



# EDMOND DOUNIAS

## Ethnobiologist

Research Director at the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) (1994-onward)  
Senior Research Associate to the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) (2001-onward)  
Representative of IRD for Indonesia and Timor Leste 🌐 indonesia.ird.fr (2017-onward)

### SCIENTIFIC AFFILIATION

✉ Research Unit 'Biocultural Interactions'  
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### SALIENT ONGOING RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Profiling of indigenous food systems in various worldwide ecoregions.

Research and advocacy on education among contemporary hunter-gatherers.

### MAIN FIELDS OF INTEREST

Biocultural interactions between forest dwellers and tropical forests in a context of drastic change, with a particular interest in working with formerly nomadic hunter-gatherers in Africa and South-East Asia.

(i) Anthropology of food as the basic framework of my activities: Food is a hybrid research topic that fosters the analysis of the tight interconnections between health, nutritional status, biology and ecology of resources, land use system and cultural choices. Diets are optimal revelators of the adaptive strategies elaborated locally as a response to a changing environment;

(ii) Resilience of micro-level socio-ecological systems to macro-level external drivers of change; social and environmental impacts of shift from nomadic to sedentary lifestyle; environmental vulnerability induced by tropical forest conversion;

(iii) Traditional use of forest resources as a safety-net in a changing forest environment; analyzing para/proto/pseudo domestication processes of under-utilized food resources, with a particular focus on wild tubers, bushmeat, fresh-water fishes, and edible insects; historical ecology including man-induced forest evolution and natural/human coupled influence on forest dynamics;

(iv) Participatory action research, citizen science and ecosystem based management: eliciting traditional ecological knowledge and social adaptation to climate variability and change; how local perceptions and knowledge can help designing a research port-folio at the global level to achieve food security.

### GEOGRAPHIC EXPERIENCE

#### • Africa

- Cameroon. 1984-onward: Continued and regular research activities in the forested part of the country, among various groups of forest dwellers (hunter-gatherers, shifting cultivators, trappers, fishermen).

- Central African Republic. 1985: Ethnoecology of fishing among the Issongo freshwater fishermen.

- Democratic Republic of Congo. 2014-2016: teaching anthropology of food at the University of Kisangani, surveys on Oto and Twa dietary regimes in Lac Tumba region.

#### • South-east Asia

- Sumatra (Indonesia). 1988: Subsistence economy of the Kubu hunter-gatherers.

- Kalimantan (Indonesia). 2001-2010: Nutritional ecology of the Tubu Punan hunter-gatherers in Eastern Kalimantan. Position at the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in Bogor, among the 'Forest and Livelihoods' program; successively staff (2001-2006) and senior research associate (2006-onward).

#### • France

- Brunoy. 1991-1993: Laboratory of General Ecology, National Museum of Natural History.

- Paris. 2000-onward: Research associate to the Laboratory of Ecoanthropology and Ethnobiology, National Museum of Natural History.

- Montpellier. 1998-onward: Affiliated to the Center for Functional and Evolutionary Ecology (UMR5175 CEFE).

## ÉDUCATION

- 2008. Accreditation to Supervise Research (HDR), University Montpellier 2, France: 'Ethnobiology of tropical forest peoples: a career path marked by anthropology of food'
- 1993-94. Post-doctoral research, Fellowship from the LSB Leakey Foundation: 'Effect of tuber harvesting by the Baka Pygmies on the demography of wild yam species in Southern Cameroon'.
- 1993. Doctoral Thesis in ethnobotany, University of Montpellier 2, France: 'Dynamics and differential management of the Mvae food system in southern coastal Cameroon'.

## TEACHING, MENTORING, REVIEWING

- Mentoring of more than 70 master students.
- Supervisor for 9 doctoral theses (France, Cameroon, Indonesia, China).
- 30 hours of teaching annually; regular lectures at University of Montpellier, National Institute of Horticulture and Landscape in Angers, Faculty of Agronomy in Montpellier, Paris Institute of Technology for Life, Food and Environmental Sciences, National Museum of Natural History, Kyoto University, University of Kisangani.
- Reviewer for international journals: *Advances in Economic Botany*, *Anthropology of Food*, *Before Farming*, *Biodiversity and Conservation*, *Biological Conservation*, *Biodiversity and Conservation*, *Biotechnologie Agronomie Société Environnement*, *Bois et Forêts des Tropiques*, *Borneo Bulletin*, *Bulletins et Mémoires de la Société d'Anthropologie de Paris*, *Cahiers d'Agriculture*, *Conservation Biology*, *Conservation & Society*, *Current Anthropology*, *Earthscan books*, *Ecology & Society*, *Ecosystems and People*, *Forests Trees and Livelihoods*, *Human Biology*, *Human Ecology*, *International Forestry Review*, *International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology*, *IRD éditions*, *Journal d'Agriculture Traditionnelle et de Botanique Appliquée*, *Journal of Ethnobiology*, *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine*, *Natures-Sciences-Sociétés*, *PLOS-One*, *Unasylva*, *VertigO*.

