

Documentation EcoPilot:

Biography

I worked for twenty years in the academic world at Gembloux university (Belgium), currently Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, as an environmental scientist, researcher, lecturer and member of the board of administrators (1982 - 2003). My work and research, teaching and training were about plant physiology, ecology, the threats for the environment, air-, water- and soil pollution, waste management, biogeochemical cycles of watersheds, the assessment of atmospheric deposition (particles, liquids and gases) on agricultural and forest ecosystems, and the design, implementation, monitoring of environmental impact, including biodiversity, using large infrastructures to mimic the effects of climate change on ecosystems.

I contributed to the reach of the academic community in civil society as an active member of the National / Federal Council for Sustainable Development and was delegated expert to the work of the United Nations Earth summit (UNCED, Rio), the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Construction, Climate Change (UNFCCC), biodiversity (UNCBD) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (1992-2003).

Engineer (1982) and Ph. D. in environmental sciences (1991), I publish a large number of original scientific articles, give numerous lectures and feed several Internet sites dedicated to ecology and the protection of the environment since 1999. I am recognized as an author who is committed to sustainable development.

The many pilot projects I have been involved in since 1982 make me travel all over the world, from Belgium to where I live, *via* Rio and Kyoto. In total, I have more than 30 years of professional environmental experience in more than 40 countries around the world.

During my tenure as National expert seconded to the European Commission's directorate general Joint Research Center (2000-2003), I developed the environmental section of the JRC's 2003-2007 Strategic Multi-Annual Action Plan, which was addressed in particular to the *Institute for sustainable environment* (IES) at the Ispra research center (Italy) and the *Institute for Prospective Technological Studies* (IPTS) at the Seville research center (Spain).

Key word

- autobiography

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EcoPilot: turn your ideas into action with method and operational knowledge.

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This strategic action plan is a top-down, results-oriented programmatic work. It was based on a technology watch in a wide range of environmental policies under development at the EC: the EU monitoring mechanism for reporting to the UNFCCC, carbon storage in geological layers, composite indicators and the directive on *Energy performance of buildings* (Dir 2002/91/EC), Fuel Cells, *Integrated pollution prevention and control* (IPPC), the *Environmental technologies action plan* (ETAP for soil, climate, sustainable consumption and sustainable production / consumption), the *Eco-innovation action plan* (ECOAP), the *Forest law enforcement, governance and trade* (FLEGT) action plan, Life cycle assessment (LCA) and internal evaluation procedures for the multi-year work plan for 2002, to name only the main themes.

My wife Nathaly Pereaux and I test and implement the principles of very low-energy construction, wastewater lagooning, selective waste sorting and educational pilot farming at EnerGîte, a family eco-project. It involves rehabilitating and revitalizing old farm buildings dating back to 1751 on one-hectare land, which have fallen into ruin and abandoned. This integrated project is a pioneering project in ecoconception for the development of ecotourism in the Walloon region. The buildings were completely restored and converted in 2001 into three low-energy holiday homes (<60 kWatt/m²). This achievement was awarded three prizes: the 'Environmental contest in the construction' of the *Confédération construction wallonne* (2007), the Energy Awards (2006) and the prizewinner *Piment* - as exemplary achievement in energy of the Walloon region (2002). After fifteen years of operation of these holiday accommodations for green tourism in the Ardennes, EnerGîte is now a project of holiday cottages in a pedagogic pilot farm to showcase an introduction to the environment, conservation of biological diversity, small livestock and local breeds, agriculture, small agricultural machinery, biological gardening at the guests' disposal and wastewater treatment.

In 2003, I founded EcoPilot, a personal brand of consulting and engineering for sustainable development and environmental protection, and I am getting more involved in serving local and regional players. In Belgium, I develop, among others:

- pilot specifications to assess the environmental impact of wind turbine projects in the Walloon Region, including on biodiversity (2012);
- an integrated information, communication and promotion campaign of *Fairebel* that targets 80 million touch points in three years to support the work of family and farmer farms, to guarantee a fair income for producers and to consolidate production and consumption of *fair milk* products in Belgium (2017).

