

## Mr Malte Gallée, German MP and Member of the European Parliament, visits Yangambi

Monday, August 07, 2023

On Monday August 7, 2023, the ERAIFT station in Yangambi welcomed Mr. Malte Gallée, German Member of Parliament and Member of the European Parliament, on a working visit to the Yangambi Biosphere Reserve. This visit is part of his parliamentary activities. Mr. Malte Gallée was accompanied by the Honorable Dr. Laddy Yangotikala Senga, Congolese Senator, Mr. Willy Kitoko, Professor at the University of Kisangani and Mr. Dieu-Merci Assumani, Director of the INERA Yangambi Research Center.

As soon as they arrived, MP Malte Gallée and his accompanying team visited the various research facilities, in particular the Flux Tower, a support facility for scientific research into gas exchange between the atmosphere and the tropical forests of the Congo Basin. This facility is financed by a delegated cooperation instrument of the Kingdom of Belgium, implemented by the European Union as part of the project entitled "Yangambi, a scientific hub serving man and forests". As a reminder, UNESCO, with the help of funding from Belgium, is implementing the project "Making Yangambi a scientific pole of excellence on climate and biodiversity" whose main goal is to contribute to strengthening the role of the Yangambi Biosphere Reserve as a model site for observation and research for sustainable development, through the monitoring of socio-economic data, biodiversity and climate change. This project also aims to improve the governance of the Man and Biodiversity (MAB) program at the national and local levels, and at the same time promote green economies for local populations.

Mr. Malte Gallée said he was impressed by the research infrastructures in place, which were once the pride of Yangambi in particular, and of the Democratic Republic of Congo in general. He then praised the efforts made by various partners, notably UNESCO, ERAIFT, UGENT/CONGOFLUX, JBM, MRAC and CIFOR, to revive the Yangambi research center (INERA-YBI) by rehabilitating certain infrastructures and carrying out research and development activities.



Mr Paulin Yangambi (INERA-YBI Researcher), Mr Malte Gallée (German MP), Dr Laddy Yangotikala (Congolese Senator) and Mr Nestor Luambua (Head of the Wood Laboratory) at the Yangambi Wood Laboratory.

ERAIFT sincerely thanks INERA-YBI for facilitating this visit and mobilizing the resource persons. We would also like to thank Mr Malte Gallée and his team for their stay in Yangambi. Finally, we are grateful to the European Union and the Kingdom of Belgium for their financial support.



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