

Calendar 2020



ERASMUS MUNDUS JOINT MASTER DEGREE IN TROPICAL BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

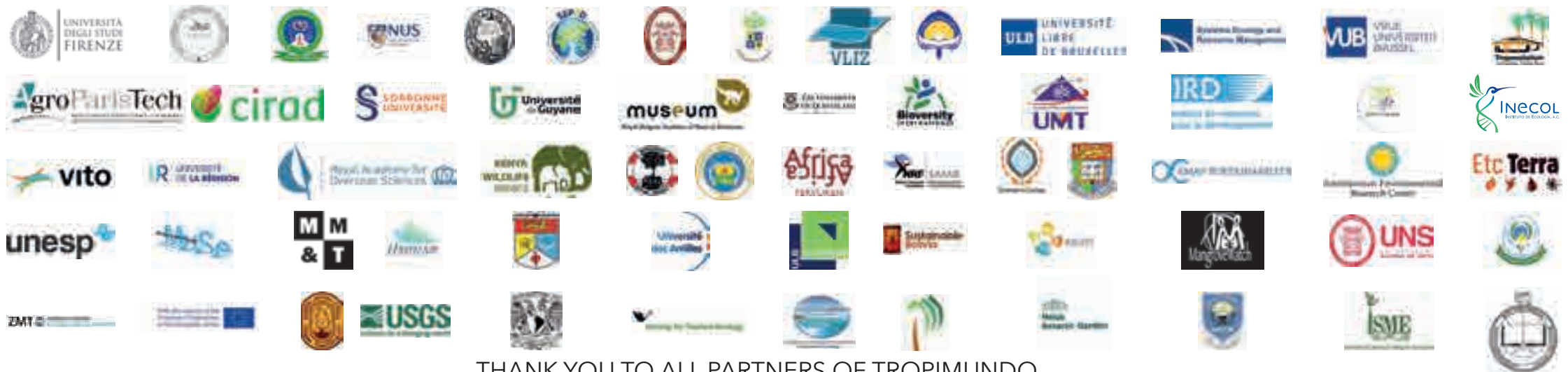


TROPIMUNDO

ERASMUS MUNDUS JOINT MASTER DEGREE IN TROPICAL BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS



Website programming
& management by Artprotect.be



Application

Annual scholarship call: 01/10-30/11
Annual self-funded call: 01/10-15/06
or until all places are exhausted



TROPIMUNDO Awards

Each year our students compete in a natural history photography contest (resulting in this calendar) and for academic excellence awards. We have an annual Best TROPIMUNDO Student Award and the Lorenzo Borella Memorial Award for the best TROPIMUNDO thesis.

Copyright

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Welcome word from the Chair

In 2019 our **Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Tropical Biodiversity and Ecosystems (TROPIMUNDO)** proudly received a new Erasmus Mundus label, the European Commission's only educational excellence label. This means that over the following 5 years nearly 100 scholarship Students will start a challenging educational and research journey with us, bring our total achievement to over 200 Students and over 10 years of experience.

In the 2019-2024 phase we welcome new full teaching partners **University of Antananarivo** (Madagascar) and its neighbour **Université de La Réunion** (Reunion Island) in our TROPIMUNDO Consortium. In addition, over 40 universities and other research institutions, NGOs, SMEs, international associations, etc... have accepted to be Associate Partners (see logos). Together we assure **excellence** in education, research and international networking in tropical biodiversity and ecosystems, a focus much-needed in this era marked by a largely tropical biodiversity crisis.

In their 2-year Master programme, our Students spend an entire semester in the tropics and focus on **understanding ecosystem functions, goods and services, conservation, management and restoration of tropical biodiversity and ecosystems**. Education and research in TROPIMUNDO uses a wide range of organismal and/or integrative ecosystem approaches. In this way, over 100 graduates working on rainforests and woodlands, savannahs, mangrove forests, seagrass beds, coral reefs and even tropical open ocean waters have participated in and contributed to our excellence programme. Together with our Students and Alumni we continue to fight the consequences of species extinctions, habitat destruction, and other anthropogenically-induced impacts through science and innovation.



Prof. Dr. Farid Dahdouh-Guebas
Université Libre de Bruxelles
Vrije Universiteit Brussel
TROPIMUNDO General Coordinator

Credits/Contacts

Calendar info: This calendar was made using photographs courtesy of our students. All National holidays in Belgium, France, Italy, Cameroon, Madagascar, Sri Lanka and Malaysia, our study sites, were included and so were selected events of international importance.