## LEADING ROLES IN RESEARCH


- 2018-onward: Co-founder of the Research and advocacy group on hunter-gatherer education (EDU-HG)  
🌐 [site.uit.no/hg-education](http://site.uit.no/hg-education)
- 2018-onward: Member of the FAO Global Hub on indigenous food  
🌐 [fao.org/indigenous-peoples/our-pillars/food-systems/en](http://fao.org/indigenous-peoples/our-pillars/food-systems/en)
- 2011-2015: Coordinator of the Sentimiel Initiative: Citizen science program bridging traditional ecological knowledge on honey hunting and smallholder beekeeping in a changing world (French Foundation for Research on Biodiversity).
- 2005-2009: Coordinator of the Forest and Human Health Initiative at CIFOR.
- 2001-2006: Coordinator of research program on People's dependencies on forest in East Kalimantan (CIFOR).
- 1997-1999: Coordinator in Cameroon of the EU program 'Future of the Rainforest Peoples' (APFT).
- 1994-1998: Coordinator of the Research program 'Human ecology in forest-savannah ecotone': adaptive responses of Tikar cereal cultivators and Bedzan hunter-gatherers to afforestation of forest edges.
- 1994-1996: Coordinator of the SOFT research program (French Ministry of Environment) on the potential uses as food of wild and lianescent tuber plants of Cameroon.

## POSITIONS OF TRUST

- Board member: French Society of Human Ecology (1994-2014); Help Doctors (2007-2014); Society of Anthropology of Paris (2007-2014); International Society of Ethnobiology (2008-2014); Tropical Rainforests Future (2010-2014); Foundation for Environment and Development in Cameroon (2013-onward).
- Advisory Committee Member: People and Plants International (2004-2009); Darrell Posey Fellowship for Ethnoecology and Traditional Resource Rights (2004-onward); Council of Elders of the International Society of Ethnobiology (2014-onward).
- Member of the Editorial Committee of the *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine*.
- Chair or organizing committee member of scientific events: International conference 'Anthropology of food and development' (France, 1993); International conference 'Human ecology and management of the forest-savannah ecotone in Central Africa' (Cameroon, 2001); International travelling workshop 'Reconciling conservation and development in the forests: Prospects, problems, and progress' (Indonesia, 2005); session at the 22nd IUFRO Congress 'Forests in the balance: Linking tradition and technology' (Australia 2005); International Congress on Human Rights and Environment (France, 2009); 21<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the French Society of Human Ecology 'Transmissions between generations' (France, 2009); International Conference on Congo Basin Hunter-Gatherers (France, 2010); International conference 'Taking stock of smallholder and community forestry' (2010); International forum on

sustainable development (France, 2011); 13<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Ethnobiology (France, 2012); 10<sup>th</sup> International conference on Hunter-Gatherers (UK, 2013); Annual meeting of the Société d'Anthropologie de Paris (2014); International travelling workshop 'Human ecology in forest and savannah boundaries: twenty years of interdisciplinary research in Central Cameroon' (Cameroon, 2014); 11<sup>th</sup> International conference on Hunter-Gatherers (Austria, 2015); 15<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Ethnobiology (Ouganda, 2016); 12<sup>th</sup> International conference on Hunter-Gatherers (Malaysia, 2018); International conference on ecological intensification in aquaculture (Indonesia, 2019).

