**PRESS RELEASE**

**10/01/2024**

**10ème IRF World Ranger Congress:**

**on the way to COP16**

**From 7 to 11 October 2024, the 10th IRF World Ranger Congress in Hyères (southern France) will bring together more than 450 participants from all over the world involved in protecting indigenous peoples and natural, cultural and historical sites. This international event is co-organised by the International Ranger Federation (IRF) and the association Gardes Nature de France (GNF). Among its many objectives, this congress is above all an opportunity to prepare the participation of nature guards at COP16, which will be held from 21 October to 1 November 2024 in Cali, Colombia, following on from the congress.**

Each World Ranger Congress results in the drafting and distribution of a flagship document, known as a ‘Ranger Declaration’. At this Congress, the participants will sign the Hyères Ranger Declaration, which sets out the current demands of rangers as well as concrete proposals for action to protect biodiversity. This document will be presented at a side event at the next UN Biodiversity COP16, in Cali, Colombia in October (21/10-01/11/2024). The presence of the IRF and GNF at COP16 will carry the voice of rangers who act every day to preserve nature and people.

Beyond COP16, the Hyères Ranger Declaration will continue to inform discussions and decisions at subsequent COPs, such as COP12, which will take place from 14 to 18 October 2024 in Vienna and will focus on environmental crime.

The resolutions and action plans of the Hyères Ranger Declaration must be implemented by the participating organizations and governments. This includes advocating for better funding, training, and support for rangers, fostering international collaboration, and integrating the Congress’s recommendations into broader conservation efforts, in particular to achieve one of the global objectives of protecting at least 30% of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas by 2030 (currently, 16% of the world’s land and 8% of its marine areas are protected). Without rangers -nature’s protectors- this goal is unachievable.

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**About organizers**

**The “International Ranger Federation” (IRF)** is a worldwide, non-profit membership-based organization, established in 1992 to develop, advance, and promote the Ranger profession. The IRF recognises Rangers and protected and conserved area workers whether state, regional, communal, indigenous, or private, as essential on-the-ground planetary health professionals, that are responsible for safeguarding nature, and cultural and historical heritage, and protecting the rights and well-being of present and future generations. The IRF is the standard bearer for the Ranger profession globally and the voice of Ranger Associations and Rangers everywhere.

***> www.internationalrangers.org***

**The “Gardes Nature de France” Association (GNF)** was established on October 16, 2010, in Florac, following the National Parks Meetings. This professional association unites field agents from various natural areas in France, such as Regional Natural Parks, National Parks, Nature Reserves, Coastal Conservatory sites, and Great Sites of France, to support nature protection professionals and their institutions. GNF’s main goals include promoting the nature guard professions, networking field agents, providing solidarity and support, enhancing professionalism through experience sharing and information exchange, and organizing congresses and working groups. GNF also serves as the French section of the “International Ranger Federation” (IRF).

***> www.gardesnaturedefrance.org***

**More information at**

**https://worldrangercongress.org/press/**

