

RANGER PORTRAIT

Leonie Dittmann Ranger in Wadden Sea National Park Schleswig Holstein, Germany

Main duties:

- · wildlife & habitat monitoring
- environmental education & guided tours
- monitoring compliance with conservation regulations

Why is your work important to you?

Here in the Wadden Sea, I can see the effects that climate change has or will have and how sensitive ecosystems can be. Creating more understanding and getting people to reflect more on their actions: that's why my job is so important to me.

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

I simply love being outdoors. And I feel - together with conservation organisations and our volunteers - that I am part of a community that keeps an eye on what is happening out there as an ally.

Your biggest moment of luck during work?

Watching the large flocks of birds and the different formations of the individual bird species within them is always a great moment for me. Or the first time I took part in bird ringing: you don't actually

> want to interfere with nature, but the scientific background is of course useful for conservation.

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