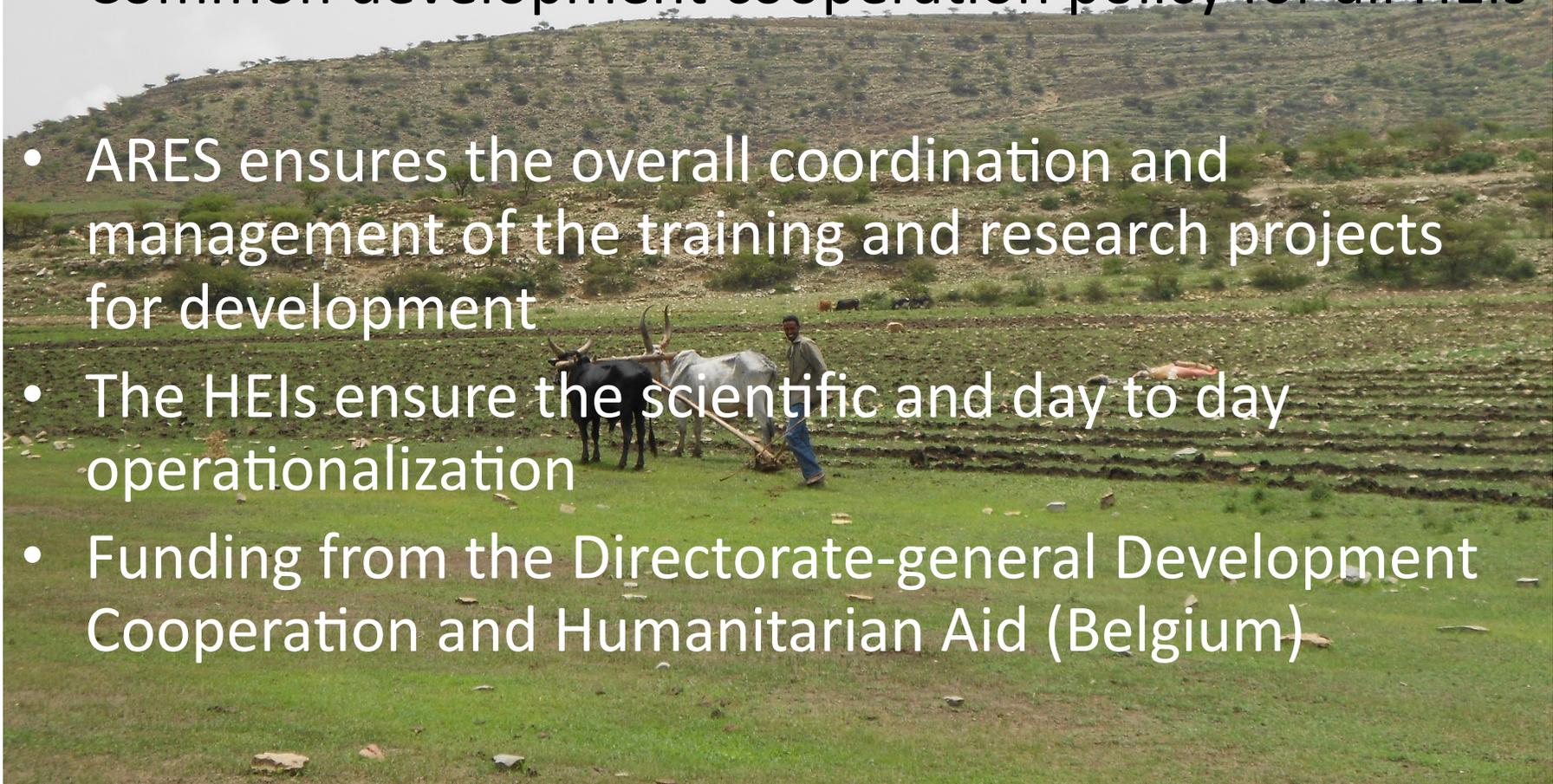


La biodiversité dans les interventions de coopération académique au développement, une ressource vitale

