



24/07/15

## **RE: WORLD RANGER DAY CELEBRATIONS, REMEMBERANCE AND E-KIT**

The 31<sup>st</sup> of July is World Ranger Day and it is a time for us as rangers and for the world to reflect on many aspects of the ranger's work and life. We honour and remember those park rangers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. We reflect on progress made, and obstacles still to overcome. And we celebrate the bravery, tenacity and dedication of those rangers who give their all in the service of nature.

This past 12 months 49 Park Rangers that we know of lost their lives in the line of duty. Many died due to accidents and more at the hands of poachers and militia. This number is a reduction on the previous several years since the deaths were recorded. And whilst this might be seen as a progressing in the right direction, it is little consolation to the 49 rangers' families, friends and colleagues. We must to even more to better train equip and protect nature's protectors- our park rangers

Recently rangers were also honoured and highlighted at the IUCN World Parks Congress with over 280 rangers representing 50 + countries. This included: an International Ranger Station that became a focal point for many; key note addresses; and a heartfelt closing ceremony recognizing rangers who's lives were lost as well as celebrating our deserving and inspirational award winners. We thank our partners IUCN, Parks Victoria and Patagonia for making this possible.

The rangers are also self-mobilizing, many with support of their organisations, with new ranger associations being formed and joining the IRF, and with many more to come on line. We have,ourselves, also been able to support more than 25 ranger projects in 17 countries and 6 continents, and we are pleased to see a great deal more government leaders and NGO's increasing their support for rangers on the frontline

We also encourage all of you to participate on World Ranger Day. Download your E-Kit at <http://internationalrangers.org> or find attached, as part of this electronic kit, the following:

- 1) Poster 1: Combined Sign and Honour role
- 2) Poster 2: World Ranger Day
- 3) Poster 3: Honour Roll on it own

A letter of support from Prince Charles will also be read out on World Ranger Day

Please load up a photo of you holding poster 1 or 3 , and if you can, ask your team/ friends to do the same and load it up on the International Ranger Federation or Thin Green Line Foundation Facebook page or Instagram using the #tags listed at the bottom of the signs.



I whole-heartedly thank all who have supported our efforts in this past twelve months whether they be project partners, donors, volunteers, ambassadors or world leaders. Personally I would also like to thank the dedicated people that serve and volunteer on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of both the International Ranger Federation and Thin Green Line Foundation.

If you wish to learn more or find out how you can become involved and support park rangers on the front-line please visit:

<http://internationalrangers.org/>  
<http://thinggreenline.org.au/>

Best wishes for the good fight that lies ahead

Kindest Regards

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