

Annual Report 2015

As long as we are truly enjoying the journey, we don't wish to reach the destination.

In 2015 we have developed our group of multi-disciplinary ventures further and broadened the scope of services. Resources and Synergies Development (R&SD) includes companies in Democratic Republic of Congo, Belgium, Latvia (headquarters), Luxemburg and Singapore. In addition, R&SD not for profit has been created in Belgium. In December 2015, our companies employed 37 people including 18 female staff members. Over the last three years our staff and annual turnover have evolved as given in figure 1.

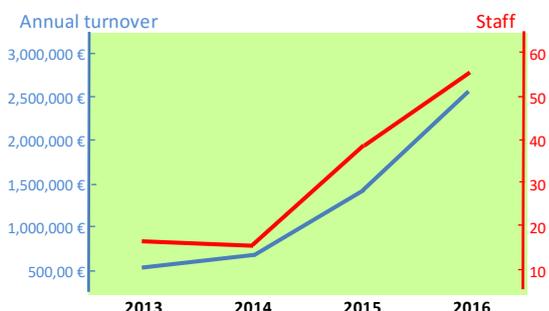


Fig. 1 – Annual turn-over and staffing over the last three years and forecast for 2016

Projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo

R&SD has an agreement with the Center for International Forestry Resources (CIFOR¹). We provide CIFOR with a broad range of project management services in the scope of the REFORCO² and FCCC³ Projects funded by the European Union. More specifically we have provided continued support in terms of coordination, procurement, human resource management, events, teaching, financial controlling, accounting, logistics, office management, capacity building (Fig. 2) infrastructures rehabilitation and construction (Fig. 3). Mrs Gloria Assimbo and her team of silent achievers have demonstrated a high level of commitment.



Fig. 2 – A class of Congolese agents attending a course on carbon finance (REFORCO Project).



Fig. 3 – Construction of a 2500 m² building on the site of The Faculty of Sciences (University of Kisangani). R&SD strongly advocate an approach combining both resources efficiency and capacity building.

R&SD performed quality control services in the scope of research activities conducted by CIRAD⁴ in Yoko forest reserve near Kisangani. On a request from CIRAD, R&SD translated the State of Forests (English-French and anglais-français) in order to get the document ready for the COP21⁵. We successfully helped the Delegation of the European Union in organizing two climate diplomacy days in Kinshasa (June and November 2015).

Other projects and assignments in ACP⁶

We assisted FAO and The European Union in preparing a € 16 million project sustaining private tree planting in Uganda. Dr Quentin Ducenne conducted two short term missions in Indonesia and explored opportunities about importing teak furniture. R&SD has been working with Incatema⁷ in the scope of the Banana Accompanying Measures (BAM) Programme, whose objective is to increase the level of competitiveness of banana producers in various ACP countries. This year, Mr Jean-Yves Hansart carried out his missions in the Caribbean Region.

¹ www.cifor.org, CIFOR is a member of the CGIAR.

² REFORCO stands for (Appui à la) Recherche Forestière au Congo (€ 5.74, European Union, ending in June 2016).

³ FCCC stands for Forêts et Changement Climatique au Congo (€ 12.95, European Union, ending in December 2016).

⁴ CIRAD stands for Center for International Research in Agronomy and Development.

⁵ 21st Conference of Parties, held in Paris in December 2015.

⁶ Africa - Caribbean – Pacific.

⁷ Incatema Consulting & Engineering is a Spanish consulting firm.



Fig. 4 – Dr Q. Ducenne (third from Left) and stakeholders in Uganda. R&SD board members are often involved in field activities and overseas activities.



Fig. 5 – Women working in a banana packaging station in the Dominican Republic.

Projects in USA and technology applications in Democratic Republic of Congo

R&SD has an agreement with CLMAX Engineering, a start-up located in Denver, Colorado. His founder has developed one of the best light UAV⁸ in the industry, the Falcon. R&SD has acquired one unit and GABT-ULg⁹ has acquired one of them too. These drones have been used in DRC in order to monitor fauna, to acquire high resolution imagery, to monitor land use change and to assess biomass and carbon content. We have been providing the UAV builder with a lot of feedback on the hardware and software. Together we shall develop the Falcon II, a new UAV with enhanced capabilities, including greater range, heavier payload, etc.



Fig. 6 – Our team operating a drone control station in North Kivu.



Fig. 7 – Very high resolution picture (5cm resolution orthophoto) can be obtained from data acquired from our UAV. This new technology fills a gap in surveying.



