Thin Green Line
FOUNDATION UK

Summer 2022

Welcome to the Thin Green Line Foundation UK summer 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.

We are over half way through 2022 now, and we have some interesting news and updates to share with you!

Green Match Fund – Sumatra

In April, we took part in The Big Give Green Match Fund campaign and thanks to generous donations (both from our regular supporters and those who found us through The Big Give Platform), and match funding, we raised £5000 to help train and equip rangers in the Bikut Tigapuluh region of Sumatra.

This area of rainforest is hugely significant as a carbon storage resource for the mitigation of climate change, home to several indigenous groups who depend on the forest for survival and harbours extraordinary biodiversity, being a particularly important stronghold for some species of critically endangered large mammals. It is a priority area for one of the largest populations of wild Sumatran elephants, home to 10-15% of the world's remaining Sumatran tigers and covers one of only two release sites for rehabilitated ex- captive Sumatran orangutans.

However, the region is under threat from increased poaching and encroachment from logging and illegal farming.

Delivered through our on the ground partners, Wildlife Conservation International, our funds will help enable the rangers to:

- Maintain continuous anti poaching efforts and protect large mammal populations
- Continue their successful community based programme to minimise conflict between farmers and elephants
- Acquire and train in the use of SMART wildlife monitoring technology
- Cover the ongoing core costs of uniform, transport, food rations, basic patrol equipment and communications technology

Thank you very much to everyone who donated to this appeal and spread the word!



Ranger monitoring elephants in Sumatra – Photo credit Alex Mossbrucker

Upemba

We have received a call for help from the ranger team protecting Upemba National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). They are in urgent need of vital communications equipment to enable them to continue their patrols and wildlife monitoring and protecting.

You can help us to provide these dedicated men and women with the communications equipment they need. This is such a compelling ask that we have made this our 2022 Christmas Challenge project with The Big Give. With this, the first £2500 of money pledged to us is match funded by the Big Give, which would automatically get us half way to our total project targe of £10,000.

In order to secure the full match funding from The Big Give, we need to raise up to £2500 in donor pledges by midnight on 2nd September. The pledged funds will then be collected after the Christmas campaign in December.

If you are able to and interested in pledging funds to this appeal, please visit our Big Give campaign page https://www.thebiggive.org.uk/s/pledge?campaignId=a056900002NiPSnAAN.

Upemba is one of Africa's most important protected areas, and yet is often overshadowed by more high profile parks. Encompassing over 11,000 square kilometres of grassland, woodland, wetland and mountains, it is home to huge biodiversity including DRC's only savannah elephants and zebras. In recent years, the area and the iconic wildlife that lives there have been under increasing pressure from poaching, armed militia groups, illegal strip mining, wildlife trafficking and human wildlife conflict.

The 247 strong ranger team work tirelessly in extreme and often dangerous conditions to monitor wildlife and patrol the park. It is a vast area to cover and with no radio or telephone signal, it is currently impossible for rangers on patrol to communicate with each other and for park authorities to know their locations and monitor their safety. Very sadly, in the last year, 4 rangers have been killed whilst on duty in the park.

The team at Upemba have requested funding to purchase 13 GPS communicators and subscription to supporting software. This would enable teams to stay in touch, better communicate illegal activity and have a huge impact on ranger safety and operational planning. 60 rangers would be trained in the use of the devices which will be a game changer not only for staff safety, effectiveness and morale, but also mean that this important national park can be protected for years to come.

If you have any further questions, please get in touch!

Together we can protect nature's protectors and provide vital equipment for rangers in Upemba!



Upemba National Park – Photo courtesy of Forgotten Parks Foundation

World Ranger Day

On 31st July every year, we celebrate World Ranger Day, a chance to recognise the dedication of rangers around the world to protecting wildlife, habitats and communities. This year's theme was diversity – the diversity of people who work as rangers, diversity of habitats they protect, and the diversity of roles they perform.

As well as a celebration, it is a chance to remember those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. In the year leading up to this World Ranger Day (June 2021 to May 2022), 150 rangers were killed while on duty – some killed by poachers or militia, some in vehicle accidents or through injuries, burns, drowning, illnesses or encounters with the wildlife they work so hard to protect.

Thin Green Line Foundation UK stands with the families of these fallen rangers, and we are able to offer financial support to widows and children through our Fallen Ranger Fund, which is there to provide emergency funds for education and immediate needs after the tragic loss of a loved one.

Please visit our website to find out more about the Fallen Ranger Fund and how you can help

https://thingreenline.org.uk/projects/fallenrangerfund-2/

House of Lords Event

In June, we were very pleased to host an event at the House of Lords to highlight not only the important role that rangers play in biodiversity conservation, protected area management, sustainable community development and wider planetary health, but also the need to make sure rangers on the ground are at the heart of conservation policy making going forward. We are very grateful to TGLFUK Trustee Chairman John Randall for hosting, board member Marianne Kettunen for facilitating and keynote speakers Gordon Buchanan and Dr. Ian Redmond and our executive director Abi for some great talks. It was brilliant to host representatives from conservation organisations, funding bodies and government departments and spread the word about our cause and the amazing work of rangers around the world.

What's next?

We have lots of exciting things coming up over the next few months:

- The European Ranger Congress in Tirana
- Potential new projects in South East Asia
- The Big Give Christmas Challenge appeal for Upemba in December

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