Thin Green Line
FOUNDATION UK

Autumn 2021

Welcome to the Thin Green Line Foundation UK autumn newsletter. Rangers are nature's protectors and many are working in challenging remote and dangerous environments. Through your support, we are able to provide vital equipment and training, as well as emergency funding for the families of rangers who have tragically lost their lives in the line of duty.

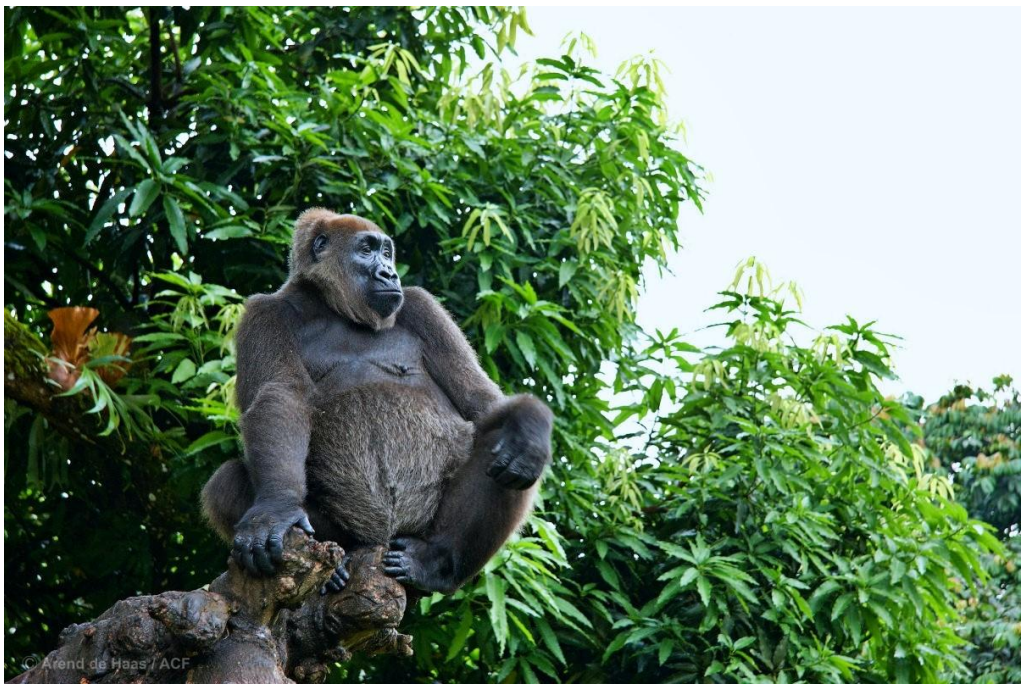
The summer has flown by, and we have some interesting news and updates to share with you!

Cross River Gorilla Appeal

In July we launched our new appeal, working with our partners at the African Conservation Foundation, to provide equipment, training and salaries for rangers in south west Cameroon. The forests of this region are extremely important for many reasons. They are home to amazing biodiversity including many endangered and endemic species, most notably the world's most endangered great ape, the Cross River gorilla, with only 250-300 individuals left in the wild, along with other iconic species such as the African forest elephant, the Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee, three species of pangolin and hundreds of birds. Africa's mountain forests are also very important carbon stores and have great potential for alternative sustainable agriculture, thus providing an important resource in climate change mitigation and food security. However, the forests in this region of Cameroon are vulnerable as much of the area has little or no protected status and faces pressure from illegal logging and poaching. On top of this, exploitation of natural resources has increased in recent years due to an influx of refugees fleeing conflict in neighbouring areas coupled with the pressure of the covid-19 pandemic giving people little choice but to turn to illegal timber collection and bushmeat for survival.

Through this appeal, we aim to provide funding for capacity building for 30 community rangers who have been selected by their local communities to undertake vital work on the ground monitoring Cross River gorillas and other wildlife and mapping conservation threats. The training they receive will also enable them to provide humanitarian support to their communities and those fleeing conflict. Just £500 can cover all costs for a ranger for a year.