Véronique SCHMIT

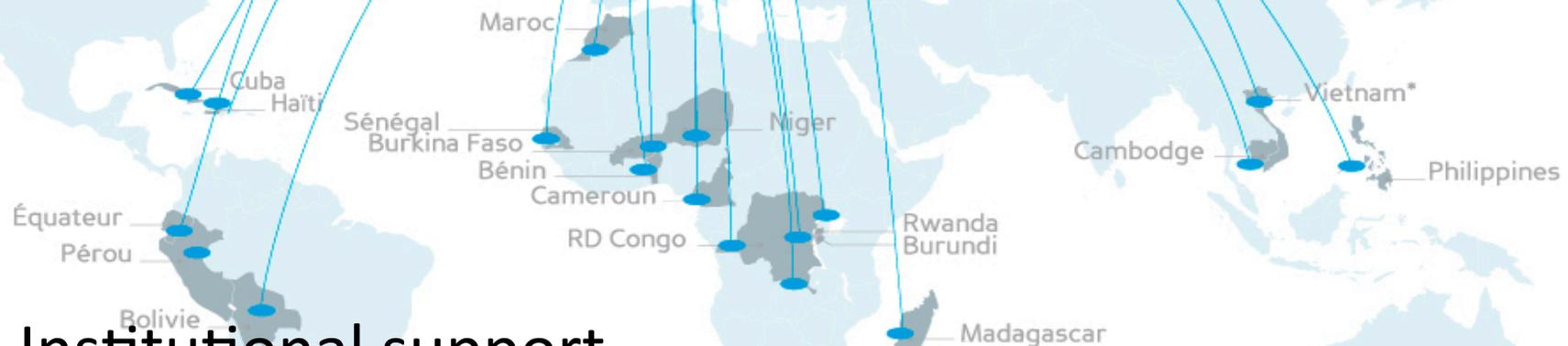
ARES and Development Cooperation

- ARES = the federation of higher education institutions (HEI) in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation
- Common development cooperation policy for all HEIs
- ARES ensures the overall coordination and management of the training and research projects for development
- The HEIs ensure the scientific and day to day operationalization
- Funding from the Directorate-general Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (Belgium)



ARES Development Cooperation

18 countries in the South



- Institutional support
- Research Projects for Development (RDP)/Training Projects for the South (TPS)
- Actions in Belgium: master programmes, training courses, scholarships, sensitization...

What we do to protect biodiversity: training

Scholarships for:

1-year Specialised Masters : the thematic of 3 out of 13 proposed masters relates to environment protection and/or biodiversity conservation:

- Development, environment and societies
- Integrated production and preservation of natural resources in urban and semi-urban environments
- Environmental sciences and management in developing countries

Training courses:

- Methodological training to support innovation in family farming
- Training in open source Geographical Information System

What we do to protect biodiversity: projects

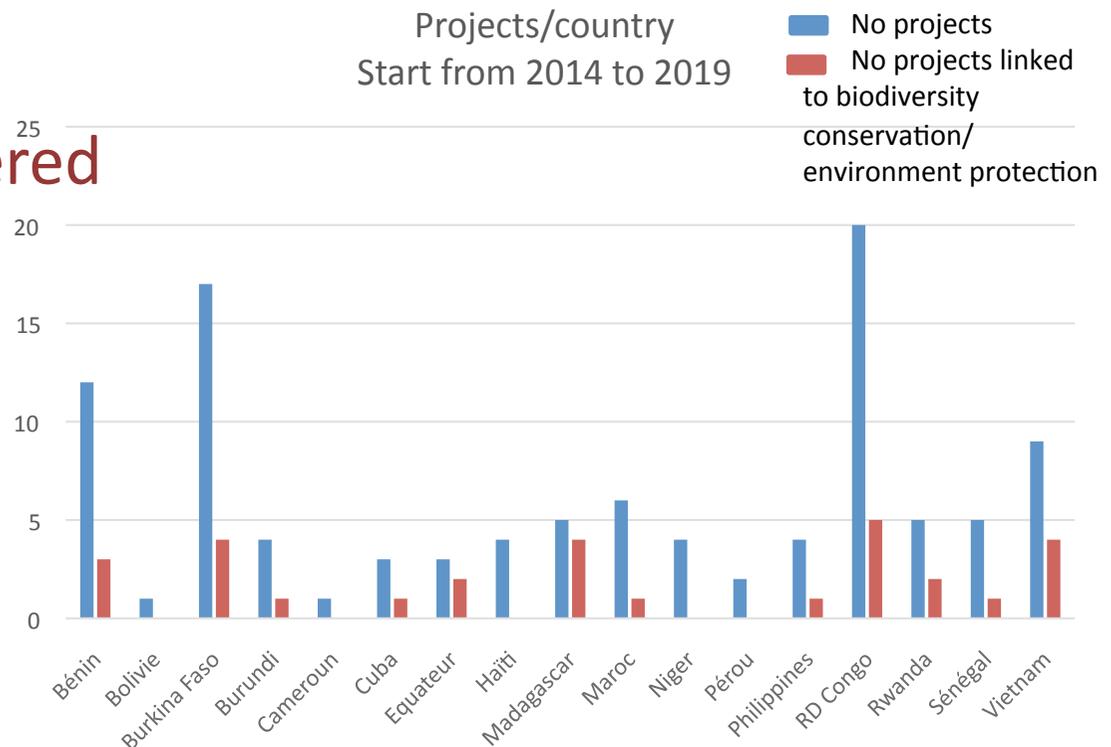
- The protection of the environment has to be integrated in all development cooperation projects
- Research and training projects

