

PRACTICAL GUIDE

Capacity Building Unit



Who is this guide intended for?

The Capacity-Building Unit (SRC*) of the Department for the Mobilisation of Research and Innovation for Development (DMOB) provides support for the training of IRD's partners in Tropical and Mediterranean regions (TMR).

This guide is aimed at:

- ◆ **Researchers and academics from TMR - members of International Joint Laboratories (LMI), Young Teams Associated with IRD (JEA), International Research Groups (GDRI-Sud)** - IRD researchers, French university lecturers and researchers interested in benefiting from SRC guidance for the designing of their training projects.
- ◆ **IRD representatives** working in the field alongside IRD's research teams.
- ◆ **Representatives of IRD's partner institutions in TMR** looking for information about IRD's capacity-building strategy, especially in terms of training support.
- ◆ **PhD and graduate students** seeking general information about how to apply for an IRD PhD grant.

*in French: Service Renforcement des Capacités (SRC)

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Our approach

The SRC is your main contact at IRD for all training projects in TMR.

The SRC team can provide you with expertise in training and support in the coordination of your project and the search for funding.

Project we support range from the setup of summer field schools, Master's and PhD programmes to the creation of digital resources and innovative teaching materials.



Our goals

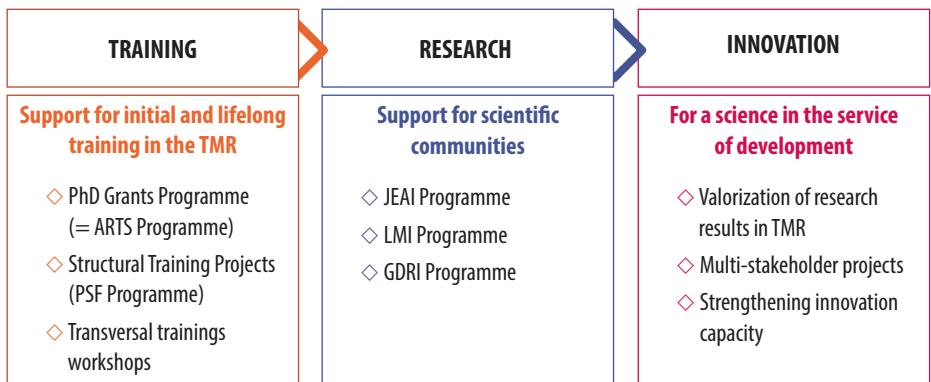
- ◆ Contribute to the training of tomorrow's researchers and experts in IRD's partner nations of TMR.
- ◆ Support innovative training projects for "alternative learning".
- ◆ Participate in lifelong training for TMR's researchers, engineers and technicians.
- ◆ Accompany PhD students from TMR doing their thesis with IRD.

Capacity building at IRD

The building of capacities must allow IRD to:

- ◆ **assist** students, researchers, academic staff, engineers and technicians in TMR to acquire new skills,
- ◆ **facilitate the structuration of scientific communities in TMR** and increase their **international visibility**.

Capacity-building to serve sustainability science



At IRD, capacity building takes the form of:

1. mentoring and training of students, including PhD students, and lifelong training of researchers, engineers and technicians, including IRD researchers.
2. support for the quest for excellence in partnerships via mechanisms that support research communities (JEAI), research networks (GDRI) and research laboratories (LMI).
3. the creation of innovative training courses and mechanisms geared towards a research that incorporates:
 - ◆ Sustainable development issues and promoting student employability;
 - ◆ a comprehensive training/research/innovation approach;
 - ◆ greater collaboration with French universities to enrich academic and scientific international cooperation.

Creating a training project

Mobilising the "Structural training projects" (PSF)

The PSF is an IRD support instrument for training initiatives that are co-built by IRD laboratories and universities/research centres from TMR. PSF projects aim to contribute to the training of students, academic staff, researchers, engineers and technicians from partner countries.

