

## Scientific visit of the Mangrove Marine Park by the students of the 3rd cohort of the ERAIFT Regional Masters

May 30 to June 11, 2022

Since May 30th, 2022, The ERAIFT is organizing the training of the course entitled "*Applied Ecology including Ecosystem Services*" at the Marine Park of Mangroves in Muanda, Kongo Central Province, under the supervision of Professor RIERA Bernard assisted by three assistants.

A total of 40 learners from 8 African countries (DRC, CAR, Benin, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Togo, Niger, Chad) take part to this training in real environment during 12 days from May 30 to June 11, 2022. The objective of this training in situ is to allow students to identify and analyze the main parameters which affect the functioning and the quality of the Mangrove Marine Park ecosystems. The students implement several research activities, including exploration of the park's forest landscape, physico-chemical characterization of the aquatic ecosystem, identification of ecosystem services provided by the park to the local population, inventory and mapping of disturbance factors of forest and aquatic ecosystems, diagnosis of pollution and vulnerability of marine turtles.

This action learning allows learners, not only to appreciate the ecological value of the Mangrove Marine Park, but also to propose solutions to the anthropic pressures facing this protected wetland.

ERAIFT thanks the European Union and AGRINATURA for their support, ERAIFT also thanks ICCN and the local population for their hospitality.





*Learners visit the crab island in Mbula-mbemba*