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## **UN General Assembly recognises the role of rangers in tackling illicit wildlife trafficking**

**Hong Kong, July 30 2021** – The Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime, of which the International Ranger Federation (IRF) is an International Champion, welcomes the adoption of a comprehensive Resolution on Tackling Illicit Wildlife Trafficking by the UN General Assembly (UNGA).

The Resolution, which was adopted by consensus in July, follows on from its 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2019 Resolutions, gives specific recognition to the crucial role played by rangers and guards in the fight against wildlife trafficking under adverse conditions.

The Resolution calls on all member states to bolster and monitor ranger safety, to improve working conditions and the welfare of rangers, including decent wages and provision of critical training, equipment and institutional support.

"Far too often we see the role of rangers as planetary health professionals, who are on the frontlines tackling wildlife crimes, not being recognised at a global level." Says Chris Galliers, President of the International Ranger Federation.

"31st July is World Ranger Day where we will be celebrating rangers, but also recognising the unacceptable number of rangers that have passed away. As we have lost 1,313 rangers in the line of duty since 2009, this resolution is extremely relevant and befitting" added Galliers.

In response to the Resolution, John E Scanlon AO, Chair of the Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime said "It is heartening to see the critical role played by rangers in protecting wildlife at its source being recognised by the UN General Assembly. To end wildlife crime, we must enhance our efforts from global to site level, and ensure that we connect global initiatives with what is happening on the ground".

Adding "Rangers extraordinary work in the field, is conserving biodiversity, mitigating climate change, stopping poaching and wildlife trafficking, providing stability, and enabling sustainable development. It is through their tireless work that States can deliver on multiple international commitments"

The UNGA Resolution paragraph that makes direct reference to Rangers:

*17. Calls upon Member States to recognize the crucial role played by rangers and guards in the fight against illicit wildlife trafficking, in often very challenging conditions, to bolster and monitor ranger safety and activity in protected areas, to improve rangers' working conditions and welfare and to provide them with decent wages, necessary training, equipment and institutional support;*

The full UNGA Resolution can be found [here](#).

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