



3 July 2022

Cancellation of 10th World Ranger Congress, Azores, 5th-9th June 2023

It is with great regret that the Board of the International Ranger Federation (IRF) announces the cancellation of the World Ranger Congress due to take place in the Azores, 5th-9th June, 2023.

The IRF World Ranger Congress (WRC) is a highlight and signature event for Rangers globally. As the global representative body for Rangers, the IRF carries a mandate to deliver this event in a cost effective yet beneficial manner to its membership and the broader sector. The event and its outcomes are also key in positively shaping the future for Rangers.

After a detailed review process of the current status and much deliberation, the IRF Board has reached consensus and decided to cancel the planned 10th IRF World Ranger Congress to be held in the Azores next year. This decision has not been taken lightly as we realise and fully appreciate the significant investment of time and effort made to date by the members of the Portuguese Ranger Association (APGVN) and the Azores authorities. Our final decision is primarily based on two overarching issues, namely; financial risk and time constraints.

The IRF endeavours to make the events as affordable as possible so that as many rangers from around the World can attend. Unfortunately, the costs of attending were high and IRF was not able to reduce the cost or secure sufficient funding in time to subsidize the event.

The Covid pandemic experienced across the world in the last few years has further complicated the planning by reducing the time available to make effective arrangements for Congress. It also continues to affect travel in some countries and, understandably, many remain wary of visiting different parts of the world. This situation (along with other current global macro-economic and political uncertainties) presents an element of risk regarding attaining minimum numbers of delegates. The time constraint has also resulted in delays that seriously impact the ability of the IRF to attract external sponsorship, critical to the success of the event by the planned date.

As the IRF is a legally registered company, the Board is required to apply good governance procedures which includes minimising risk to the financial security of the IRF.

The IRF Board is urgently re-vising the factors required to be in place in advance of any future World Ranger Congress, to minimise risk to itself and the host association(s). We will continue to work with our partners to secure funds and support for the 10th WRC. The IRF Board recognises the disappointment that will be felt across the globe but re-iterates and emphasises its immense gratitude to APGVN for their commitment, hard work and resilience in the preparations made to date.

Looking to the future, the Board is working on setting a new date and location for the World Ranger Congress, which will be communicated as soon as possible to allow for adequate planning and sourcing of funding for the event and specifically for rangers to attend.

Rest assured, the IRF has been left with no other choice but to cancel the Congress based on the high risks posed by the time and financial constraints.



**INTERNATIONAL
RANGER
FEDERATION**

Should you wish to raise any questions, concerns or enquiries regarding this press release, please make use of the following email address: secretary@internationalrangers.org