

# RANGER PORTRAIT

**Romain Lacoste, Ranger in  
Mercantour National Park, France**

## **Main duties:**

- stakeholder cooperation
- wildlife monitoring
- promoting coexistence with wolves
- law enforcement

## **Why is your work important to you?**

Firstly, because I am on the ground and protect biodiversity as best I can. Secondly, because I contribute to the acceptance and appreciation of protected areas by local communities, even if nature conservation is associated with restrictions.

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

We have to be in the field to explain people what we are doing and to protect species and habitats. It's a very concrete and motivating job on the ground that immediately shows you why you have to do it.

## **Your biggest moment of luck during work?**

One lunchtime in August, during the peak season, I saw my first and only wolf in the Mercantour. He was walking unnoticed through a place with lots of tourists, very close to a car park. I watched him for about 15 seconds and considered myself really lucky to do this job.



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