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**Mrs Tânia TRINDADE and Mr Raphaël BARBICHE from SODEFOR visit ERAIFT**

**Wednesday 31st May 2023**

ERAIFT was honoured on Wednesday 31 May 2023, from 1 to 3 pm, by the visit of SODEFOR's delegation, headed by Ms TRINDADE Tânia, coordinator of studies and sustainable management, and Mr BARBICHE Raphaël, in charge of development and sustainable management.

The purpose of the visit, which is part of the cooperation between ERAIFT and SODEFOR, was to find out more about ERAIFT's training courses and to discuss with students enrolled in the Technique d'Aménagement Forestier (TAF) programme about their professional projects in companies. Fifteen participants took part in the meeting, including students from the 4th cohort of TAF students, the Academic and Research Secretary (SAR), research assistants and doctoral students, as well as Dr Bernard RIERA, who is teaching at ERAIFT.

Professor Jean Pierre MATE (SAR) started by thanking SODEFOR for the visit and the collaboration. He then gave an overview of the four master's courses organised by ERAIFT, and specifically the master's in TAF, while highlighting the importance the school gives to the employability of its students.

Following the presentation, Ms Tânia Trindade and Mr Barbiche gave the students an overview of SODEFOR's long experience in industrial forestry in the DRC, including the certification process, forest management, management of social clauses and the complexity of forest taxation in the Democratic Republic of Congo. They noted that forestry companies are currently looking for skills in three main areas: communication, agroforestry and forestry site management (site manager). Learners wishing to work for companies were advised to develop a leadership attitude, discipline, openness and a real sense of responsibility in order to attract the confidence of companies.

In addition, a few scientific research topics were identified during the discussion, including (1) estimating the volume of branches from trees felled in a managed logging area, (2) assessing forest regeneration in felling clearings, (3) looking more closely at the strategy for integrating managed logging concessions into the carbon credit process, and (4) taking into account mixed logging and conservation concessions.

ERAIFT sincerely thanks SODEFOR for this visit and its collaboration.



Visit by a SODEFOR delegation to ERAIFT for discussions with students: 05/31/2023