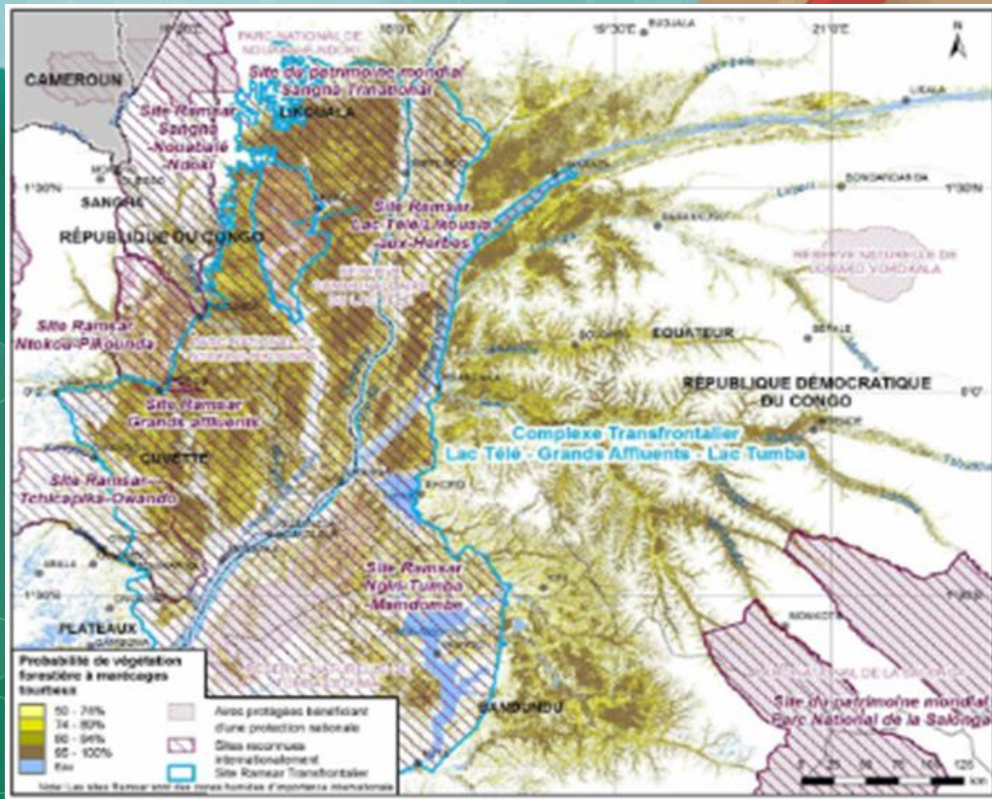


Corneille E.N. EWANGO

University of Kisangani, DR Congo & CongoPeat Project Scientist



Avoiding loss of high-carbon
soils through peatland
mapping and monitoring for
climate action

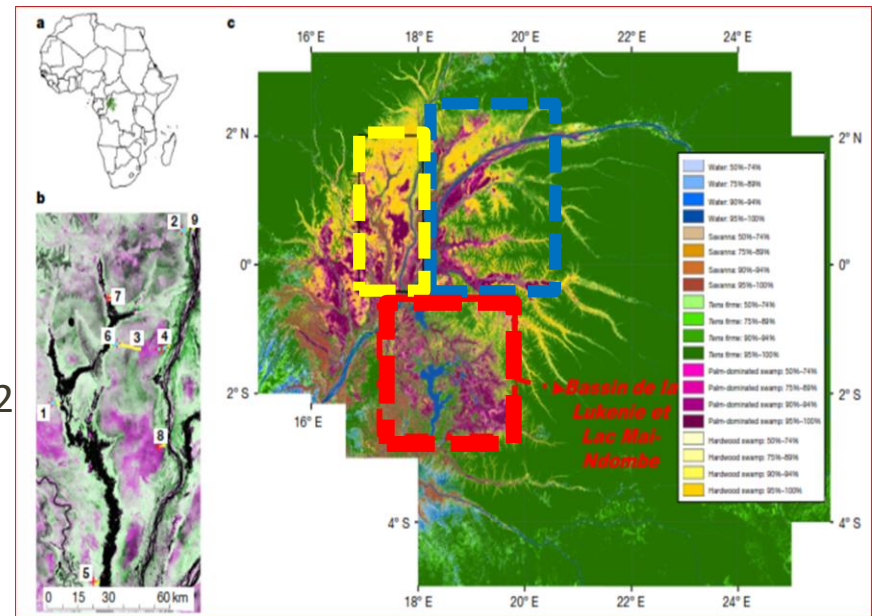
UNFCCC COP Side event
Room 1

Monday 2 December 2019
16:45-18:15 (UTC+01:00)
IFEMA - Feria de Madrid

CongoPeat

Congo Basin Peatlands Integrated Management for People, Biodiversity and Climate Change

