



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Man and  
the Biosphere  
Programme



United Nations  
Development  
Programme



Kingdom  
of Belgium



European  
Union



Democratic  
Republic  
of the Congo



University  
of Kinshasa

# ÉRAIFT



**Regional Post-graduate  
Training School**

**on Integrated Management  
of Tropical Forests  
and Lands**



## HISTORY

### Declaration of N'Sele, 1991

ERAIFT has its origins in the Declaration of N'Sele, adopted during the Regional Seminar on the Strengthening of Cooperation for the Rational Management of African Tropical Forests held in N'Sele (DRC), in March 1991.



Emblematic photo of the 'Chateau of ERAIFT'.



ERAIFT :  
New centre of excellence for the strengthening of South-South and South-North-South cooperation.

The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout this brochure do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNESCO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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## PURPOSES

**STOP**  
the **WASTE**  
of **HUMAN**  
**RESOURCES**

**STOP**  
the **WASTE**  
of **NATURAL**  
**RESOURCES**

## Objectives

- **Eradicate poverty**  
Satisfy basic human needs
- **Rational environmental management**  
Conservation of biodiversity  
Maintenance of ecological balance
- **Socio-economic development**  
Sustainable and ecologically viable human development
- **Integrated management of tropical forests and lands**

## Mission

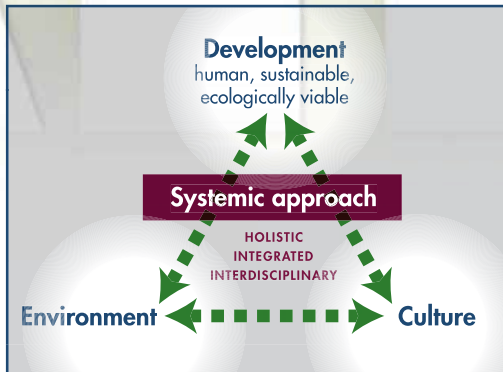
ERAIFT aims to train a new type of specialist in the management of tropical forests and lands, with an interdisciplinary, integrated, systemic and holistic approach.



**ERAIFT is a progressive school at the service**

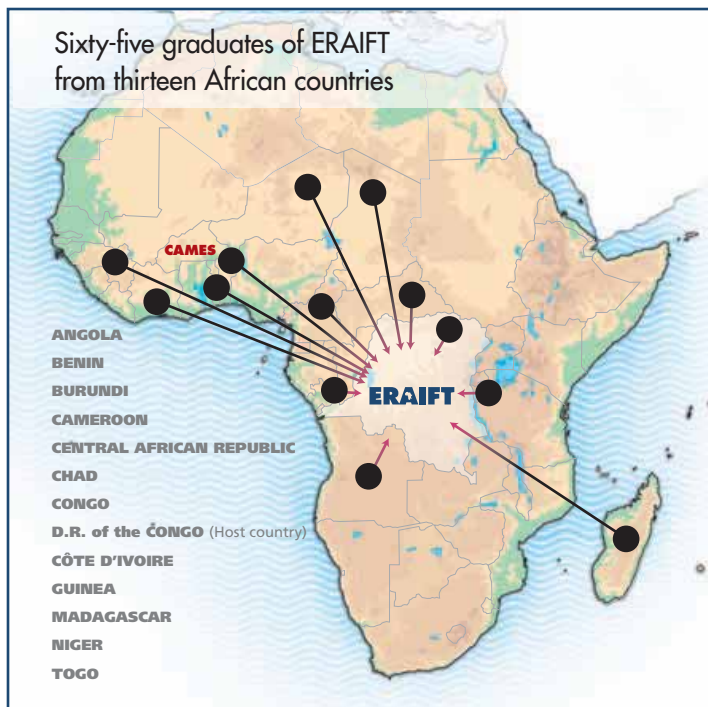
## SYSTEMIC APPROACH

The integrated management of tropical forests and lands should take into account all the elements which influence the bio-physical environment and, in particular, the population, which interacts with its multiple facets and resources – soils, woody and non-woody products, food, intangible resources etc., necessary to satisfy basic needs.



