

# The Nouragues Ecological research station in French Guiana

International research  
in tropical ecology



# A privileged equipment in rain forest, dedicated to scientists.

The Nouragues Ecological Research Station is a scientific station located at the heart of a tropical rain forest, in the Nouragues Natural Reserve, in French Guiana. It is a privileged equipment for the study of the functioning of tropical forests and their biodiversity.

The Station operates year round. It can accommodate scientists in any discipline from France or any other country. Scientific equipments for long-term measurement are being operated by the technical staff of the station.

The Nouragues station is organized around two permanent camps, 8 km away from each other : the Inselberg camp and the Saut-Pararé camp. These two sites are equipped to accommodate scientists from a few days to several months. Traditional housing places ('carbets') are available at both camps, as well as electricity, fridges, and drinkable water. Communications are possible by satellite phone or by satellite internet.

Travel from Cayenne to the Nouragues is possible either by car then boat, or by helicopter.



# Reach the field, from ground till canopy.


A system of grid trails has been set up in two areas around the Inselberg camp: in the areas called 'grand plateau' and 'petit plateau' the grid trail is established every 100 m, materializing 1 ha forest plots, totalling over 100 ha of forest. Other permanent trails are maintained for instance to go to the top of the inselberg, or to reach remote areas.

On these surfaces, about 14,000 trees are labeled, identified, georeferenced and followed for twenty years.

A trail system has been established and a map of the area is also available for Saut-Pararé. This site has six quadrants of one hectare installed since 1978. The site also has four transects with a length of over three kilometers for conduct wildlife monitoring in the long term.

It is on this site that was installed in 2014 the COPAS (Canopy Operating Permanent Access System), a device made of three 45-m tall towers 180-m apart, connected by cables above the canopy, that allows access to about two hectares of forest from the ground to above the canopy.





**A scientific instrumentation  
for the data acquisition,  
the experimentation in natura  
and the long-term monitoring  
of the ecosystems.**

The image is a composite. On the left, a man in a light blue shirt and a tan cap is kneeling in a rainforest, working with a purple container and a grey bucket. In the center, a woman with blonde hair and black-rimmed glasses is smiling. In the foreground, there is a cluster of many colorful cylindrical markers in various colors like purple, blue, yellow, red, and green. The background is a dense rainforest with tall trees and sunlight filtering through the canopy.

**An exceptional research site dedicated  
to the advancement of knowledge  
on the functioning of rain forests  
and their biodiversity.**

**The Nouragues ecological research station**  
An equipment operated by the CNRS  
**The Nouragues Natural Reserve, French Guiana.**

CNRS | Centre de recherche de Montabo,  
275 route de Montabo, Cayenne, French Guiana  
Mailbox : BP 70620 - 97334 Cayenne cedex  
Tel : + 594 (0) 594 29 92 98 | [www.nouragues.cnrs.fr](http://www.nouragues.cnrs.fr)



Réserve Naturelle  
**NOURAGUES**

With the support of



UNION EUROPÉENNE



France



Laboratoire d'Ecologie, Evolution, Interactions  
des Systèmes amazoniens (CNRS-UG-FRERJ)