Thin Green Line
FOUNDATION UK

Winter 2022 -23

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.

We have had a busy few months and have some interesting news and updates to share with you!

Big Give Upemba Appeal Update

Thanks to the amazing generosity of our supporters and match funding from Friends of the Reed Foundation we surpassed our target of £10000 for our Big Give Christmas Challenge Appeal!

This means we are able to fulfil our promise of providing 13 GPS units, supporting software subscription and training to rangers protecting Upemba National Park, DRC through our project partners, the Forgotten Parks Foundation. This equipment will be a game changer for the 247 strong ranger team, meaning they can communicate whilst on patrol, vastly improving their safety in this extreme environment where they are at risk of attack from poachers and armed militia groups.

Upemba is one of Africa's most important protected areas, 4500 square miles of habitat, home to huge biodiversity including lions, elephants and DRC's last remaining herd of zebras. Wildlife has been in decline in recent years due to pressure from poaching, wildlife trafficking and illegal mining so supporting these dedicated rangers risking their lives to protect and restore the ecosystem is vital.



Photo courtesy of Forgotten Parks Foundation

Training and equipment for community forest rangers in Cambodia

Very often, community based rangers are best placed to protect their local wildlife, habitats and natural resources. This winter we have provided funding for an exciting project delivered through our partners, Wildlife Alliance, who are extending their Community Conservation Support programme to the Srae Chis ranger team, made up of 20 members of the local community. The forest is under threat from hunters targeting large mammal species, snares, illegal logging and deforestation.

Thanks to your donations, we have been able to provide funding for patrol equipment, including camera traps to help with monitoring wildlife and illegal activity and with data collection, as well as hands on training for rangers on the siting and installation of the cameras and on wildlife identification, as well as data analysis and developing responsive patrol strategies based on the data.

This monitoring of wildlife and patrols to reduce illegal hunting and logging will help to protect the forest not only for its biodiversity, but also as a sustainable natural resource that the whole community relies on.



Photo courtesy of Wildlife Alliance

Supporting seabird rangers in South Africa

We are very pleased to have joined the African Bird Club in joint funding a brilliant project training and upskilling rangers working to protect African penguin and seabird colonies in South Africa.

The seabird colonies along the coast of South Africa are home to a whole range of species, including the endangered African penguin, Cape gannet and Cape cormorant, all of which have seen approximately 50% population decline over just three generations. This is indicative of the dwindling health of the ecosystem as a whole which is under threat from decreasing fish stocks, climate change, pollution, habitat destruction, disease outbreaks and extreme weather events.

Our on the ground partners, the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds, support a small team of rangers based at key sites along the coast, who undertake year round monitoring of the seabird colonies, support conservation managers and researchers, practical habitat management and the rescue and rehabilitation of injured birds.

With your support, we have been able to provide funding for training days for the seabird rangers, covering practical skills in seabird care as well as monitoring of the birds and threats to the colonies such as oil spills.

We look forward to bringing you updates as the training sessions take place!



Photo courtesy of SANCCOB

Fallen Ranger Fund

Sadly we are about to support the family of yet another fallen ranger, this time in Uganda. 82% of rangers in Africa and Asia have faced a life threatening situation and around 150 rangers die at work every year, about half killed by armed poachers or militia. Between 80 and 90% of these rangers have little or no life insurance, so we try to provide emergency support to as many of these families as possible.

You can find our more and help the families of fallen rangers by supporting our Fallen Ranger Fund.

Ranger Shopping List

Did you know that even a small donation can make a huge amount of difference to a ranger working in the field?

£5 can provide a mosquito net…
£15 can provide a first aid kit…
£25 can provide a pair of boots…

Check out the ranger shopping list on our website to see what you can do to help.

What's next?

We are really looking forward to working on some exciting projects in 2023 with partners old and new, and look forward to sharing these with you all.

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