



**ERAIFT organizes its second scientific retreat focusing on NaturAfrique and Green Deal concepts in relation to the employability of its trained products.**

**From October 20 to 22, 2023**

ERAIFT held its second scientific retreat at the Nsele Valley Park from October 20 to 22, 2023, to reflect on how to improve its educational system and the employability of trained learners in the face of current challenges. The scientific forum brought together chairholders from a number of national, regional and international institutions, as well as technical and financial partners, including the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN), WWF, AWF, CIFOR, CIRAD, the VisioTerra center, the European Union, and other development and nature. The aim of this session was to examine how to improve the adequacy between ERAIFT's training offer and the real needs of society, in terms of protected area management and forest conservation, and consequently to improve the professional profile of students. Some forty participants took part in the event.

A number of themes were addressed during the three days of work, including: NaturAfrica and the landscape approach as an external contribution to the implementation of the European Union's Green Deal vision, the green economy, ERAIFT's institutional evolution, its fundamental missions, its sources of funding, the implementation of the recommendations of the first scientific retreat in October 2022, the employability of trained learners, and the challenges and opportunities for improving ERAIFT's masters and doctorate training programs. Several strategies have thus been defined to update the training offer so that it meets the real needs of society.

It should also be noted that this retreat is an excellent opportunity for a physical acquaintance of the trainers at ERAIFT, and an occasion for the transfer of experience and approaches between former and new chairholders, on the one hand, and between chairholders and potential employers in the environmental field, on the other.

ERAIFT sincerely thanks all the participants, in particular the professors, development partners and the world of employment, for their contribution to the advancement of the institution. Finally, ERAIFT would like to express its gratitude to the European Union for its many contributions to the institution. Special thanks to the managers of the Nsele Park for their warm welcome and hospitality.

