

REPORT ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:

Institut of Ecology and Environmental Sciences
(iEES)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCH BODIES:

Université Pierre et Marie Curie

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique -
CNRS

Institut national de la recherche agronomique -
Inra

Institut de Recherche pour le Développement
(IRD)

Université Paris-Est Créteil Val de Marne - UPEC

Université Paris Diderot

ÉVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2017-2018
GROUP D



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the expert committee²:

Wolfgang Cramer, Chairman of the
committee

Under the decree No.2014-1365 dated 14 November 2014,

¹ The president of Hcéres "countersigns the evaluation reports set up by the expert committees and signed by their chairman." (Article 8, paragraph 5);

² The evaluation reports "are signed by the chairman of the expert committee". (Article 11, paragraph 2).

This report is the sole result of the unit's evaluation by the expert committee, the composition of which is specified below. The assessments contained herein are the expression of an independent and collegial reviewing by the committee.

UNIT PRESENTATION

Unit name:	Institute of Ecology and Environmental Sciences
Unit acronym:	iEES
Requested label:	UMR
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	UMR7618 (CNRS), UM113 (UPMC), UMR1392 (INRA), U242 (IRD)
Head of the unit (2017-2018):	Mr Luc ABBADIE
Project leader (2019-2023):	Ms Martine MAIBÈCHE
Number of departments:	5 (+3 themes)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Mr Wolfgang CRAMER, CNRS, Aix-en-Provence
Experts:	Mr Yves CHEREL, CNRS, Chizé (representative of IRD CSS) Ms Catherine FERNANDEZ, Aix-Marseille University (representative of CNU) Mr Patrick GROSS, Inra, Champenoux (supporting personnel) Ms Cécile GUBRY-RANGIN, University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom Mr Anthony LEHMANN, University of Geneva, Switzerland Ms Céline TEPLITSKY, CNRS, Montpellier (representative of INRA CSS) Ms Irène TILL-BOTTRAUD, CNRS, Clermont-Ferrand (representative of CoNRS)
HCERES scientific officer:	Mr Christopher CARCAILLET
Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:	Mr Jean-Luc CHOTTE, IRD Mr Sylvain LAMARE, CNRS Ms Bénédicte PICQUET-VARRAULT, UPEC Mr Stéphane RÉGNIER, UPMC

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The "Institut d'Écologie et des Sciences de l'Environnement" (iEES, Institute of Ecology and Environmental Sciences) is a major scientific research institution in the Paris region. In its current form, it is the result of the re-organization of several research laboratories in 2014. Its creation, enthusiastically approved during the previous AERES evaluation (except for the unexplained departure of the "École Normale Supérieure" from the project), marks a significant step towards scientific excellence as well as a coherent organization of research activities in ecology. iEES is distributed across several locations in the Île-de-France region, in particular at Jussieu, Créteil, Versailles and Bondy. Workspace in Grignon is now gradually abandoned and iEES expects to work solely from the other four sites.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The director of iEES is Mr Luc Abbadie.

HCERES NOMENCLATURE

SVE1_2 Évolution, écologie, biologie des populations.

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

Research at iEES covers several major domains in the field of ecology and the environmental sciences, in particular community ecology, functional ecology, evolutionary ecology, sensorial ecology and soil science. Research methods include observations and experiments, and to a lesser degree numerical modelling. A significant part of the work is carried out in developing countries.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Unit workforce	Number 30/06/2017	Number 01/01/2019
Permanent staff		
Full professors and similar positions	10	12
Assistant professors and similar positions	42	40
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	15	14
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	26	24
Other scientists (Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.)	0	0
High school teachers	1	1
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	55	53
TOTAL permanent staff	149	144
Non-permanent staff		

Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	4	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	24	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	7	
PhD Students	44	
TOTAL non-permanent staff	98	
TOTAL unit	228	

GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The institute of Ecology and Environmental Sciences (iEES) has successfully established itself as a leading research laboratory for ecology and related topics in Paris and Ile-de-France. It is characterized by its strong research capacity, notably in the fields of ecosystem ecology (including a strong focus on soils), physiology, evolution, and sensory ecology of insects. The scientific expertise of iEES is based on the use of sophisticated methods of experimentation in the laboratory and in the field; modelling techniques are applied to solve complex problems. The record in terms of scientific publications is excellent, in numbers and quality, mostly in international journals that are very well respected in the scientific community. iEES has successfully acquired research funds from a wide range of sources, including competitive national research grants and from private sponsors. iEES contributes strongly to the academic training programmes of its host universities, at all levels from undergraduate studies to Master programmes and doctorate schools. iEES also has intensive outreach activities, collaborating with public institutions on issues of urban ecology and land management in developing countries, as well as with private partners on issues of scientific method development in physiology and genetics. The scientific strengths of the institute are rooted in the intellectual and scientific capacity of its staff and the successful acquisition and operation of important equipment. The Institute aims at addressing more and more societal challenges of sustainability, primarily from a natural science perspective. A strongly participatory management model has contributed to the success of the first period of iEES. Weaknesses arise mostly from the complications caused by the multi-site location in and around Paris, which render a higher level of integration across iEES difficult, as well as some problems with existing building that urgently need technical upgrade.

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2 rue Albert Einstein
75013 Paris, France
T. 33 (0)1 55 55 60 10

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