# Prince of Wales launches documentary to honour and support endangered wildlife rangers



The Prince of Wales has unveiled a new six-part documentary series titled "Guardians," drawing inspiration from the legendary broadcaster and naturalist, Sir David Attenborough. The series intends to spotlight the critical work of wildlife rangers, whose roles often expose them to life-threatening dangers while they protect some of the world's most endangered species. William aims for the series to not only raise awareness about the invaluable contributions of these rangers but also to promote respect and recognition for their efforts.

In his remarks during the launch, the Prince highlighted the perilous nature of the rangers' work, which has become increasingly hazardous due to rising threats from community conflicts, poaching, and climate change. He referenced alarming statistics, noting that 1,400 rangers have lost their lives in the past decade while performing their valiant duties. This statistic underscores a growing crisis in conservation, exacerbated by illegal wildlife trade, which is estimated to be valued at up to $20 billion annually, often linked to serious crimes such as corruption and human trafficking.

William articulated a strong belief that meaningful progress in conservation relies on acknowledging the role of rangers. “Any progress, any future we want for the natural world, has to come from the ranger community being valued, respected, seen,” he stated. With segments of the documentary featuring rangers working across diverse landscapes—safeguarding snow leopards in the Indian Himalayas, defending marine life in Mexico’s Sea of Cortez, and protecting elephants and gorillas in the Central African Republic—the series promises to bring to light the diverse challenges these guardians of nature face.

During a recent screening of the series, attended by notable figures including Rohit Singh, vice president of the International Ranger Federation, the Prince stressed that the rangers' work extends far beyond simply protecting wildlife. It encompasses community education, scientific research, and various initiatives to bolster local economies. Singh, who advocates for improvements in training and working conditions for rangers, pointed out a stark reality: currently, one ranger is often tasked with managing an area equivalent to 11,000 football fields, a nearly impossible feat under such conditions.

The Prince also announced a bold initiative aimed at improving the financial security of rangers through a five-year Ranger Welfare and Standards Initiative, which will provide insurance to 10,000 rangers operating in Africa. These efforts come in tandem with ongoing programmes such as the "Nature Protectors" initiative under the United for Wildlife banner. Such measures indicate a growing recognition of the need to support these individuals who face immense risks daily in the fight against poaching and habitat destruction.

At the screening, William shared his personal motivation, recalling how David Attenborough’s documentaries profoundly influenced him during his upbringing. “David Attenborough – big inspiration for me growing up,” he remarked, expressing a hope that "Guardians" would similarly inspire viewers by showcasing the magnificent but often hidden parts of our planet, reinforcing a message of hope amid pressing environmental challenges.

Moreover, these discussions echo broader themes addressed in other recent documentaries and initiatives, including "Rhino Man," which tells the story of Sergeant Anton Mzimba, a ranger tragically murdered in 2022 while combating poaching in South Africa. Such narratives underscore the real dangers faced by rangers and the critical need to advocate for their well-being and safety.

The first episode of "Guardians," co-produced by Zandland and launched by the Royal Foundation's United for Wildlife, is now available on BBC Earth’s YouTube and social media channels, with new episodes scheduled for release every Friday. This series not only serves as an awareness campaign but stands as a heartfelt tribute to the unwavering commitment of the ranger community, ultimately aiming to galvanise support and recognition for these essential stewards of the natural world.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
2. Paragraphs 3, 6
3. Paragraph 5
4. Paragraph 5
5. Paragraph 5
6. Paragraph 5
7. Paragraphs 1, 4

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/attenborough-inspiration-for-williams-new-series-celebrating-wildlife-rangers-3K2MYMS3D5KGNNYIJQCMJXZJPE/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/prince-william-launches-documentary-series-wildlife-rangers-dangerous-work-2025-05-22/> - Prince William has launched a six-part documentary series titled 'Guardians' that highlights the perilous work of wildlife rangers. The series, available on BBC Earth's YouTube and social media channels, aims to showcase the critical role rangers play in protecting endangered species and ecosystems. William emphasized the dangers faced by rangers, noting that conservation has become one of the most hazardous professions, requiring recognition and support. The initiative is part of United for Wildlife's 'Nature Protectors' program, which provides affordable insurance to 10,000 African rangers. The documentary also addresses the illegal wildlife trade, valued at up to $20 billion annually, and its links to serious crimes such as corruption and trafficking. William has been a vocal critic of this trade and has previously honored rangers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The series serves both as an awareness campaign and a tribute to these frontline defenders of nature.
3. <https://www.royalfoundation.com/the-prince-of-wales-celebrates-wildlife-rangers-at-special-screening-of-documentary-film-rhino-man/> - Prince William and the Duchess of Edinburgh attended a special screening of 'Rhino Man,' a documentary that focuses on the courageous field rangers in South Africa who risk their lives daily to protect rhinos from poaching. The film highlights the life and legacy of Sergeant Anton Mzimba, a ranger who was tragically murdered in 2022 for his efforts against poaching. The screening, hosted by United for Wildlife, took place at the newly restored Battersea Power Station in London and was attended by over 150 guests. Prince William, President of United for Wildlife, emphasized the dangers faced by rangers worldwide and expressed pride in recognizing their work through the documentary.
4. <https://people.com/rhino-man-movie-moved-prince-william-gets-streaming-release-8682677> - The documentary 'Rhino Man,' which tells the story of South African ranger Anton Mzimba and his colleagues protecting rhinos from poaching, has been released on streaming platforms. The film was released on July 26, 2024, marking the second anniversary of Mzimba's death. Prince William, who was moved by Mzimba's story, had previously paid tribute to the ranger after his tragic death in 2022. The documentary is available on Apple TV, Google Play, Vimeo on Demand, and Amazon Prime Video, providing viewers with an intimate look into the challenges faced by wildlife rangers in Africa.
5. <https://www.discovery.com/dnews/prince-william-a-planet-for-us-all-> - In the documentary 'Prince William: A Planet for Us All,' the Duke of Cambridge embarks on a mission to advocate for the natural world and highlight the pioneering work of conservationists globally. The film, which premiered on January 14 on discovery+, features exclusive footage spanning over two years and showcases environmental conservation efforts in communities across Africa, Asia, and the United Kingdom. Prince William's personal connection to the natural world and his commitment to environmental causes are central themes of the documentary, reflecting his dedication to preserving the planet for future generations.
6. <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/royal-family/prince-william-george-sad-david-attenborough-documentary-extinction-b879828.html> - Prince William shared that his son, Prince George, became so upset while watching David Attenborough's documentary 'Extinction: The Facts' that they had to turn it off. The seven-year-old royal expressed his sadness about the state of the natural world, prompting the family to discontinue viewing. This incident highlights the emotional impact of environmental issues on younger generations and underscores the importance of addressing conservation challenges to ensure a sustainable future for all.
7. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/attenborough-inspiration-for-williams-new-series-celebrating-wildlife-rangers-3K2MYMS3D5KGNNYIJQCMJXZJPE/> - Prince William has described Sir David Attenborough as the 'inspiration' for his new wildlife documentary project, 'Guardians,' which highlights the work of rangers. The six-part series aims to showcase the critical role rangers play in protecting endangered species and ecosystems. William emphasized the importance of valuing and respecting nature's wardens, noting that their work is essential for the future of the natural world. The series features rangers involved in safeguarding snow leopards in the Indian Himalayas, defending marine life in Mexico's Sea of Cortez, and protecting elephants and gorillas in the Central African Republic.