

RANGER PORTRAIT

Maria Martinez Labiano
Basozainak/Environmental Guard of the
Government of Navarre, Spain

Main duties:

- monitoring species and habitats
- law enforcement
- environmental emergencies
- environmental education

Why is your work important to you?

For me it is very much about vocation. It has hard parts and beautiful parts. But on a day-to-day basis being surrounded by nature is very rewarding. It is the best office in the world.

What is your greatest motivator even when it's hard working out there?

My biggest motivation is being able to do my bit in conservation and work in the field every day. There is an anonymous phrase that says: "You only want what you know and you take care of what you want": transmitting those unknown values to other people is very fulfilling.

Your biggest moment of luck during work?

Every time patience does pay off: Spending many hours finding breeding birds and succeeding. Waiting until daybreak to see or hear species like Great Bustard, Little Bustard or Bittern. Or waiting for a poacher who shows up where you expected him to be.



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