Thin Green Line
FOUNDATION UK

Summer 2021

Welcome to our first Thin Green Line Foundation UK newsletter, our new quarterly roundup of news and projects to keep our supporters up to date. 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.

2021 has been a very exciting year so far with the charity continuing to grow, and we are delighted to have already funded some fantastic projects, enabling rangers to better carry out their vital work in protecting wildlife and habitats around the world.

Lemur Love

We are very excited to have contributed funding to a great project via the Tusk Covid Appeal. Lemur Love is a charity working in Madagascar with the two main goals of protecting lemurs and empowering women. Covid -19 has had a major impact on communities and the environment across Madagascar, including the Tsminanampesote National Park in the south west of the country where Lemur Love mainly operate. Although wildlife trafficking dropped significantly last year as there were few foreign visitors to provide a market, there was a major increase in forest loss as communities struggled with the sudden lack of income from tourism and food insecurity. This funding enabled Lemur Love to create several community advisor roles to maintain links within local communities while their staff and researchers were unable to travel due to covid. It also provided emergency funding to 741 women in the most hard hit communities for one month's supply of food school fees.



Community rangers in Madagascar - Photo credit Lemur Love

Liberia Phone Appeal

Earlier in the year, we launched our first specific project-based appeal to provide smart phones for forest check point rangers in Liberia. Liberia is one of the most biodiverse countries in the world, home to pristine forest and a huge number of iconic and often endangered species such as the forest elephant, pygmy hippo and western chimpanzee. However, because of its location on the west African coast, surrounded by equally wildlife rich neighbouring countries and served by an international port, it is also a hot spot for illegal wildlife trade. The forestry department has rangers stationed at checkpoints to intercept traffic and combat this devastating trade in wildlife and forest resources. However, they are severely under equipped and work in very remote isolated areas. Working with our partners at Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue and Protection, and with the fantastic generosity of our supporters, we have been able to fund a total of 20 smart phones and data packages, as well as training for rangers in their use. With this new equipment and training, rangers will be able to communicate more effectively between checkpoints, complete and upload incident report forms to a central database, and better identify species, all of which is invaluable in the fight against wildlife trafficking.

Thank you very much to all of our brilliant supporters who have donated to or spread the word about this appeal and helped us reach our target!



Chimpanzee – Photo credit Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue and Protection

Fallen Ranger Fund

In the last 6 months, we have provided emergency funding for the families of nine fallen rangers. This money has enabled children to continue schooling, paid for housing and provided seed funding for alternative sources of income for the families.

Upcoming event – the role of rangers in achieving the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

We are delighted to be co-hosting a free online event with out friends at the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP). The webinar will focus on the importance of rangers and their work in protected areas and how this is key to achieving the global SDGs outlined by the United Nations. It will feature an introduction by Thin Green Line Foundation UK director Abi Gatty Irving, and a wide range of panellists from around the world including rangers and representatives from international environmental organisations. To sign up, visit the IEEP website

https://ieep.eu/news/event-protecting-nature-s-protectors-rangers-as-key-workers-for-delivering-sdgs

What's next?

We are just embarking on an exciting new project based in Cameroon providing equipment, training and support for community rangers working in remote forests combatting poaching and illegal logging – more details coming soon!

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