During an energy advisory mission to the *Confédération construction wallonne* (2006 - 2007) based on my expertise in the Directive on energy performance of buildings, I have contributed to the acceptance of the regional application Decree in the Walloon Institutions and the competent professional federations, involving artisans, small businesses, large companies and industries. In the aftermath, I set-up CAP2020 (2008-2009) a cluster of competitiveness in low energy building, that brought together 150 companies and 300 members from the first year of its constitution. This work in Belgium, gave me a solid expertise to provide the technical assistance required to:

- prepare various international institutional and inter-institutional impulse projects e.g. in Tunisia, which laid the foundations for eco-construction in the Ministry for equipment (2010), in Morocco (2015), Algeria (2016-2017) and in Djibouti (2016).
- make small contributions to flagship initiatives for sustainable development, I quote the *Groupement de développement agricole* (GDA) Sidi Amor (Borj Touil, Ariana, Tunisia, 2010 - ...) and *Association Voûte nubienne* (AVN, 2012). Two associations which are for me an inexhaustible source of inspiration and an opportunity for very rich human encounters.

I have analysed and supported more than 450 eco-projects to date in Life, Life + and LIFE Integrated Program (2004 - 2017) for the EU, as an internationally recognized expert in environmental technologies and eco-design. I evaluated projects carried out by administrations, associations and the industry. The evaluations on the feasibility and added value of projects are duly justified and reported to the European Commission for potential funding, taking into account over 60 qualitative and quantitative award criterions.

I have extensive experience in technical assistance and management of complex inter-institutional strategic projects. In this case:

- In Tunisia within the framework of the EU *Environment energy action plan* (2013-2014), I lead technical assistance to the *Ministry of equipment, regional and sustainable development* (MATEDD) and its subsidiary bodies the *National agency for the protection of the environment* (ANPE) and the *Agency for the protection and development of the littoral* (APAL), which aimed capacity building of senior executives, the dissemination of project outcomes, the integration of good practices in daily work and the training of trainers.
- In Morocco (2015), I identified and formulated the core area environment for the EU budget *Support programme for growth and competitiveness* (PACC) amounting € 130 million (2016-2018) to support: industrial policy, trade policy (ALECA) and the green economy, which focused energy efficiency in five major industrial sectors (cement, agro-food industries, chemical and para-chemical industries, Mining and metal processing) and the emergence of the industry in the sectors of sorting and recovery of non-hazardous waste.
- In Djibouti (2016), the aim was to increase the visibility of the newly created *Djiboutian energy control agency* (ADME) through the preparation of efficient and operational decrees and to have the relevant management tools to accomplish its primary duty of reducing the energy bills of public buildings. The project was also to assess the thermal efficiency of the Djiboutian buildings, to identify and rank actions for improving energy efficiency in buildings and to support the administration in the design and implementation of a pilot bioclimatic construction, meant to be a demonstration center for reuse of treated wastewater for market gardening in a tropical desert climate.
- In Algeria (2016 - 2017), I was associated as senior expert to the project *Capacity building and skills management - training and training of trainers* in the framework of the EU *Support program for sectoral environmental policy* (PAPSE). It is a result-oriented strategic consultancy and technical assistance to support the Algerian *Ministry of water resources and environment* and its subsidiary bodies: the *National conservatory of environmental training* (CNFE) and the *National production center for cleaner production technologies* (CNTPP), in the formulation of frameworks for the implementation and evaluation of national environmental and integrated planning programmes for the coastal zone and in consolidating

its strategy to protect the environment in the wilayas of Algiers, Blida, Boumerdes and Tipaza.

My main strength lies in mastering knowledge, building capacity and mastering tools that give impetus to eco-innovation and eco-design. I excel in the use of European and international financing instruments and mechanisms and give access to public funding to promoters of multiple solutions to alleviate the environmental footprint and carbon footprint. My experience at the European Commission and my work with international donors gives me a mastery of the logical framework and the management of the project cycle both in strategic actions and in the framework of technical projects, as well as the means and tools of financing.

