



ÉCOLE RÉGIONALE POST-UNIVERSITAIRE D'AMÉNAGEMENT
ET DE GESTION INTÉGRÉS DES FORÊTS ET TERRITOIRES
TROPICAUX

- ERAIFT -



Centre de Catégorie II sous les auspices de l'UNESCO



Three (3) weeks of practical work for ERAIFT GAP/GRB Master's students in the Benoue Biosphere Reserve, Cameroon

The twenty-three (23) students of the Professional Master's degree in Protected Area Management and Biosphere Reserve Management (GAP/GRB) from the “Ecole Régionale Post-Universitaire d'Aménagement et de Gestion Intégrés des Forêts et Territoires Tropicaux (ERAIFT)” in Kinshasa, DRC, on a regional mobility programme at the Ecole de Faune de Garoua (EFG), have returned to Garoua after 3 weeks of intense practical work in the Benoue Biosphere Reserve (Cameroon). Indeed, after 2 months of theoretical courses in Garoua, a field trip was organised with the aim of linking theory to practice through a good knowledge of the field realities of the Bénoué Biosphere Reserve.

A number of educational activities were organised for these learners, both inside and on the outskirts of this protected area. 1) Aspects of discipline and interpersonal skills were addressed during the practical work period through the systematic wearing of uniforms during activities, the organisation of morning sports every two (2) days, the raising of colours twice a week and camping in tents to prepare learners for real field conditions. 2) Interviews with certain stakeholders and household surveys were carried out in a number of villages to gain a better understanding of the bushmeat issue, conflict management, including the concepts of human rights and conservation around this protected area. 3) Inventories of fauna and flora, the identification of large mammalian fauna and the use of new ecological monitoring





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tools (Camera trap and Drone) enabled the learners to gain a good understanding of the approaches used to assess the biological potential of a protected area and the various pressures on it. 4) Finally, the field trip ended with an assessment of the management effectiveness of the Bénoué Biosphere Reserve using the IMET tool (Integrated Management Effectiveness Tools).

An image of the participants in the Benue NP IMET form-filling workshop

The trainees were in contact with the main players involved in the conservation of this park, in particular the local communities, the heads of conservation NGOs, civil society organisations, local elected representatives, officials from the Ministry of Forests and Fauna and the conservation services of this protected area.

This sub-regional mobility has benefited from the financial support of the European Union through the AGRINATURA and ERAIFT consortium, which we sincerely thank for its implementation. Our gratitude also goes to the Ministry of Forests and Fauna and the conservation services of this protected area for the effective supervision of the learners in the field.



Groups of students taking it in turns to operate the drone at the Banda base.





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The installation of camera traps at specific sites by a number of learners