

RANGER PORTRAIT

**Aitor Galarza, Ranger in Urdaibai
Reserve, Spain**

Main duties:

- Hunting and fishing management
- Control of exotic species
- Law enforcement
- Environmental education
- Nature conservation
- Fauna management
- Monitoring and study of bird communities

Why is your work important to you?

Going to the same area every day, seeing the same trees, rivers and people means a lot to me. This work, this area is part of me. Once retired, I will continue to study its biodiversity and help its conservation.

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

Thinking that I am doing a good job and feeling that the people who work with me enjoy doing so is very motivating. For example, I enjoy passing on my experience to young rangers. When some tell me how many things I have taught them that I wasn't even aware of: That means a lot to me.

Your biggest moment of luck during work?

When I went from school to school, teaching children about our reintroduction programmes for white storks and ospreys, I once heard a small kid saying: 'The white stork teacher is coming'. That was very, very satisfying. It means a lot more to me than any other title I have ever achieved!



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