



Mrs. Alizée VILLE, doctoral student at the University of Helsinki in Finland, and Mrs. Alexandra RASOAMANANA, doctoral student at the Georg August GÖTTINGEN University in Germany, visit the Yangambi site (Democratic Republic of Congo)

Thursday 5 to Saturday 7 January 2023

The ERAIFT station in Yangambi received, from January 5 to 7, 2023, Mrs. Alizée VILLE, doctoral student at the University of Helsinki in Finland, and Mrs. Alexandra RASOAMANANA, doctoral student at the Georg August GÖTTINGEN University in Germany, on a study visit to the Yangambi Biosphere Reserve. This visit is part of their doctoral research work.

Indeed, Ms. Alizée VILLE, an economist by training, is conducting a study on the history of timber marketing in Central Africa, more specifically in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Cameroon. Her presence in Yangambi was aimed at exchanging with the staff of the National Herbarium of the Xylothea Forestry of the National Institute for the Study and Agronomic Research of Yangambi (INERA-YBI), and some local researchers in order to have information on the history of timber marketing in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Ms. Alexandra RASOAMANA is an agronomist by training and her research is based on the different actors involved in the timber marketing process in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Cameroon. In Yangambi, she discussed with INERA-YBI researchers and some local PhD students.

In addition to these exchanges and sharing of experiences, the two researchers visited the various research facilities present, including: the national herbarium, the amphitheater of INERA - Yangambi and the Flow Tower. It should be noted that the Flow Tower is a support infrastructure for scientific research oriented towards the development of gas exchanges between the atmosphere and the tropical forests of the Congo Basin. It is therefore a real lever of environmental diplomacy of the DRC, in the process of the carbon market and will contribute to capacity building of human capital in the rational and sustainable management of Congolese tropical forests and its associated ecosystem services.

This Flow Tower is one of the "flagship" products of the program "Yangambi, Scientific Pole at the service of man and forests" (YP) implemented by the consortium UGent - CIFOR - ERAIFT, on funding from the Kingdom of Belgium in cooperation delegated to the European Union.



ERAIFT sincerely thanks INERA-YBI through its Director of the Center, the Head of Works Dieu-Merci ASSUMANI for having facilitated this visit and mobilized the resource persons. Then, she thanks Mrs. Alizée VILLE and Mrs. Alexandra RASOAMANA for their study stay in Yangambi. Finally, she also presents her gratitude and recognition to the European Union and the Kingdom of Belgium for their financial support.

Mrs. Alexandra RASOAMANA, Mrs. Alizée VILLE, Mr. Joël MOBUNDA (RAF ERAIFT) and Mr. Héritier FUNDJI (Congoflux liaison officer).