Calendar Cover Illustration: **Hugo DUCRET**: Salticidae Araneae, Pulau Perhentian, Malaysia.

Information page photograph Above: Left: the ULB Rector, the General Coordinator and the General Administrative Manager of TROPIMUNDO. Right: Selfie with graduating students at UMT Malaysia, **Farid DAHDOUN-GUEBAS**
Left: Photograph on the joint ULB-VUB academic opening session to celebrate 180 years of ULB and 50 years of VUB in presence of His Majesty King Filip of Belgium.

www.tropimundo.eu
info@tropimundo.eu

Did you know?

Did you know that TROPIMUNDO was the first Erasmus Mundus programme to offset the carbon emissions caused by its compulsory student and staff mobility? In the meantime it has become an annual tradition.





January 2020



Thibault NEVE DE MEVERGNIES: *Top:* Jungle vegetation. A view from a flux tower in the Paracou research station. This infrastructure is used to assess various gas exchanges in an ecosystem, helping in the evaluation of the carbon sink/source of the surrounding forest for example, Paracou, French Guiana.

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Thibault NEVE DE MEVERGNIES: *Top:* *Erythrolamprus reginae* (Linnaeus), Petit Saut, French Guiana. **Hugo DUCRET:** *Bottom:* *Gorgonacea*, Pulau Bidong, Malaysia.



February 2020



Marianne VAN WEYNBERGH: *Top: Iguana delicatissima* (Laurenti). A critically endangered species endemic of the Lesser Antilles, Petite Terre, Guadeloupe.

Sacha LEWANDOWSKI: *Inset: Ebodjé*, Cameroon

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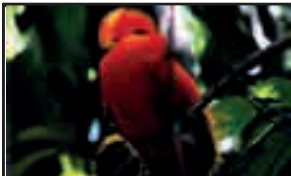
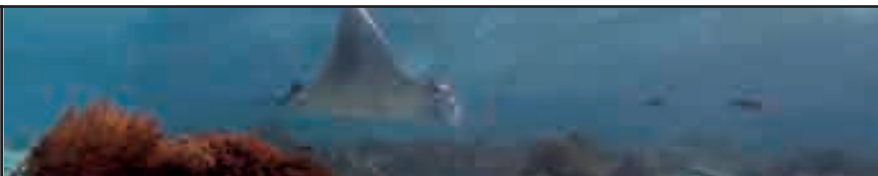





Thibault NEVE DE MEVERGNIES: *Cicadellidae* (Latreille), Paracou, French Guiana.



March 2020



Marianne VAN WEYNBERGH: Top: Middleham Falls, Dominica.

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




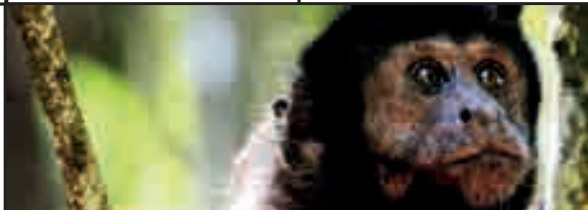
Thibault NEVE DE MEVERGNIES: Top left: *Rupicola rupicola* (Linnaeus), Kaw, French Guiana. **Hugo DUCRET:** Top right: Reef manta ray flying with grace, Komodo Island, Indonesia. **Brieuc DERVAUX:** Bottom: From the mangrove to the sea. Ebodjé, Cameroon.



April 2020



Marianne VAN WEYNBERGH: *Top:* *Chelonia mydas* (Linnaeus), Green turtle in the Reserve Cousteau, Malendure, Guadeloupe. **Brieuc DERVAUX:** *Inset:* Sunset over the cameroonian countryside, Lablé dispensary-Bafia, Cameroon.

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Thibault NEVE DE MEVERGNIES: *Top:* Clearwing moth (*Sesiidae* (Boisduval)) often present Batesian mimicry to hymenopteran species, though completely inoffensive, Taman Negara, Malaysia. *Bottom:* *Sapajus apella* (Linnaeus), Ile Royale, French Guiana.