- Central Congo Basin peatlands: between Rep. Congo & Dem. Rep. Congo
- Largest tropical wetlands and peatlands in the world
- Area: ~156,400-191,900 km²
- DR Congo: 90 800 Km² , ~ 19.1 Gt C
- 40% of central Congo basin between major interfluves
- Mapped & surveyed in Equateur Province, excluding Tshuapa, South Ubangi & Mai-Ndombe



LEEDS

UNIVERSITY, UK

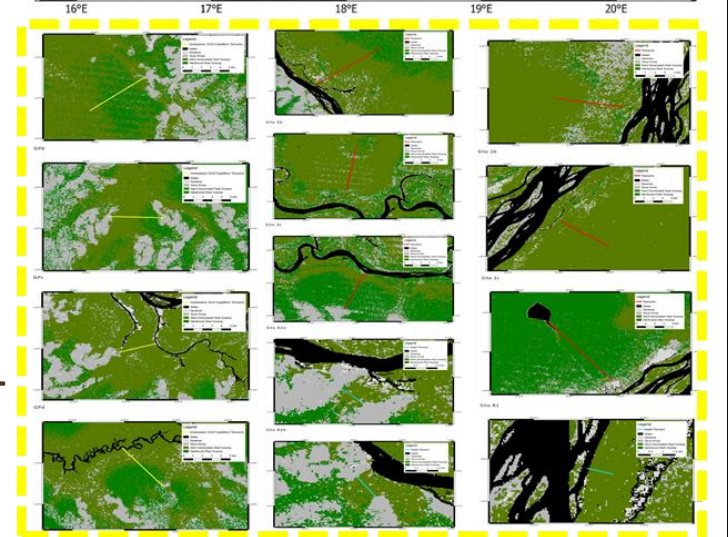
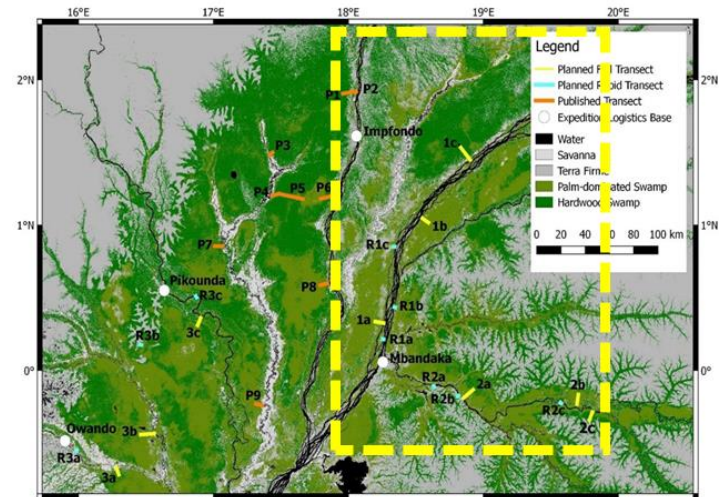
GREENPEACE



CongoPeat

Congo Basin Peatlands Integrated Management for People, Biodiversity and Climate Change

- Twelve interfluvial transects - 77 Km long between Ruki & Ubangi river
- Vegetation: Palm-dominated, Hardwood swamp & Herb-layer vascular plants
- Document Local plant species richness and composition
- Hydrology: H₂O pH & conductivity
- Topography: Peat depth up 7 m (1-7.8 m)



LEEDS
UNIVERSITY, UK



CongoPeat

GREENPEACE



UNIKIS

Conclusions

1. The Congo Basin Peatlands provide many valuable ecosystem services, including carbon (C) sequestration and Water supply for the region
2. Local plant species richness & composition may vary across habitats and between plant taxonomic groups within peatlands forests
3. Multi-taxon approach is therefore needed to provide a more detailed insight into determinants affecting vegetation structure and dynamics
4. Understanding Peatland biogeochemistry, especially on research gap regarding factors affecting SOM decomposition and mineralization these ecosystems
5. **Action:** Some sensitization/ Information workshops have been held at both National and Regional level (JICA & Greenpeace)
6. **Work in progress**, our intention: Intensify mapping to provide a wide and comprehensive summary of their distribution & potential of C sequestration in peatlands from science to practice for climate action. To date about 95% of our prediction on-ground approved
7. Financial support to extend mapping is our big challenge for DRC peatlands scientific & National Management Strategic Plan