requests for aid that will support the work of indigenous rangers and women rangers.

Contact: tim.schneider@thinggreenline.org.au OR www.thinggreenline.org.au

THE FORCE FOR NATURE RANGER APP

THE FORCE FOR NATURE RANGER APP FOR RANGERS, BY RANGERS

Become a part of
our new private
community app
connecting
Rangers around
the world.



**DOWNLOAD IT
NOW**



Search for Force For Nature
Ranger App. Download and
get posting!

"The International Ranger Federation (IRF) is delighted to introduce the Force For Nature Ranger App. It can increase the effectiveness of Rangers by connecting the community and providing opportunities for support and knowledge. I would like to encourage Rangers to download the app and start connecting and sharing!" Chris Galliers President, International Ranger Federation



**FORCE FOR
NATURE**

Force for Nature is committed to assisting Rangers with their critical work at the forefront of conservation. The Ranger App is designed to connect the global community of Rangers, help unify knowledge and improve welfare and support.

SECURITY & PRIVACY

Force For Nature is not an operational tool. It is a trusted private community for social interaction and learning. Your information will be saved under strict data guidelines.

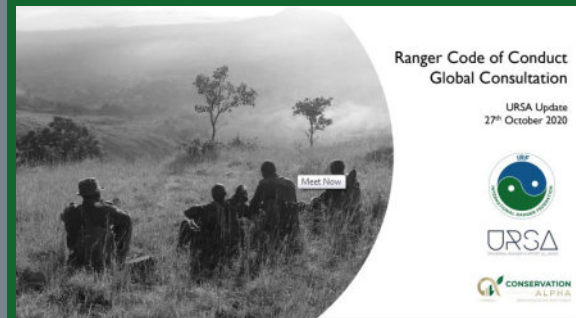
**JOIN THE
RANGER APP!**

WHAT YOU CAN DO ON THE APP

- Post your stories, share & comment
- Connect with new colleagues
- Read Conservation & Ranger News
- Stay in contact with IRF
- Explore Education topics
- Discover & learn about projects around the world
- Chat with Rangers
- Advance your career
- Evolve conservation



RANGER CODE OF CONDUCT



Please **FOLLOW THIS LINK:**

<https://tinyurl.com/y65avy4v> for the graphic summary of where the Ranger Code of Conduct development process is currently and the way forward. There has been really great participation where we have had 176 responses from 50 different countries, with these countries giving good representation of the seven IRF regions.

THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER AWARDS

IUCN and the World Commission on Protected Areas In collaboration with International Ranger Federation, Global Wildlife Conservation, and Conservation Allies:

People need nature, wild places and green spaces, for our health and well-being, and for our water, air and food. Rangers are the people who care for those places and for those who need and enjoy them. Rangers are women, men, government staff, community members, landowners, indigenous peoples, NGO workers, volunteers and many more. They do all types of work: resisting poaching and land grabbing, guiding visitors, fighting fires, providing an early warning system for threats and problems. Rangers often work for little reward and with much risk; more than 1000 have been killed in the line of duty in the past decade.



Images Credit: Wildlife Ranger Challenge



Images Credit: Wildlife Ranger Challenge

THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER AWARDS **continues...**

Conservation Allies is offering a pilot 3-year sponsorship of an international award to recognize Ranger teams or individuals (Protected Area field staff) through IUCN /WCPA.

The IRF is proud to have been part of the collaboration with Global Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Allies in developing these new awards, which recognize the remarkable work of rangers in protected and conserved areas around the world. Ten awardees will each receive a unique uniform patch, and their organisations will receive an amount of US\$10, 000 to support their work. The awards are open to the diversity of rangers across the world, recognizing the wide range of work they do.

Award entries are currently open and close on the 31st of December 2020

Full details are available on the IUCN Website.

<https://www.iucn.org/news/world-commission-protected-areas/202010/nominations-open-inaugural-international-ranger-awards>



Image Credit: Robin Moore, Global Wildlife Conservation

RANGER SUPPORT GRANTS 2021

Save the date!

Ranger Support Grants

Applications open: January 19th 2021

The Thin Green Line Foundation

IUCN

Image Credit: Thin Green Line Foundation

The Thin Green Line Foundation and International Ranger Federation are pleased to announce our Ranger Support Grants will open for applications on 19th January 2021. We welcome applications for funding that supports Rangers through the provision of Training, Equipment, Emergency Support or by Connecting Rangers. Projects that seek support for Rangers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, such as medical supplies, medical expenses and salary support, will be looked upon favorably. Grants of between USD \$5,000k – \$40,000 will be available. More details on this funding will be shared on the Thin Green Line Foundation Website in early January 2021: <https://thingreenline.org.au/ranger-support-grants/>