May 2020



Thibault NEVE DE MEVERGNIES: *Top:* Insular vegetation. The Perhentian islands of Malaysia are a little paradise where biodiversity meets tourism. Hopefully and with meticulous management plans, the latter will not have too much deleterious impact on the former. Pulau Perhentian, Malaysia.

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


Marianne VAN WEYNBERGH: Dominica, Nature Island. Titou Gorge, Dominica.



June 2020



Brieuc DERVAUX: *Top:* Moonrise over Campo Ma'an National Park, Cameroon. **Thibault NEVE DE MEVERGNIES:** *Inset:* The 'mossy forest' in the Cameroon Highlands of Malaysia is a typical cloud forest elevated ecosystem. They are particularly humid places with a limited amount of direct sunlight, being generally covered and surrounded by clouds. Cameroon Highlands, Teja, Perak, Malaysia.

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Marianne VAN WEYNBERGH: Fresh water Lake, Dominica.



July 2020



Thibault NEVE DE MEVERGNIES: Top: *Hypsoboa* (Wagler) tree frog on a *Bromeliaceae* (Juss.), Paracou, French Guiana.

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13	14 French National Feast	15	16	17	18	19
 20	21 Belgian National Feast	22	23	24	25	26
 27	28	29	30 Eid al Adha (Feast of Sacrifice)	31 Eid al Adha (Feast of Sacrifice) Hari Raya Haji		

Aymeric BOURGES: Top: The garden fence lizard (*Calotes versicolor* (Daudin)) is a common species in South-East Asia where it can be spotted during day sunbathing on rocks or low vegetation, Pulau Kapas, Malaysia. **Marianne VAN WEYNBERGH:** Bottom: Invasive mongoose *Herpestes javanicus* (É. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire) threatening turtles and iguanas in Guadeloupe, Maison de la forêt.



August 2020



Aymeric BOURGES: Top: *Draco sumatranus* (Schlegel). The common gliding lizard possess elongated ribs and skin flaps, allowing him to glide between trees where it spent most of his time hunting ants and termites. The triangular skin flap under the chin, the gular fold, is used by males for seduction. Chagar Hutang, Malaysia.

Thibault NEVE DE MEVERGNIES: Inset: *Deinopis* (MacLeay) spiders hunt by throwing their web when prey passes underneath them. Piste de Saint Elie, French Guiana.

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Marianne VAN WEYNBERGH: Top left: *Hypanus americanus* (Hildebrand & Schroeder), Petite Terre, Guadeloupe. Top right: Unidentified *Trochilidae*, Oiapoque, Brazil.





Milena CAIRO: Bottom: Tibati's Lake, Cameroon.



September 2020



Hugo DUCRET: Top: A brief insight of Kapas Island's underwater world. *Amphiprion ocellaris* (Cuvier) Pulau Kapas, Malaysia.

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Thibault NEVE DE MEVERGNIES: A common arboreal jungle ant species of the *Polyrhachis genus* (Smith) . These fairly large ants present low aggressivity towards the intruder and usually prefer to flee than fight the photographs disturbing hand. Taman Negara, Malaysia



October 2020



Thibault NEVE DE MEVERGNIES: *Top:* *Nasutitermes* sp. (Isoptera) soldiers are equipped with a syringe-like head extension through which they can excrete a defensive liquid, efficient in immobilizing their main adversary: ants. Taman Negara, Malaysia. *Inset:* Deforestation caused by legal gold mining activities in French Guiana, Régina.

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Brieuc DERVAUX: Bloody sunset under the coconut trees, Ebodjé, Cameroon.



November 2020



Sacha LEWANDOWSKI: Top: *Mauritia flexuosa* (L.f.) Lake Pali, French Guiana.

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Sacha LEWANDOWSKI: Top: Early morning on the ridge above the twin lakes, Mount Manengouba, Cameroon.




Marine BANSE: Bottom: Dragonfly. Early morning flight, Dschang, Cameroon.



December 2020



Thibault NEVE DE MEVERGNIES: *Top: Meliponini* (Lepeletier). Stingless bees (*Apidae*) are a large group of tropical and subtropical hymenopterans that do not use their stinger to defend themselves. They usually nest in hollow natural structures (from tree trunks to rock crevices), and some are exploited for honey. Pulau Redang, Malaysia.

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Marianne VAN WEYNBERGH: *Iguana iguana* (Linnaeus) Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe.



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