### SELECTED RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Complete list:  [edmond-dounias.toile-libre.org/publications.html](http://edmond-dounias.toile-libre.org/publications.html)

#### Peer-reviewed journals

- **Dounias E.**, Aumeeruddy-Thomas Y. (eds), 2017. Children's ethnobiological knowledge. *AnthropoChildren* 2017(7).
- **Dounias E.** 2017. L'école de la forêt. La difficile conciliation entre instruction formelle et éducation culturelle chez les chasseurs-cueilleurs Kola (sud Cameroun). *AnthropoChildren* 2017(8).
- **Dounias E.**, Ichikawa M. 2017. Seasonal bushmeat hunger in the Congo Basin. *EcoHealth* 14(3): 575-590.
- Di Giusto B., **Dounias E.**, McKey D. 2017. Facing herbivory on the climb up: Lost opportunities as the main cost of herbivory in the wild yam *Dioscorea praehensilis*. *Ecology and Evolution* 2017(7): 6493-6506.
- Lehébel-Péron A., Sidawy P., **Dounias E.**, Schatz B. 2016. Attuning local and scientific knowledge in the context of global change: The case of heather honey production in southern France. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 44 (2016): 132-142.
- **Dounias E.**, Oishi T. (eds.) 2016. Inland traditional capture fisheries in the Congo Basin. *Revue d'ethnoécologie* 10(2016).
- **Dounias E.**, Cogels S., Mvé Mbida S., Carrière S. 2016. The safety net role of inland fishing in the subsistence strategy of multi-active forest dwellers in southern Cameroon. *Revue d'ethnoécologie*: 10(2016): 2844.
- **Dounias E.** 2016. From subsistence to commercial hunting. Technical shift in hunting/trapping practices among southern Cameroon forest dwellers during the 20th century. *Ecology & Society* 21(1): 23.

#### Books

- Janicot S., Aubertin C., Bernoux M., **Dounias E.**, Guégan J.-F., Lebel T., Mazurek H., Sultan B., Reinert M. eds. 2015. *Climate change. What challenges for the South?* IRD Editions, 270 p.
- Motte-Florac E., Aumeeruddy-Thomas Y., **Dounias E.** eds. 2012. *Peoples and Natures*. IRD Editions.
- **Dounias E.**, Motte-Florac E., Dunham M. eds. 2007. *Animal symbolism. Animals, keystone of the relationship between Man and Nature?* IRD Editions.

#### Book chapters

- **Dounias E.** 2019. Food storage as a source of stress for seed farmers in the tropics. In Ferranti P., Berry E.M., Anderson J.R. (eds), *Encyclopedia of Food Security and Sustainability*, vol. 2 *Food security, nutrition and health*, pp. 444–448. Elsevier.
- **Dounias E.** 2018. Cooperating with the wild: Past and present auxiliary animals assisting humans in their foraging activities. In Stépanoff C., Vigne J.D. (eds), *Hybrid communities. Biosocial approaches to domestication and other trans-species relationships*. Routledge, pp. 197-220.
- **Dounias E.** 2018. Human ecology and environments: Rainforest, tropical. In Callan H. (ed), *International Encyclopedia of Anthropology*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Schatz B., **Dounias E.** 2016. Pollination: threats and opportunities in European beekeeping. In Thiébault S., Moatti J.-P. eds., *The Mediterranean region under climate change. A scientific update*. IRD Editions, AllEnvi, pp. 551-558.
- Muafor F.J., Ayemele Gnetegha A., **Dounias E.**, Le Gall P., Levang P. 2017. Palm weevil farming contributing to food security in sub-Saharan Africa. In van Huis A., Tomberlin J.K. (eds), *Insects as food and feed. From production to consumption*. Wageningen, Wageningen Academic Publishers, pp. 112-125.
- **Dounias E.** 2016. Des moissons éphémères. L'art de collecter et de consommer les termites sous les tropiques. In Motte-Florac É., Le Gall P. (eds). *Savoureux insectes. De l'aliment traditionnel à l'innovation gastronomique*. Rennes, Presses Universitaires de Rennes, Presses Universitaires François-Rabelais, Institut de recherche pour le Développement, pp. 273-339.
- Lewandowski S., Hernandez V., Gioda A., Cormier-Salem M.-C., **Dounias E.** 2015. A fresh look at local knowledge. In Janicot S., Aubertin C., Bernoux M., Dounias E., Guégan J.-F., Lebel T., Mazurek H., Sultan B., Reinert M. eds., *Climate change. What challenges for the South?* IRD Editions, pp. 219-231.
- Cambrezy L., Dubois J.-L., **Dounias E.** 2015. The adaptation and resilience of populations in the South. In Janicot S., Aubertin C., Bernoux M., Dounias E., Guégan J.-F., Lebel T., Mazurek H., Sultan B., Reinert M. eds., *Climate change. What challenges for the South?* IRD Editions, pp. 233-243.