



**ERAIFT researchers participate in exchanges with the French Minister of Superior Education and Research on the revitalisation of scientific research in the DRC
Kinshasa, March 4, 2023**

On Saturday, March 4, 2023, a delegation composed by researchers from ERAIFT and researchers affiliated to other Congolese institutions was received in Kinshasa by her Excellency the French Minister of Superior Education and Research, Mrs Sylvie Retailleau. The discussions during this meeting focused mainly on two points: the revitalisation of scientific research in the Democratic Republic of Congo and inter-institutional cooperation at national, regional and international levels.

ERAIFT, represented by the assistants Charles Mumbere Musavandalo, Julien Bwazani Balandi, and Timothée Besisa Nguba, presented to all the participants the originality of its academic training offer, which it organises in cooperation with several national and international teaching and scientific research institutions, Moreover, its scientific research assets in the field of the environment in the Congo Basin, notably its geomatics laboratory, its permanent and active presence in the Luki and Yangambi biosphere reserves, the African Network for Sustainable and Integrated Development (RADDI) and services to society through its continuing training program.

Very interested by the dynamism of ERAIFT, reflected in the cooperation, networking and mobility of researchers, such as the research and capacity building internships carried out by ERAIFT doctoral students at the University of Liège and Visioterra, and the regional mobility of students enrolled in the Master's programme, the Minister encouraged the Congolese institutions to expand their research network.

Finally, she encouraged participants to formulate key research themes and challenges for which she would serve as a bridge to facilitate collaboration with French universities. One of the strategies mentioned to foster this collaboration is the establishment of the "one forest vision" platform for free exchange of data and technologies to promote training, research and innovation.

ERAIFT sincerely thanks the French Minister of Superior Education and Research and the French Embassy in the Democratic Republic of Congo for the invitation and the warm welcome.