To find out more information, please visit our blog: https://thingreenline.org.uk/cross_river_gorilla_appeal/



Cross River Gorilla - Photo credit Arend de Haas

World Ranger Day 31st July 2021

On 31st July, we celebrated World Ranger Day, a chance to recognise and applaud the hard work and dedication of rangers around the world and also to remember those who sadly lost their lives in the line of duty. As well as the 120 rangers who were killed whilst working to protect wildlife and habitats, the past year has also seen the ranger profession, as with all sectors, hit hard by the pandemic, with an estimated 500 rangers losing their lives to covid-19. Our friends at The Thin Green Line Foundation (Australia) along with the International Ranger Federation (IRF) produced a number of interesting infographics about the roles of rangers over the past year, as well as a roll of honour for the fallen rangers of 2020-2021. These can be found on the IRF website: https://www.internationalrangers.org/

Update from the field – Liberia Phones Appeal

Our spring/summer appeal to provide smart phones for forest checkpoint rangers working on the frontline fighting the illegal wildlife trade in Liberia was hugely successful. It was the first time we had tried an online appeal for donations for a specific project, and we managed to raise £1200 through our website and social media, which was double our target. This, along with money fundraised through other channels, was sent to our on the ground partners, Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue and Protection, who have sent word back that the phones have now been purchased and distributed to the rangers! Very excitingly, one of our phones is going to be used by the ranger team 'escorting' two elephant brothers who have been making some extraordinary long journeys between Liberia and Guinea. The rangers follow the elephants and use their remarkable story to inform people about elephant conservation and give people information about elephant proofing their crops. Once the elephants have returned to Guinea, the phone will go to a forest checkpoint like the others. As the use of the phones at the checkpoints gets more established, we hope to hear more stories of how they are helping the rangers in their fight against the illegal wildlife trade. Thank you very much to everyone who fundraised and donated to this appeal!



Checkpoint rangers with a new smart phone - Photo credit Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue and Protection

IEEP webinar

Back in June, we were very pleased to co-host a webinar with the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) exploring the role of rangers as key workers in protected area management and how their roles are key to meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It was a really great event with an introduction from TGLF UK director Abi followed by two panel discussions hearing from rangers from Zimbabwe, Georgia, Romania and DRC, and

representatives of global organisations, all rounded off with the thoughts of TGLF founder Sean Willmore. The webinar is still available to watch on the IEEP website:

https://ieep.eu/news/protecting-nature-s-protectors-rangers-as-key-workers-for-delivering-sdgs?utm_campaign=coschedule&utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=IEEP_eu

There is also a written summary of the event on our blog page on our website: https://thingreenline.org.uk/blog/

Fantastic work from junior rangers!

Last month we received a brilliant donation of £1100 from a group of junior rangers in Glattfelden in Switzerland who raised the money doing a sponsored walk, which also included a scavenger hunt, birdwatching and bug collecting! The money they raised is going towards our Cross River Gorilla Appeal, providing equipment for rangers in Cameroon. It looks like as well as managing to fundraise such a great amount, they also had a lot of fun!



Glattfelden Junior Rangers – Photo credit Madeleine Gersbach

COP 26

TGLF UK director Abi has been allocated a place to attend the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow in November. It is great to have the opportunity to represent the world's rangers at this event. It is becoming increasingly clear that the work of rangers is not only about protecting wildlife and habitats, but also about wider planetary health, and they are central to the success of climate change mitigation and protection from zoonotic diseases, global issues that affect us all.

What's next?

We are already looking ahead to our Christmas Appeal! Working with our on the ground partners in Peru, the Spectacled Bear Conservation Society, the project looks to fund training and equipment for indigenous rangers in the Laquipampa Wildife Refuge. This will help them protect the area's amazing wildlife and habitats, including their population of spectacled bears, and improve ranger safety. Through some generous pledges, we are through the first stage of qualifying for match funding through The Big Give Christmas campaign. The appeal will go live in early December, so watch this space for more information….



Spectacled Bear – Photo credit Spectacled Bear Conservation Society Peru

As always, thank you to all our supporters for your interest and donations, we look forward to sharing more news and updates with you later in the year,

Thin Green Line UK Team