

CongoPeat

Newsletter # 1

March 2019



Expanding the CongoPeat Team

The first months of CongoPeat were spent battling HR and University rules to speedily advertise positions and get the very best people to join the team. We did it – fantastic people filled all positions on time. Welcome to: postdocs Nick Girkin (Nottingham), Donna Hawthorne (St. Andrews), Ian Davenport (Edinburgh) working on GHG fluxes, paleo-vegetation and LiDAR/Remote sensing analyses respectively; PhD students Mackline Mbemba and Emmanuel Mampouya (Marien Ngouabi University), and technician Dafydd Crabtree (Leeds) all working on the GEM plots in Republic of Congo; PhD student Joseph Kanyama (University of Kisangani) working on paleo-vegetation; technicians Carolina Duran Rojas (Exeter) and Will Hiles (St Andrews) providing JULES support and sample preparation and analysis respectively and CongoPeat bilingual project admin assistant Helen Plante (Leeds).

Press Conference in Brazzaville

The field campaign in Republic of Congo kicked off with a press conference with the Minister for Environment and Tourism, Arlette Soudan-Nonault, to explain the project to the Congolese people.



Fieldwork in Republic of Congo

The three planned intensive carbon cycle forest monitoring plots (1 palm-rich peat swamp, 1 hardwood-rich peat swamp, on terra firme vegetation control) were installed, the very first CO₂, CH₄, N₂O were sampled in situ from the central Congo Peatlands, and we obtained permission for the UAV to fly and got it in the air, meaning that we will have topographic data from 2 x 10 km transects into the peatland.



Next CongoPeat Meeting

11.30 am Thursday 2nd May - 2.30 pm Friday 3rd May, in Leeds. Please send agenda items to Helen Plante, email: h.m.e.plante@leeds.ac.uk

Reporting and ResearchFish

Simon Lewis submitted this year's ResearchFish return. Remember to add the grant number, NE/R016860/1, and CongoPeat to the acknowledgments of any relevant papers you're writing. And keep a list of public engagement/ other impacts that our research generates.

News items for the next newsletter:

please send to Helen Plante, email: h.m.e.plante@leeds.ac.uk

