

Good evening everyone, my name is Julianna, and I am an Earth Ranger. A few years ago, I had wanted to find a way to help the environment. I was a lot younger when I first found out about and joined Earth Rangers, but I knew I had to get involved once I started hearing about it in the media, such as magazines and television. I decided to get involved in the program because even as a small child, I knew that there was so much more I could be doing. I saw what was happening in the world: human practices leaving multitudes of animals without a habitat, species dying off faster than we realized. Earth Rangers showed me that even though I am a small voice in an ocean of many, I have the power to make a difference in our environment. I worked my hardest to fundraise for the conservation of natural habitats and their animal inhabitants, specifically marine life.

For me, fundraising was about spreading the word. I talked to people. I told them all about what was happening around them. By doing this, I didn't just get them to donate to the cause – I tried my best to get people thinking about these animals and their homes, so they could go and make a difference in their own lives. I was involved in two campaigns – the beluga whale and the cold water coral, the latter being my more successful of the two. Marine life has always been where my heart was set. I feel that these creatures don't get enough attention as they should, as they are often pushed aside in favour of cuter, more cuddly looking species. This is the reason why I was driven to push my efforts towards the conservation and protection of the cold-water coral. I mean, it isn't exactly the nicest-looking endangered species. The thing doesn't even move! When habitat conservation comes to mind, most people seem to think of sprawling forests, but not so much the waters that lay at the feet of those majestic trees. This is why the Target 1 conservation effort is so vital to our country's environmental preservation. If we all try and make a conscientious effort toward protecting every aspect of our earth, we really can make this idea a reality.

Human factors like deforestation and pollution as well as others, have been causing species to disappear at a faster rate than ever before. We know that this is happening, but the real question is, why should we care?? Well the truth is, we won't be able to understand our species as a whole if we don't understand other species first. Let me put it like this - everything in our world is connected – whether it be the smallest insect or the biggest coral reef. We rely on each other and if something is removed from that cycle, it affects everything else. Essentially, if we can't save endangered species and their homes, we aren't going to be able to save ourselves from the damage we've inflicted on the land and sea and air. This is why protecting animals and their habitats is so important to me and to others just like me. Kids are the future, the next generation. Soon enough, it's going to be up to us to preserve the environment for the people of our future, and for generations after that. It's never too early to start or get involved.

Even though I am just one person, and a rather young one at that, I know that change is possible. If everyone in Canada believed that they could change our environment for the better, and truly made an effort to do so, we would be able to

accomplish so much. As corny as it sounds, if we all try and make a change in some way, we could make a habitat conscious Canada and eventually, a habitat conscious world! As long as this government does its part to make Target 1 a reality, I guarantee that us kids will too. Try to make a difference. Don't wait around for someone else to take action. Our future and our Earth is in our hands now, and no matter how young or old you are, it's always the right time to start. Thank you.