Fig. 8 – Mr Chris Miser (US), founder and owner of the start-up which makes the Falcon and other drones (multi-copters). R&SD invited Chris in Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech (Belgium)



Fig. 9 – The UAV Falcon has a wing span of 240 cm, a length of 120 cm and a weight of 6 kg. It can safely operate between 100 m and 500 of altitude, at a cruising speed of 50 km/h. At present, the range of the Falcon powered with 4 lithium-batteries is up to 75 km.

⁸ Unmanned Aerial Vehicle.

⁹ GABT-ULg stand for Gembloux Agro-BioTech and University of Liège.

Projects in Latvia

The acquisition of land assets has continued. As of today, R&SD own over 300 ha of land in Latvia. The team has been strengthened through the recruitment of Mrs Daniela Bandena (MBA) and Mrs Krista Mihelsome (communication). They have mainly been focusing on business development. Four groups of projects have been identified as follows:

1. Developing an outdoor climbing gym. The feasibility study has been completed. Funds have to be raised accordingly.
2. Developing events such as a marathon raising further awareness about climate change and positioning R&SD on ad hoc projects.
3. Outdoor and nature-based tourism activities.
4. Forestry and agroforestry on our land assets.

Since 2012, R&SD has an agreement with Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech (University of Liège). R&SD has supported Quentin Zune, a student from GABT (ULg) doing his MSc thesis on silviculture and climate change policy in Latvia.



Fig. 10 – Latvia is 64.589 km² in area with a total population of circa 2 million. This Baltic country is blessed with beautiful landscapes, traditions and a lot of quiet space. It is the greenest country in the European Union (circa 50% of the country is covered with forests).



Fig. 11 – Forestry and agroforestry investments in Latvia provide opportunities not only for decent returns but also for environment-friendly activities.

Projects in Luxembourg

Apydos Labs sàrl merged with R&SD sia and became R&SD Technology sàrl. Our subsidiary is specialized in the design, integration and maintenance of IT solutions in the field of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). For several years our experts have delivered state-of-the-art GIS-based services (MAGIS and MAPAE projects) to the Ministry of Agriculture and State IT Centre in Luxembourg. The MAGIS and MAPAE projects aim to develop and maintain Web-GIS solutions for the administrative management and control of declared agricultural areas, landscape features and agri-environmental measures in the context of the European common agricultural policy.

End of 2015, R&SD Technology moved to a new office. The team includes 5 experts, with Philippe Veron, Aurélien James and Benoit Laviale on the management board.



Fig. 12 – R&SD Technology office and team. A trainee from Exia.CESI (MSc in computer sciences) working on the implementation of an IT continuous integration platform.



Fig. 13 – Map from Web-GIS solution for the management of agricultural parcels and landscape features in Luxembourg

Projects in Belgium

Mr Chaidron and Mrs Handerek have provided some very valuable support to our projects in DRC and USA. In addition, Mr Chaidron has performed several assignments as a chartered surveyor in Belgium.

The team of R&SD asbl (not for profit), especially Mr Chaidron (Chair), Mrs Catherine Deroo (Secretary) and Mrs Bénédicte Helleputte (Adviser) have gathered several thousand books. The list of our generous donors includes les Editions De Boeck, CERIA¹⁰, Louvain-la-Neuve libraries, etc. The bulk of these books have already been shipped to DRC. They shall be dispatched in some schools in the Tshopo Province (DRC), the University of Kisangani as well as the AFRACO¹¹ in Kisangani.



Fig. 14 – From left. Mrs Bénédicte Helleputte (Adviser), Mrs Catherine Deroo (Secretary) and Mr Christian Chaidron (Chair).



Fig. 15 – R&SD has undertaken a pilot project on fuelwood in Southern Belgium. We acquired 570 steres of fuelwood in order to develop and test innovative tree felling and skidding techniques.

Miscellaneous

R&SD sponsor a corporate volley-ball team in Belgium, a few students across the world, micro-finance initiatives, sport amateurs, etc. Those making a positive difference, those pursuing some continuous improvement and those able to commit to more efficient projects are welcome to join our team.



Fig. 16 – R&SD sponsor PhD Student Julie Linchant as a ULM¹² pilot trainee.



Fig. 17 – Marie-Pierre Castaing as a 2015 New York Marathon finisher.



Fig. 18 – A corporate volley-ball team including one R&SD colleague has been sponsored by our company.

Thirty-seven staff members, five countries, three continents, one team.



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¹⁰ Centre d'enseignement et de recherches des industries alimentaires et chimiques

¹¹ Alliance Franco-Congolaise.

¹² Planeur ultraléger motorisé