- I work indifferently in French or in English, alone, in team and networks, on programmes, projects and pilot actions which imply a shared vision, in multicultural contexts, with international donors, in the public sector, education, NGOs, civil society and economic operators for 3E, AESA-group, Agreco, Agrifor Consult, Nubian Voûte Association (AVN), BKP development reseach & consulting, CNRJ, CTMCCV, EACI, Ecophys, Egis-EAU, EQO, European Commission, FAIRCOOP, GDA Sidi Amor, GOPA, Halcrow, IRCO, Plastics Europe, Shake, RTBF, TRAME, Rossel Group, MWH-Global,...
- I carry financing, management and evaluation of eco-pilot projects with international development agencies and donors, including the EU, EIB, EBRD, ADB, BM, GEF, AFD, GIZ.
- I identify the operational strategic orientations and network actors and resources.
- I provide technical assistance to enhance relevance, determine the intervention logic and degree of achievement of objectives, evaluate the efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the results, the indicators of achievement, cross-cutting and impact indicators, sources of verification of these indicators.
- I produce evaluations, information and dedicated research through sound, documented, objective, independent, credible and useful analysis, present and justify budgets to achieve the project's objectives.
- I deliver advice and training.

My ambition is to combine a theoretical mastery with concrete scientific methods in order to work - finally and efficiently - in a network around the world, and to make a useful contribution to the development of a green and prosperous economy in the interest of all.

Identité :

- Expert en sciences de l'environnement.
- Initiateur d'éco-projets.
- Passeur d'idées et de savoir opérationnel.

Approche de travail :

- Veille technologique permanente et recherche dédiée sur les défis environnementaux.
- Mise en réseau des acteurs et ressources dans la définition de stratégies opérationnelles.
- Application de méthodes d'analyse scientifique.
- Communication et transfert des enseignements.

Objectifs :

- Conseiller, sensibiliser, former et instruire sur les pressions environnementales et leurs implications économiques et sociales.
- Faciliter la prise de décision avec les acteurs publics et privés, ainsi que la méthodologie appropriée.
- Initier et gérer des projets pilotes qui démontrent les possibles et les voies à suivre.

Ressources personnelles :

- Entraînement qui s'appuie sur des analyses en profondeur.
- Ténacité qui fédère les équipes.
- Vaste expérience universitaire au service de projets de terrain.
- Vision large et durable qui favorise l'excellence.

Promesses de services :

- Assister les organismes dans le montage des financements institutionnels.
- Donner aux éco-entreprises un avantage concurrentiel.
- Assurer un accompagnement opérationnel jusqu'à l'aboutissement des éco-projets.
- Renforcer les capacités des acteurs privés et publics pour une gestion plus durable.

Écoconception - Écotecnologies :

Eco-innover aujourd'hui, c'est être riche demain.

Biography

Expert in environment for more than 30 years, Eric Laitat started his career in the academic world.

Engineer, then Ph. D. of Environmental Sciences, he published a large number of original scientific articles, which are listed in this bibliographic index. He is also editor of proceedings of scientific workshops, author of a series of ebooks and feeds into several websites dedicated to ecology and the environment. He is recognized as an author committed to sustainable development.

He performs missions for international institutions and organizations. The pilot projects in which he has been involved since 1982 have made him travel around the world, from Belgium, where he lives, via Rio and Kyoto.

In 2003, he founded EcoPilot, an independent consulting firm for pilot projects and sustainable development. It is committed to serving the local and regional players and supports their development through environmental breakthroughs.

Eric first tries to share with his clients a global vision of sustainable environmental issues, then accompanies them in the definition of an eco-adapted project that will best serve the objectives, and finally identifies suitable European or international financing instruments and mechanisms to promote solutions and to mitigate the environmental footprint.

He has analyzed and supported more than 450 eco-projects to date. His strength lies in mastering the knowledge and tools that give impetus to eco-innovation and eco-design of product and services.

Eric's ambition is to combine a theoretical mastery with scientific methods for solving problems in order to work - finally and efficiently - in a network around the world, and to make a useful contribution to the development of a green and prosperous economy to the benefit of all.



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