**PRESS RELEASE**

**10/15/2024**

**A landmark moment for biodiversity professionals: the adoption of the Hyères Ranger Declaration, 2024**

**The 10th IRF World Ranger Congress, co-organized by the International Ranger Federation (IRF) and Gardes Nature de France (GNF), and attended by 450 rangers and supporters from 88 countries, came to a close on Friday October 11, 2024 with the adoption of the Hyères Ranger Déclaration, 2024. This document sets out the demands and proposals of rangers, and will be presented at COP16 to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held from October 21 to November 1, 2024, in Cali, Colombia.**

The 10th IRF World Ranger Congress, held last week in the south of France, concludes at an increasingly critical juncture for our planet, as it faces biodiversity declines, accelerating climate change and increased risk from zoonotic diseases. As planetary health workers, rangers are aware of the vital role they have to play in addressing these crises.

Beyond reunions and exchanges, the congress was an opportunity to adopt the Hyères Ranger Declaration, on October 11, 2024. “*This declaration must galvanize the international nature conservation community to recognize and support the rangers*”, says Jamie McCallum, Founder of Force for Nature and partner of the congress.

“*The Hyères Ranger Declaration will be the new guiding document for the ranger sector in their contribution to global biodiversity targets*,” says IRF President Chris Galliers. Through this document, the rangers expressed in particular the need for greater recognition of their crucial functions in maintaining ecosystem services essential to the quality of life on Earth (clean air and water, healthy food...). They are asking for more human, financial resources and equipment to be a more effective workforce. Rangers also require improved and safe working conditions and a range of professional and relevant training. They advocate for a more equitable, diverse and resilient profession that includes more women and indigenous people. Finally, they are advocating for their rightful place in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and in other global agreements.

Following on from th Congress, the Hyères Ranger Declaration will be presented at Convention on Biological Diversity COP 16, which will take place from 21st October to 1st November 2024 in Cali, Colombia. “*Thanks to our partners and the Colombian Ranger Association, we will be taking the Hyères Declaration all the way to COP16*” enthuses Chris Galliers. Prior to COP16, the Hyères Ranger Declaration will feed into discussions at UNTOC COP 12 on environmental crime (14-18th October 2024, Vienna, Austria). It will then be shared at UNFCCC COP 29 (11-22nd November 2024, Baku, Azerbaijan).

**Download the full Hyères Ranger Declaration** [**here**](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1L1gob0G9jKOgHGaeH3822Bt53dFrVvn1) **and a selection of photos** [**here**](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1A0WsosO1T6XCIckwwbmUjXoRsqrYYEpL?usp=sharing)**.**

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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/**