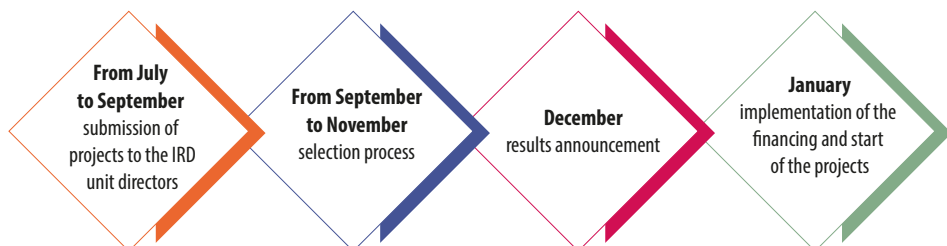
We can help...

by providing expertise in project development and implementation: training and/or teaching know-how, search for additional funding, search for partners, and assistance in project coordination.

By co-funding the project for a maximum amount of €10,000 per year for up to 3 years (multi-annual funding, subject to assessment).

The terms of reference and the application form can be found on the IRD website:

<https://en.ird.fr/base-building-projects-training-south-psf-south>



Lifelong training for researchers

Why?

In many TMR countries, IRD's partners face a lack of lifelong training especially when it comes to non-scientific skills.

Skills such as the ability to write peer-reviewed scientific papers, to build a research project and to manage research teams, are essential to the career development of researchers.

How?

- ◆ The SRC coordinates and funds 5 to 6 annual workshops across TMR.
- ◆ These workshops are intended for all categories of IRD partners: students, researchers, academics, engineers and technicians.
- ◆ Upon request, the SRC team can also design bespoke workshops.
- ◆ Each year, the SRC holds a Trainer's training special workshop.
- ◆ Anyone interested in joining the SRC team of trainers may contact: src@ird.fr

Applying for a PhD grant

What is the ARTS programme?

The PhD Grant programme (ARTS) supports PhD students splitting their thesis period between an IRD laboratory and a laboratory in TMR.

Funding is allocated for a maximum duration of 36 months and covers:

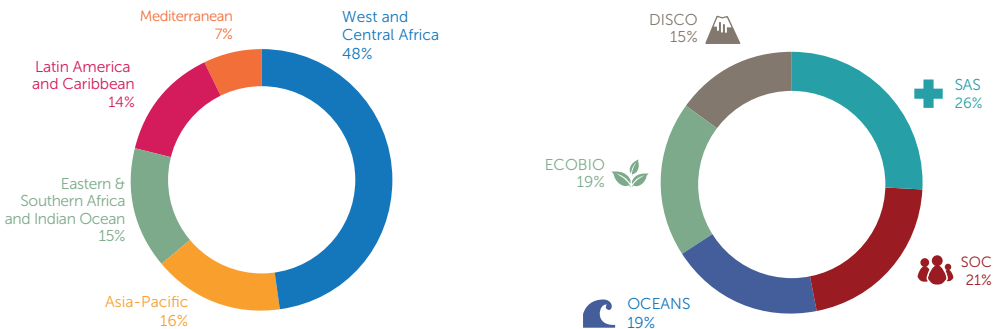
- ◆ a professional environment to carry out their doctoral research;
- ◆ an access to the intellectual and logistical resources that comes with high standards of supervision and a quality working environment;
- ◆ participation in transversal training and networking activities;
- ◆ soft and hard skills required for undertaking high-level international research.

How to apply?

- ◆ Identify a thesis supervisor from one of **IRD's joint-supervision laboratories**.
- ◆ Develop a thesis project together with the supervisor.
- ◆ Submit the project to IRD for the selection process.

