

12 January 2021

CONDOLENCES ON THE TRAGIC PASSING OF SIX (6) PARK RANGERS AT VIRUNGA NATIONAL PARK IN DRC

It is with great sadness that the Board of Trustees, Patrons and staff of the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) learnt of the brutal passing of six rangers at Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

As the oldest protected area in Africa, Virunga National Park holds a special stand in the work of the Fund. The work of the rangers within the park and the heavy cost in human lives have demonstrated a strong commitment to the cause of protecting and safeguarding Africa's heritage.

It is our hope that each day, the work of the AWHF, in its mission to provide support and assistance for the conservation and management of World Heritage Sites in Africa, will honour their contribution of service. AWHF condemns any attacks, assaults and acts of violence in DRC and at any other World Heritage Site in Africa.

AWHF extends sincere condolences to the families, colleagues from Virunga National Park, the Congolese Institute for Conservation of Nature (ICCN) and the government of DRC during this time of bereavement.

Sincerely,

Mr. Souayibou Varissou
AWHF: Executive Director