Spring 2022

Welcome to the Thin Green Line Foundation UK spring 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.

2022 is well under way, and we have some interesting news and updates to share with you!

Spectacled bear project update

For our Christmas Appeal last year, we aimed to raise funds for a project based in the Laquipampa Wildlife Refuge in the Lambayeque region of north west Peru. The equatorial dry forest habitat found in the area is one of the world's most threatened neotropical ecosystems, with just 10% of it's original coverage remaining, and is home to some iconic wildlife including mountain tapir, white winged guan, Andean condor and South America's only native bear species, the spectacled bear.

Thanks to your generous donations and pledges through The Big Give Christmas Challenge, at the end of January, we were able to send our on the ground partners, the Spectacled Bear Conservation Society of Peru, over £2000 to provide training and equipment to enable them to provide training and equipment and rebuild the team of local volunteer rangers to work alongside the three park rangers employed to protect the bears and their habitat. This extra capacity will mean better monitoring and conservation of spectacled bears and other wildlife, and safer working conditions for the rangers.

We look forward to receiving and sharing more updates from the field as the ranger training progresses!



Photo credit – Spectacled Bear Conservation Society Peru

Ukraine crisis

We are extremely saddened by the ongoing war in Ukraine, and our thoughts are with everyone caught up in the violence. We are in communication with our partners at the European Ranger Federation and other organisations based in the region and are working on ways to provide equipment such as first aid kits to rangers protecting their communities and emergency assistance to families in need.

Fantastic fundraising

At the beginning of March, father and son team John and Will Ross ran the Cambridge Half Marathon in aid of TGLFUK. They had a fantastic run and raised an amazing £540 through their Facebook giving page! Thank you very much to both of you for choosing us, raising so much money and promoting our work to your friends and family.

We have recently set up a Just Giving profile, so if anyone is interested on taking on a sponsored challenge in support of rangers, please get in touch!



Photo courtesy of John and Will Ross

Phones for forest rangers in Liberia

Last year, we were delighted to work with our on the ground partners, Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue and Protection, to provide smart phones for forest checkpoint rangers in Liberia. These rangers are working on the front line combatting the illegal wildlife trade, and the new phones will mean they can communicate more effectively between checkpoints, upload field reports instantly and accurately identify species more quickly.



Photo courtesy of Jim Desmond, LCRP

Our partners at Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue and Protection have recently suffered a devastating fire at one of their bases. Fortunately no staff or chimpanzees were hurt, but they are now urgently trying to complete their new canopy habitat enclosure to rehouse the animals. To find out how you can help, please visit their website and social media pages.

CRGP event

Last year, we supported a project with the African Conservation Foundation based in Cameroon, working with community rangers on the frontline of conservation of the world's most endangered great ape, the Cross River Gorilla. Because of our involvement with this, TGLFUK Executive Director Abi was invited to join the panel for the Cross River Gorilla Project's recent conference involving representatives from many different organisations working in conservation in the area. It is great that we are able to be a voice for rangers at events like this.

Focus on the Amazon

Last year, TGLF Australia, launched an appeal for funds for equipment and training for Xingu and Tumucamaque indigenous ranger groups in the Brazilian Amazon. 20% of protected areas in the Amazon is indigenous land and community rangers are on the frontline of conservation as the rainforest faces ever increasing threats from fire, hunting, logging and mining. A major part of this project is to roll out training for community rangers following the LEAD ranger programme. LEAD is a train the trainer model which has been running very successfully in East Africa for many years, and is self-sustaining after initial training. This programme has saved the lives of rangers and other members of the community due to its component of emergency first aid training; in remote communities rangers are often the only available emergency care.

Here at TGLFUK we are excited to be joining with TGLF Australia this year in contributing funds to this brilliant project.

To find out more about LEAD ranger, visit our website, where there will also be a blog article about the Amazon project uploaded in the next few weeks!



Photo credit – The Thin Green Line Foundation

What's next?

- Following the success with the Big Give Christmas Campaign last year, we decided to apply for their Green Match Fund, which focusses on environmental projects. We have recently heard that our application was successful, meaning that The Big Give will match all donations made to our appeal through their website during the campaign week 22nd – 29th April. Keep an eye on our social media and website for more news of The Big Give Green Match Fund over the next few weeks!

- After many months of preparation and postponements due to covid, we are very excited to be holding a special even in the House of Lords in June. Moderated by TGLFUK board member Marianne Kettunen and featuring guest speakers including ranger representatives from around the world, the event aims to raise awareness of

the essential role of rangers in tackling global environmental and sustainability challenges. Hopefully, this will raise the profile of rangers and their dedication to their work among a new and influential audience.

As always, thank you for your continued support for our work supporting rangers on the frontline!

If you would like to keep up to date with ranger news and new projects, follow our social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram).

Best wishes

Thin Green Line UK Team