The scientific and conceptual basis for this approach is underpinned by the concepts and laws of the general theory of systems – systemic analysis – essential characteristic of the pedagogic philosophy of ERAIFT.

The emphasis is put on the essential condition of the participation of the local population in integrated development.



## DIPLOMAS CONFERRED

Master's: **DESS (Diplôme d'études supérieures spécialisées)** and  
 Doctorate: **Ph.D. (Philosophiae Doctor)**  
 in  
**Integrated Management of Tropical Forests and Lands**

The DESS Master's degree from ERAIFT was recognized by the African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education (CAMES), during its regular session, held in Abidjan, 3-5 December 2001. This diploma is the equivalent of the Master's degree of the 'LMD' system of the Bologna Agreement.

### Study programme

The programme includes, in terms of credit hours (cr) and duration (months):

**28 cr** : Theory and practical laboratory work: **Nine months: Chairs 1 to 14**

**4 cr** : Practical laboratory work on management and integrated development: **One month: Chair 15**

**8 cr** : Field course on management and integrated development: **Two months: Chair 16/Systemic and Digital District Project**

**20 cr** : DESS Dissertation (**6 months**)

One credit (1 cr) corresponds to 15 hours of coursework and 30 hours of personal work. Programme total : 60 cr (18 months).

### Institutional aspects

UNESCO is the ERAIFT implementing agency, through the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences, under the directorship of Dr Natarajan Ishwaran. M. Samy Mankoto, is the Project Officer at UNESCO Headquarters responsible for ERAIFT.

The University Affairs Committee is the permanent international quality control mechanism for research and development in ERAIFT. It includes among its members, university professors and high-level researchers with relevant pedagogical experience. It is the principal decision-making body of ERAIFT and the advisory body to UNESCO.

The International Supervisory Committee includes associated countries on a rotational basis and funding agencies.

A Local Management Group in Kinshasa functions under the responsibility of the University Affairs Committee.

## TRAINING PROGRAMME

- Chair 1:** Basic concepts and systemic analysis applied to management and integrated development.
- Chair 2:** Population-forest-savanna interactions.
- Chair 3:** Integrated land management including human settlements (towns, urbanization).
- Chair 4:** Remote sensing and digital cartography.
- Chair 5:** Intersectoral and integrated approach: forestry, agriculture, livestock farming, fisheries, tourism. Project evaluation.
- Chair 6:** Terrestrial wildlife management.
- Chair 7:** Forest products: management and rational management. Sustainable forest use.
- Chair 8:** Management of aquatic fauna including notions of limnology and hydrobiology.
- Chair 9:** Communication and sustainable development.
- Chair 10:** Legal aspects. International conventions. Decentralization policy and integrated development.
- Chair 11:** Planning for health and nutrition.
- Chair 12:** Education and environmental ethics.
- Chair 13:** Environmental impact studies.
- Chair 14:** Methodology and implementation of integrated development.
- Chair 15:** Laboratory studies on management and integrated development.
- Chair 16:** Field work on management and integrated development.

## INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER OF ERAIFT

**ERAIFT is a flagship regional project** of the UNESCO MAB Programme serving as a model for other African regions.

**In addition to French-speaking African countries,** ERAIFT aims to extend its activities to English, Spanish and Portuguese-speaking African countries, in particular in the framework of NEPAD.

**The main objective** is to develop a real *in-situ* network of university research and training centres in the humid and dry tropics by strengthening South-South and South-North South cooperation.

**The building of new** and the renovation of old buildings, equipped with the latest computer technology, thanks to the support of the EU Trust Fund/WB, will permit increased student capacity in ERAIFT and will facilitate its internationalization.

### Country origin of teachers

- Belgium
- Benin
- Canada
- Congo
- D.R. of the Congo
- France
- Guinea
- Morocco
- Netherlands
- Nigeria

### Associated countries

- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Congo
- Côte d'Ivoire
- D.R. of the Congo
- Gabon (ENEF)
- Guinea
- Madagascar
- Mauritania
- Niger
- Togo

### Partners

- UNESCO: implementing agency
- UNDP
- European Commission
- Belgium
- University of Kinshasa

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Graduation ceremony of the third set of DESS graduates (2005)