



**ERAIFT researchers participate to the second international conference on biodiversity in the
Congo Basin
Kisangani, 06 - 11 March 2023**

Kisangani, one of important cities of Democratic Republic of Congo, hosted the 2nd International Conference on Biodiversity in the Congo Basin from 6 to 11 March 2023. This important scientific event, organised by the University of Kisangani (UNIKIS) and its partners, brought together more than 150 national and international researchers, members of civil society and the Congolese government represented by Her Excellency Mrs Eve BAZAÏBA, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development. Several objectives were assigned to the forum, including: (1) raising the awareness of political authorities about the Congo Basin with all its richness, (2) strengthening the scientific link between climate, biodiversity and health, (3) promoting open access to scientific data on renewable natural resources among political decision-makers, and finally (4) strengthening local and international networking among scientists, civil society actors and political decision-makers.

The exchanges focused on the following topics: taxonomy and the evolution of botanical and zoological surveys, bridging the gap in the science-policy interface and data mobilisation, ecology and global change, the challenges and opportunities of biodiversity preservation, conservation, valuing ecosystem services, the "One-Health" approach, and finally biodiversity and future generations.

Six researchers (Charles Mumbere, Ernestine Lonpi TIPI, Louis Pasteur Bamenga, Julien Bwazani, Daniel Mfossa, Patient GAKURU) and three former Master's students (Charlot Mikobi, Francine Nabintu, Imani Musa) actively represented ERAIFT, a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, through oral communications, posters as well as various plenary interventions.

ERAIFT thanks the organisers of this forum for the invitation and the hospitality. It also expresses its gratitude to all other partners involved in the organisation of the conference.



Photo of the participants inside the central conference hall of UNIKIS



PhD students and former ERAIFT Master students present at the conference