



**Public thesis defense of doctoral candidate Mr. HOUEHOUNHA Dodé Heim Myline titled  
"Challenges related to armed conflicts within protected areas in Africa: cases from selected  
World Heritage sites"**

On Monday, December 15, 2025, the ERAIFT conference room hosted the public defense of Ms. **M. HOUEHOUNHA Dodé Heim Myline's** doctoral thesis titled 'Challenges related to armed conflicts within protected areas in Africa: cases from selected World Heritage sites.' Co-supervised by the University of Liège, the thesis offers a detailed analysis of the difficulties in managing protected areas amid armed conflicts in Africa.

The study of various World Heritage sites emphasizes the factors behind both successful and unsuccessful conservation efforts in unstable security environments. It shows that, despite conflict-related challenges, some protected areas have managed to sustain or even enhance their governance by adopting flexible and inclusive strategies.

The thesis offers practical solutions for improving the management of protected areas affected by conflict. It emphasizes strengthening local community resilience, ensuring their meaningful participation in governance, and fostering continuous, structured dialogue among all stakeholders. These findings provide valuable scientific insights and practical guidance for policymakers, protected area managers, and international conservation organizations in Africa.

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