Thin Green Line
FOUNDATION UK

Winter 2021

Welcome to the Thin Green Line Foundation UK winter 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 year has flown by, and we have some interesting news and updates to share with you!

Christmas Appeal

At the end of November, we launched our Christmas Appeal working with our on the ground partner organisation, the Spectacled Bear Conservation Society of Peru, to raise funds for training and equipment for voluntary rangers in the Laquipampa Wildlife Refuge in the Lambayeque region of north west Peru. The equatorial dry forests of the region are among the most threatened neotropical ecosystems, and are home to not only the iconic spectacled bear, but also many other species, such as mountain tapir, Andean condor and white winged guan. The park is currently protected by just three official park rangers, and the voluntary ranger programme that supported them has had to be suspended through lack of funds. Through our appeal, we hope to provide enough funding to set up a network of 20 volunteer rangers from local communities, covering equipment such as tents, tools, GPS and cameras, as well as training in first aid, surveillance and conflict resolution. With the help of these extra rangers, the park rangers will be able to protect the bears and their habitat much more safely and effectively.

For the first week in December, we were lucky enough to be part of The Big Give Christmas Challenge, which enabled pledge funds earlier in the year to be matched and also put the word out about our work to a much wider audience. It was a great success and we managed to raise a total of £2221.25 in donations, claimed pledges and gift aid. This is enough to cover the equipment aspect of the project, and we are continuing our appeal through our website throughout December and January to try and top up the rest of the funds needed for training.

Donations can be made through our website with the option to receive an Adopt a Bear gift certificate, if you are donating on behalf of someone else.

Thank you very much to everyone who pledged funds or donated through The Big Give, it is brilliant how much we have raised so far.

To find out more, please visit our blog https://thingreenline.org.uk/spectacled-bear/





Rangers at work and a spectacled bear - Photo credit Spectacled Bear Conservation Society Peru

Cross River Gorilla project update

In November we closed our Cross River gorilla appeal, working with our partners the African Conservation Foundation to contribute funds to their project supporting community rangers in Cameroon. Through your generous donations, we were able to send over enough to cover training, equipment and two years' salary for a community ranger working in south west Cameroon. As well as protecting and monitoring Cross River gorillas and the conservation threats to their habitat, these rangers provide humanitarian assistance and are a vital connection between the community and the authorities in a region that is seeing an increase in pressure on natural resources due to an influx of refugees from neighbouring areas.

We have received some amazing photographs from our project partners of wildlife taken on new camera equipment, and will have a more detailed update on how the project is progressing and the impact it is having on the rangers, community and wildlife, for the next newsletter, so watch this space!

Again, thank you very much to everyone who has donated, spread the word and shown an interest in our work!



Chimpanzees caught on camera in Cameroon – Photo credit Arend de Haas

COP 26

Thin Green Line Foundation director Abi was lucky enough to be allocated a place to attend the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow in October. It was a brilliant opportunity to network with other conservation organisations and try and raise the profile of rangers as key workers in the fight against climate change going forward. The overriding theme of the summit was 'nature based solutions', recognising how conservation of protected areas, and in particular forests, is the way forward in tackling rising global temperatures as well as in protecting communities from the impacts of climate change and associated extreme weather events.

Hopefully world leaders will deliver on the promises made at the event, and policy makers will recognise that representatives of the ranger and protected area conservation communities need to be present at the table going forward in discussions on climate change mitigation.



COP 26 – Photo credit Abi Gatty Irving

School supplies for rangers' children

Aside from their vital work protecting species and habitats and their wider significance as planetary health workers, on the front line in the fight against climate change and the spread of zoonotic disease, rangers are key members of the community, connecting people with the environment and inspiring the next generation. Therefore, here at Thin Green Line Foundation UK, we not only support rangers in practical ways to help them work more safely and effectively, but also try to ensure that their families are helped in times of crisis.

In September, we received a request for funds via our partners at the Ape Alliance to cover the cost of school supplies for rangers' children in the eastern DRC. The rangers working in Kisimba - Ikobo Community Nature Reserve have been unpaid for a number of years due to lack of funds, yet work tirelessly in very dangerous conditions to protect the reserve's many endangered species and threatened habitats and manage human wildlife conflict. At the time the request was made, the rangers had been away from home on patrol monitoring and protecting a newly discovered population of Grauer's gorillas for a long period and were worried that their children would have to start back at school without essential supplies. We were able to send out the funds that very afternoon and they arrived in time for the children to receive their equipment before the new term started.

Omer Paluku Mbusa of UGADEC said 'They (the rangers) said, not only this was a relief for their children to attend school with dignity, but hope for conservation for their nature reserve, because, after them, their children will continue with their work, having necessary capacity to do it.'



Children receiving school supplies – Photo credit Omer Paluku Mbuse

Update from Australia

We at Thin Green Line UK are in fact the European arm of our sister organisation The Thin Green Line Foundation, based in Australia. The longer established Australian branch of Thin Green Line have also had an extremely busy 2021 funding a wide variety of projects around the world, all with the focus on supporting rangers in their work protecting wildlife and habitats.

Some of their highlights from this year, among many others, have been:

- Working with Patagonia to ship 500 ranger uniforms around the world
- Funding the Grevy's Zebra Trust's community based wildlife monitoring and anti- poaching programme in Kenya
- Appeal for training and equipment for indigenous rangers in the Brazilian Amazon
- Providing funding for PPE, salaries and first aid training for rangers in Colombia

To find out more about their projects, please check out their social media and website https://thingreenline.org.au/

What's next?

2022 promises to be a very exciting year for Thin Green Line Foundation UK, we have lots of new projects on the horizon, and are looking forward to receiving updates from the field from those we have funded this year.

In the mean time, we wish all our supporters a happy and safe Christmas period, and as always, thank you to everyone for your interest and donations, we look forward to sharing more news and updates with you next year,

Thin Green Line UK Team