

Going above and beyond

The development of ForRangers

In less than five years, the ForRangers initiative has donated more than £2 million for ranger equipment and kit. Not bad for an initiative that started on a whim. The story goes that, after a training run, Sam Taylor jokingly suggested to Pete Newland that they should do the Marathon des Sables, a 250 km ultra marathon billed as “the toughest foot race on Earth”.

David Hill | Events Manager

Left to right: Moses Kasaine back at work in Borana Conservancy, thanks to support from ForRangers.

Rangers visiting an injured colleague at Nanyuki Cottage Hospital.

A ranger team during the Mt Kenya rescue training.

A ranger at Garamba National Park with his new trail shoes.

The ForRangers line at the James Ashe Anti-Venom Trust.

To Sam’s surprise, Pete said yes and suggested that they not only take on the challenge, but raise funds for rangers while they were doing so. A few days later, Pete signed everyone up, and ForRangers was born. Since day one, ForRangers’ aim has been to improve the welfare of the men and women who protect Africa’s most endangered species. By raising funds, ForRangers helps to purchase essential and everyday equipment, such as boots, uniforms and rations, whilst also providing ranger training and refurbishing (and sometimes building from scratch) ranger accommodation and recreational areas.

As ForRangers expands, so do Sam and Pete’s ambitions. Together, we’ve set up grants to match those ambitions, providing even more support for rangers.

To support Moses, ForRangers purchased a prosthetic limb and funded physiotherapy to help him continue in his day-to-day life. He is now back at Borana, working in the radio operations room.

Providing access to medical care

Access to top-quality healthcare is critical to the wellbeing of rangers, both in and out of the workplace.



ALL IMAGES FORRANGERS

Nanyuki Cottage Hospital is the centre of medical excellence for the whole of Northern Kenya, and has treated hundreds of rangers injured in the field during the last 10 years. The Hospital was in dire need of developing its

radiology department to better diagnose injuries and provide specialist healthcare. Thanks to donations and support from ForRangers, this will now be possible.

Further donations to ForRangers have also enabled the construction of a health clinic in Loisaba Conservancy, providing vital infrastructure to address the medical needs of rangers and the wider community.

Improving ranger training

One of ForRangers’ priorities is to help rangers work at the highest level possible; physical and professional training is key. This year, ForRangers established a fitness regime and new equipment for rangers at four conservancies within Kenya’s Laikipia County: Lewa, Borana, OI Jogi and OI Pejeta.

In Garamba National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo, 235 pairs of trail-running shoes were sent to the ranger teams, improving the rangers’ ability to build their fitness and health, not only to boost their effectiveness at work, but also their wellbeing and mental health.

Despite the challenges that the past 12 months has brought, the above shows the impact that ForRangers is having. Next year, we hope to accomplish even more.



Supporting rangers and their families

For the third year running, we’ve purchased a life-insurance policy for Kenyan rangers, paying for hospital treatment and supporting the families of rangers injured or killed in the line of duty. In June 2020, while responding – at the community’s request – to a livestock theft, one ranger was killed and another injured. The policy will support the injured ranger while he is out of work, and will provide for the deceased’s widow and children.

Protecting rangers from wildlife hazards

Rangers are at risk of snakebites while on patrol. With the support of ForRangers, 46 vials of anti-venom were purchased by the James Ashe Anti-Venom Trust, an amount that could save the lives of 10 to 15 people.

In 2012, Moses Kasaine, a ranch herder on Borana Conservancy in Kenya, was bitten by a puff adder. After months in hospital and years of suffering in pain, the difficult decision was made to amputate Moses’ foot above the ankle.

