

2025 AWARDS CYCLE

THE IUCN WCPA International Ranger Awards

Since 2021, the International Ranger Awards have recognised and celebrated Protected Area rangers and their vital and often challenging work, and advocated for support and improvement of working conditions in order to accelerate nature conservation.

Partner with the Awards that recognise rangers worldwide



Rangers protect and conserve our planet's blue and green spaces for nature and humans alike. They deliver a multitude of essential tasks, from monitoring and research, to preventing poaching, fighting fires, and community outreach. Rangers often work with little reward and great risk. In the last 15 years, more than 1,500 rangers have been killed on duty.

The IUCN WCPA International Ranger Awards programme **officially recognises rangers and ranger teams** who have overcome challenges to protect wildlife each year.

The Awards' objectives are to:

- recognise the courageous and selfless activities of rangers across the planet (all countries) who face challenges and risks in order to help preserve our planet.
- motivate rangers to showcase their effort to protect wildlife and natural resources.
- raise awareness about the critical role and dedication of rangers in conservation.
- share real-life stories.
- provide award recipients with tangible benefits that will aid and support their work.

IUCN and WCPA are seeking partners to make recommendations, judge candidates and help promote the work of rangers worldwide.



CONSERVATION
ALLIES
partners for wildlife



MEET PAST

Ranger Awardees

59 awards have been presented to teams and individuals from 32 countries, totalling a value of \$480,000 in the last three cycles.

Explore the [past awardees](#) to learn about their work and accomplishments.



Fetiya Ousman

Babile Elephant Sanctuary, Ethiopia

Awarded for outstanding resoluteness and leadership as a head ranger and a pioneer for gender equality. Since receiving the award, Fetiya has been able to continue her university education, together with her colleagues complete a variety of technical training courses, and fund much needed equipment and tools for more effective patrolling of her team. Her long term goal is to become the Sanctuary's Chief Warden.

Ranger Team

Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, Philippines

Segundo Conales Jr., Noel Bundal, Jeffrey David, Crescencio Caranay

Awarded for dedicated service and commitment as marine rangers. After receiving the award, the team funded an upgrade of the dated solar energy system at the ranger station that in turn improved energy supply to adequately use the communication equipment, and secured food storage in case of rough sea conditions. The award also funded patrol equipment and a life raft. Rangers from other agencies sharing the facilities equally benefited from the award.



Cristián Andrés Vásquez Bermúdez

El Dorado Reserve, Colombia

Awarded for perseverance, leadership and achievement in researching and conserving one of the most biodiverse places on earth. After receiving the Award, Cristián supported expenses of park rangers related to operations, improvement of rangers' station infrastructure, equipment, local road and construction of a surveillance cabin to allow better communication and monitoring of the reserve. Cristián also engaged in conservation of the Santa Marta Parakeet habitat, by running workshops for rangers and local communities and engaging with reforestation of plants preferred by the species. In his own words *"We all come into the world with a purpose; birds and snakes have a purpose on the planet and people cannot harm part of this chain."*

Support Ranger Awards

Our ambition is to continue recognising rangers for their immense contributions to nature and people; elevating their voices; advocating for their protection, and celebrating their diverse roles in nature conservation.

We hope to grow a stronger circle of supporters to help scale up global recognition of rangers as indispensable planetary health workers. Organisations and individuals are invited to join the partnership either as partners and/or supporters of the Awards.

Ranger Awards Partners

Organisations contribute staff time and other in-kind resources to help select winners and deliver the Awards. Please note that an organisation must be confirmed as Partner before the selection process starts (January 2025):

- Involved in the nominee review and winners selection process.
- Contribute organisational logo for inclusion on the IUCN WCPA International Ranger Awards webpage and materials to be recognised as a partner.
- Can nominate rangers from any country in the world for Ranger Awards consideration.
- Asked to allocate at least one specific point person to coordinate with and at least one person involved in the selection process who have capacity between January and May 2025.
- Invited to participate in the Ranger Awards presentation event and deliver in person an award or awards to winners.

Ranger Supporters Circle

Organisations or individuals contribute financially to the delivery of the Awards:

- Funding support is provided to increase the overall number of awards and to help with programme administration-related costs.
- Donor recognition and profiling option is provided as is recognition as a member of the Ranger Supporters Circle.
- Opportunity to earmark funds provided to recognise a specific category/type of award noting that any special designations for awards need to be approved and finalised before the selection process starts (January 2025).
- Invited to present awards in person to winners.

About the Awards

Candidates are nominated by individuals familiar with their work. Nominators must be a member of an IUCN Member organisation, the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas or an [International Ranger Awards](#) partner organisation.

Each year, Ranger Awards Partners recognise 10 or more winners (individuals and teams) who have demonstrated exceptional personal commitment, courage, resilience and perseverance through actions and impact achieved.

The next round of winners will be presented at awards ceremony planned during the [IUCN World Conservation Congress](#) (9-15 October 2025).

The awards (between \$5,000 and \$25,000) are disbursed to support their work in areas where they are deployed, in accordance with their wishes.

To learn more, contact:

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Photo credits:

Front page: Marizilda Cruppe WWF; Members of the surveillance team of the Kanindé Ethno-Environmental Defense Association, Porto Velho, Rondônia State, Brazil