On-going projects since 2014:

105 projects

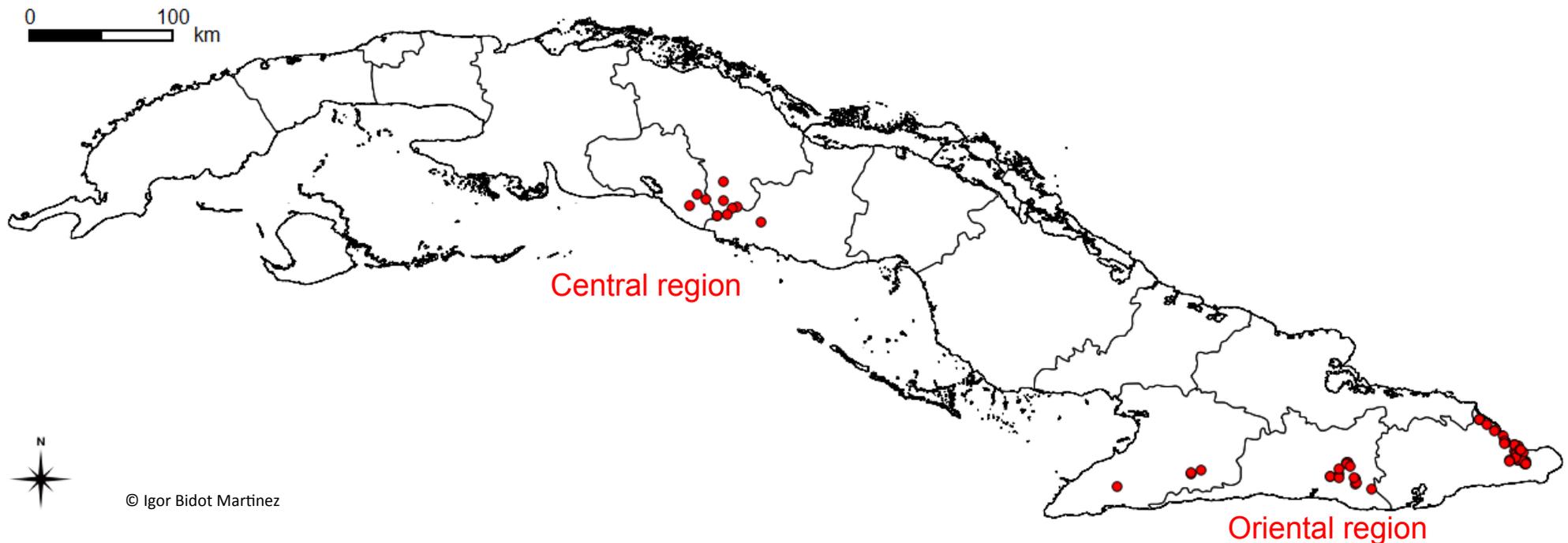
28 % linked to or centered

on biodiversity
conservation/
environment
protection



Improvement of cocoa quality in Cuba

- Research project 2008-2013
- Collecting 537 old/local cocoa accessions in 76 small farmers' fields in the central and oriental regions
- Ex-situ field and in vitro conservation



Improvement of cocoa quality in Cuba

- Characterization of cocoa genetic and morphological diversity - ex: 68 accessions with white and 106 with light purple seeds
- Cocoa pod micro-organisms diversity
- Microorganisms from the rhizosphere



