



Six Years. 500 Million Reached. The Movement Keeps Growing.

World Female Ranger Week Returns June 23–30, 2026 - Real Women. Real Stories. Real Impact.

Now in its sixth year, World Female Ranger Week (WFRW) - founded by award-winning conservationist Holly Budge and her NGO How Many Elephants - returns June 23–30, 2026. What began as a pioneering awareness campaign has grown into a global movement that has reached over 500 million people, amplifying the voices of the bold women protecting wildlife and wild spaces on the front lines of conservation.

With less than 11% of the global ranger workforce being female, WFRW shines a spotlight on their courage and impact, and calls for greater gender equity in conservation. This year's campaign is the biggest yet, with live events, media interviews, a new education programme for young conservationists, and the World Female Ranger Awards, now open for nominations. "These women are changing the narrative," says Founder Holly Budge. "They're not only protecting wildlife, they're also lifting up communities, challenging gender norms, and rewriting what's possible."

Why Female Rangers Matter

Female rangers are educators, protectors, breadwinners, and often the first women in their families to earn a salary, own property, or access higher education. Studies show women bring strong community engagement skills to conservation roles, invest more in their families, and serve as powerful role models - especially for girls. Yet many still face social stigma, workplace discrimination, safety risks, and limited resources. WFRW exists to change that.

Global Voices from the Front Line

Pakistan: Hassena Anbarin

The first female ranger in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Hassena, was initially discouraged from entering a field dominated entirely by men. She persisted, earned her forestry degree, and now patrols remote mountain forests while mentoring young girls who never imagined the role was open to them. "When young girls tell me they didn't know this job existed for them, I know I'm doing something that matters."

Kenya: Purity Masuntu

As a Maasai woman leading a ranger team in one of Kenya's most threatened forest ecosystems, Purity is breaking both gender and cultural barriers. After joining the Mara Elephant Project, she earned her drone pilot's licence and now leads the Bravo ranger team, protecting her ancestral land from illegal logging and encroachment. A mother of young children, she balances demanding fieldwork with family life and refuses to apologise for either. "I want my children to grow up knowing that their mum is doing something important."

Australia: Larissa Hale

A Jalunji Warra woman of the Yuku Baja Muliku people, Larissa defends Australia's northeast coast - where rainforest meets reef - by weaving thousands of years of Indigenous ecological knowledge with modern tools, including drones, data mapping, and fire monitoring. Founder of the Queensland Indigenous Women Rangers Network and a 2022 Earthshot Prize winner, her conviction is simple: traditional knowledge and Western science must walk side by side.

Indonesia: Pera Pinem

The first female ranger in North Sumatra, Pera, stepped into a field where women were told they simply didn't belong - criticised by her family and community for joining overnight jungle patrols alongside male colleagues. As a key member of the Sumatran Ranger Project, she monitors biodiversity, prevents forest encroachment, and works with local communities to reduce conflict with endangered Sumatran tigers and elephants. "I am very proud to be a ranger."

What's New for 2026

This year's campaign is the most ambitious yet. World Female Ranger Week will be online and LIVE in Zambia for a week of impact on June 23–30 - bigger and bolder than ever - with skills workshops, community and school visits, roundtables, and press and government engagement, putting female rangers centre stage.

Globally, the campaign expands:

- **World Female Ranger Awards** - nominations are open now. International recognition for rangers showing extraordinary dedication to protecting wildlife and wild spaces.
- **Ranger Callout** - we want to hear from female rangers worldwide. Share your story and help us build the most comprehensive picture yet of women on the conservation front line.
- **New education resources for schools worldwide**, inspiring the next generation of conservationists.
- **Sponsorship and partnership opportunities available** - join us to scale real-world impact for women protecting our planet.

WFRW Ambassador Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, founder of Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH), Uganda, says: "World Female Ranger Week plays a vital role in raising awareness of female rangers and advancing gender equity in conservation."

A Message from the Founder

Holly Budge has patrolled with female ranger teams across Africa for over a decade. She says, “these women are fearless. I’ve seen how becoming a ranger empowers them to overcome poverty, protect biodiversity, and change lives - including their own. Our mission is to amplify their voices, identify their needs, and work towards tangible, lasting solutions.”

World Female Ranger Week is seeking strategic partners to grow the campaign’s reach and deepen support for women in conservation.

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About World Female Ranger Week

A pioneering global awareness campaign, now in its sixth year, founded by Holly Budge and How Many Elephants NGO. WFRW amplifies the voices of female rangers worldwide, funds direct conservation action through grants and awards, and campaigns for gender equity in conservation.

www.worldfemalerangerweek.org

About How Many Elephants (Charity No. 1186238)

An award-winning, female-led charity educating a global audience about the plight of African elephants and championing female rangers globally. www.howmanyelephants.org