**PRESS RELEASE**

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**30x30 Target: rangers from around the world team up to preserve biodiversity on a global scale**

**Rangers are currently gathering in Hyères, in the south of France, for their 10th IRF World Ranger Congress, co-organized by the International Ranger Federation (IRF) and the association Gardes Nature de France (GNF). On this occasion, more than 400 rangers meet to discuss a wide range of topics, including their key role in preserving the world's biodiversity, and the support they need from public institutions and the general public.**

By 2030, 30% of the world's land and sea should be protected. This is Target 3 (or the 30x30 target) of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), adopted at COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal in December 2022. Today, only 16% of the world's land and 8% of its seas are protected. Time is running out to reach the target within the next six years.

Rangers, the men and women in the field who are committed to nature and people, are essential to achieving this global target. But in reality, their contribution goes far beyond this single objective. Their actions have an impact on more than half of the Global Framework's (GF) targets. In particular, they help to halt the extinction of species (target 5), protect genetic diversity and manage human-wildlife conflicts (target 4), sustainably manage wild species (target 9), strengthen scientific and technical cooperation on biodiversity (target 20), and ensure gender equality and increase the participation of women in biodiversity action (target 23).

“*Around the world, countries need to set their own national ambitions to increase the size of protected areas and give them real value*,” explains Madhu Rao, Chair of the Commission on Protected Areas at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (WCPA-IUCN). Several countries have already achieved this goal: 30% of their land and seas are protected. In France, for example, 33.5% of the territory (land and sea, inland and Overseas France) is considered as protected areas, including 4.2% under strong protection. But are these numbers in line with real, qualitative protection? There is room for improvement.

On the ground, we need to deploy more rangers and develop the means to manage protected areas concretely, correctly and efficiently. “*On a global scale, we need a million more rangers, well trained and equipped, to achieve the 30x30 target*,” says Carole d'Antuoni, President of the association Gardes Nature de France (GNF). Within local, national and international political institutions, their voice must be heard and their presence accentuated.

“*Faced with this global target, the responsibility of rangers can be heavy to bear*”, testified Urs Reif, President of the European Ranger Federation and himself a ranger in the Black Forest National Park (Germany), at the congress. Necessary but not sufficient, rangers alone cannot carry these global ambitions. Society as a whole must join their cause and take action to preserve nature, our common good.

**Download a selection of photos** [**here**](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1A0WsosO1T6XCIckwwbmUjXoRsqrYYEpL?usp=sharing)**.**

**Press contacts:**

**GARDES NATURE DE FRANCE**

**Lucie LEUTENECKER & Ludmilla TERRES**

**com.gardesnaturedefrance@gmail.com**

**00 33 6 19 34 69 28 - 00 49 1 76 95 83 33 95**

**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/**