Design and Strengthening of an agroecological cacao production system in Cuba

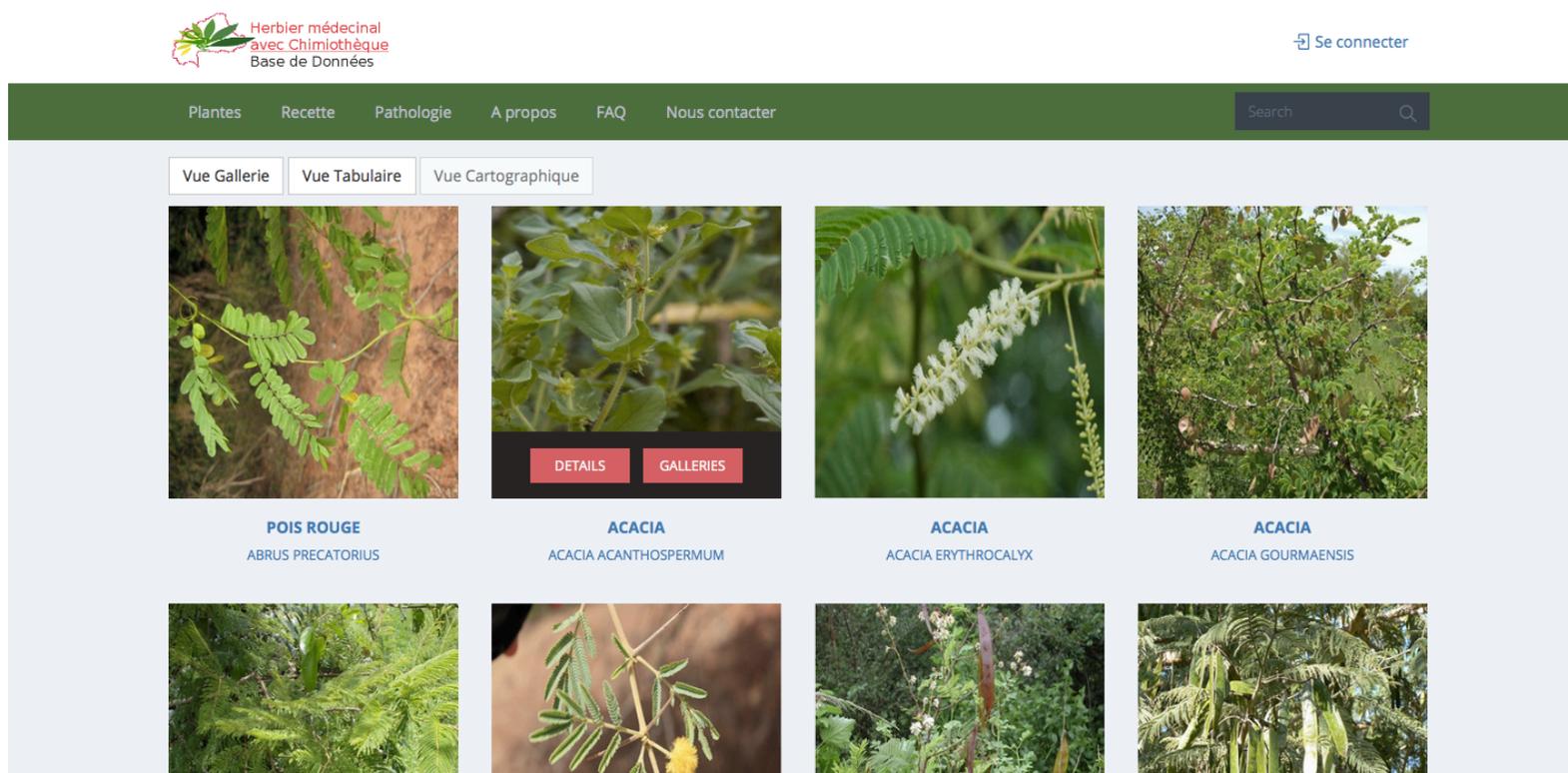
- New 5-year project started in 2017
- Cocoa plantations = Perennial multi-specific system suitable to manage tropical mountainous areas sustainably
- Main constraint = black pod disease
- Combination of genetic resistance to disease and high quality cocoa
- Biological control based on soil microorganisms and leaf- and pod-endophytes



Diversity of projects

Characterizing and using plant biodiversity

- National herbarium on medicinal plants in Burkina Faso (2015-2016)



- Optimizing the traditional pharmacopeia in Rwanda (2015-2020)
- Integration of traditional to modern medicine: characterization, biological validation and ex situ growing of medicinal plants in DR Congo (2017-2021)

- Natural bio-active plant products for environmental friendly aquaculture in the Mekong Delta (2015-2020)

Biodiversity conservation:

- Integration of biodiversity conservation and local development in the context of protected areas of the PONASI ecological complex (Burkina Faso, 2018-2022)

Biodiversity in the context of agricultural production:

- Improving cassava virus resistance in Rwanda (2016-2021)
- Sustainable and quality vanilla production in Madagascar (2016-2021)
- Integrated approach for sustainable management of date palm growing (2017-2021)
- Mycology and development in the Great Lakes region: ex-situ production of edible fungi as an economic alternative to protected areas exploitation (2018-2022)

Thank you for your attention

More information:
www.ares-ac.be

Training:

<https://www.ares-ac.be/fr/cooperation-au-developpement/bourses>

Projects:

<https://www.ares-ac.be/fr/cooperation-au-developpement/pays-projets>

