

## **102 The role of rangers as essential planetary health workers in particular to achieve the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

ACKNOWLEDGING the critical role of rangers, as defined by World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and the International Ranger Federation (IRF), as part of a broader area-based workforce in safeguarding, conserving and restoring biodiversity, preserving cultural and historical heritage and values, increasing knowledge, and upholding the rights and well-being of communities, and present and future generations;

NOTING the role of rangers as essential planetary health workers, vital for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), and other multilateral environmental agreements;

CONSIDERING that successful implementation of the 30x30 aspirations of Target 3 in the KMGBF cannot be achieved without an adequate, professionalised and sufficient area-based workforce, foremost rangers;

CONCERNED that rangers work under often life-threatening and resource-challenged conditions, which can have a devastating impact on their morale, safety, well-being and effectiveness in fulfilling their critical responsibilities;

RECALLING the declaration adopted at the 2024 IRF World Ranger Congress (WRC) in Hyères, France, which, among others, highlighted the progress made by the IRF since the 9th IRF WRC in Chitwan, Nepal, in 2019, and raised awareness of the challenges faced by rangers, including the need for better recognition, training and equipment, while promoting their well-being and operational effectiveness;

ALSO RECALLING Recommendation 4.119 *Protection of rangers within and in areas adjacent to protected areas* (Barcelona, 2008) and Recommendation 6.103 *Establishment, recognition and regulation of the career of park ranger* (Hawai'i, 2016);

WELCOMING the IRF Ranger Code of Conduct, providing principles for behaviour, ethics and accountability for rangers, and which can be adapted for use by employers; and

FURTHER WELCOMING the Global Ranger Competences and the draft international labour standard for ranger employment and working conditions to support rangers in their work;

### **The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates:**

1. CALLS on the Director General, in consultation with the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, IUCN Members, and IRF to scope out and initiate a global collaborative initiative on rangers;
2. REQUESTS the Director General to advocate for the ranger profession to be formally recognised by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and urges IUCN Members who are also ILO Members to help advocate for ranger recognition;
3. REQUESTS all IUCN Members to support the 2024 Hyères Ranger Declaration, including the need to improve role recognition, working conditions, skills building, workforce inclusivity and professional conduct of rangers;
4. ASKS IUCN State and Government Agency Members, and other governments, to recognise the essential role of rangers for implementing the KMGBF, and to reflect ranger-specific elements in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans;
5. CALLS on ranger employers to increase ranger numbers to help achieve the 30x30 Target, and to adapt and implement the IRF Ranger Code of Conduct and Global Ranger Competences to build a professional, safe, accountable and competent ranger workforce, and to improve skills and working conditions of rangers by providing adequate training and equipment;

6. URGES all rangers to act as role models and ambassadors for their profession, to adhere strictly to human rights principles, and to uphold applicable laws and professional standards;

7. CALLS ON IUCN Members, WCPA, and donors to provide increased support and investment in rangers, including to IRF and ranger associations, including through the establishment of dedicated funding mechanisms.