

ERAIFT awards the following degrees:

- “***Masters in tropical land and forest development and management***” (equivalent to “Master II”, in accordance with the Bologna decree); this Masters prepares the way for a doctorate;
- “***Doctorate (Ph.D.) in tropical land and forest development and management***”

Objectives of the course:

ERAIFT’s goal is to train African executives using a holistic, integrated and interdisciplinary approach — the ***systemic*** approach, to solve complex problems related to integrated management, development and planning of tropical forests and lands. This is to enable them to design, formulate and implement human and sustainable development projects that mainstream both cultural and biophysical environment conservation. In effect, it is to enable them to contribute, on the one hand, to preventing waste of human resources by improving the livelihoods of people (i.e. fighting poverty that affects billions of human beings) and, on the other hand, reducing waste of natural resources (biodiversity, forests, savannahs, watersheds, protected areas, landscapes, etc.).

At the national level, the objective of the course is to increase the capacity of States concerned with planning, development and integrated management of lands.

The School is committed to training executives to become specialized in the ***management of complex systems*** and who will be capable of appraising real situations in a holistic manner.

The intellectual outlay and operational strategy of the School are based on system analysis which departs from traditional sectoral approaches that have often produced only poor results in terms of development.

Design and scientific bases specific to ERAIFT:

ERAIFT’s design and scientific base is founded on ***systemic analysis***, the main characteristic of the teaching approach of the institution. This endeavour is aimed at providing sustainable solutions to challenges associated with the planning, development and integrated management of tropical forests and lands. It also takes into consideration all the parameters that intervene in systems formed by urban and rural lands, and the population that live therein.

The outcome of the adoption of this design base — ***the systemic approach*** — which all teaching and research has to follow despite their own goals, is to satisfy essential human needs and manage natural resources in an integrated and sustainable manner.