ARTS programme facts & figures

IRD currently supports approximately 100 PhD students originating from TMR



◇ 2020 figures

The team

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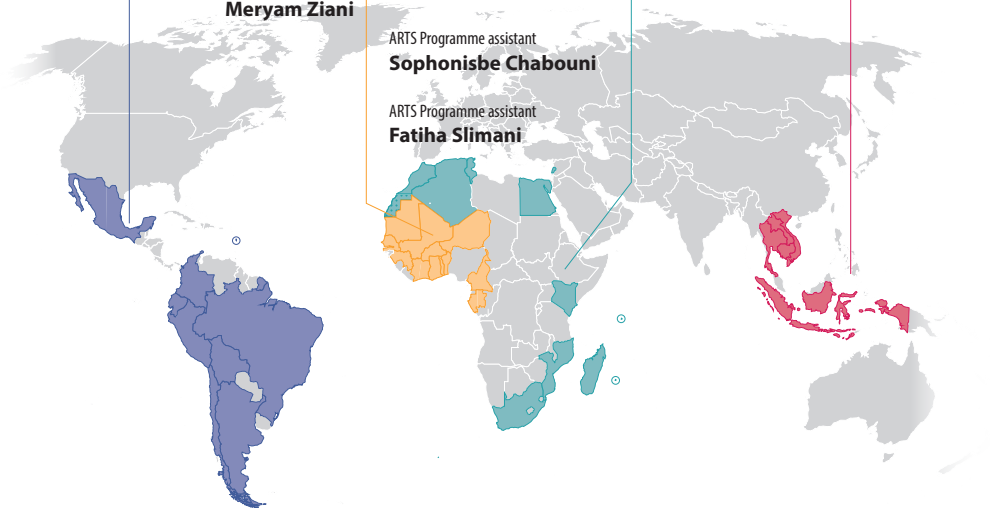
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And on the ground (feedbacks)

MIANATRA, Madagascar

In Malagasy, *Mianatra* means "to learn". That's what this master's revision project is all about. The project is supported by the Institute of Fisheries & Marine Science (IHSM) of the University of Toliara in the south-western part of the island. IHSM, the only institute in Madagascar to specialise in this field, is a key partner of IRD in TMR.

Why?

To enhance university training in response to the need for socio-economic and environmental expertise in the field of marine science.

Who?

IHSM, IRD, the University of Antananarivo, the University of Reunion Island, the University of Bretagne Occidentale and Agrocampus Ouest.

How?

- ◆ By enhancing the training of IHSM academic staff throughout their career and, consequently, that of students during their courses.
- ◆ With a €30,000 IRD co-funding package spread over 3 years *via* the PSF Sud mechanism.



Capacity-building in TMR and invasive species issues

*Alone we go faster,
Together we can go further*

Inspired by this African proverb, the RCS3E project, with the support of the Abdou Moumouni University of Niamey, aims to bring together African and French academics in a research-school environment to tackle the issue of invasive species.

Why?

To reinforce individual and collective capacities for the discovery and command of various analytical tools that are essential for studying and managing invasive species (multivariate analysis programme in R, GenePop, Fstat, geneclass2, Genetix, Arlequin, etc.).

Who?

Abdou Moumouni University, the Centre for Biology and Management of Populations (UMR IRD, INRA, Cirad, Montpellier Sup Agro), Abomey-Calavi University in Benin, Gaston Berger University in Saint-Louis, Senegal, ISRA, etc.).

How?

- ◆ Assistance in the design of the content and format of research school teaching materials.
- ◆ Assistance in selecting the participants.
- ◆ With a €21,000 co-funding package spread over 3 years *via* the PSF Sud mechanism.

Summer School *City Violence and public action: France/Latin America crossed perspectives*

Why?

- ◆ To train participants at master's and PhD levels.
- ◆ To establish a collective space for reflection and comparative analysis group to drive the building of knowledge through scientific research as well as the acquisition of practical skills by local actors in the field.
- ◆ To reflect together on new research axes around this issue, by comparing different scientific approaches and fields of discipline (economy, town planning, geography, demography, political science, sociology, architecture, anthropology, etc.).

Who?

University of Lyon 2, Medellín section of the National University of Colombia, Ceará Federal University of Fortaleza, Guerrero University, State of Ceará, City of Fortaleza and French Development Agency.

How?

The training curriculum runs for a week every spring for 4 years, alternating between France and Latin America (first session in Bondy in 2018, then Medellín, Colombia in 2019, followed by Fortaleza, Brazil in 2020 and France in 2021).

The training week consists of a mix of field observations and workshops with scientific participations, talks, and comparative analyses.





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