

Seminar “Ocean, Ice and Atmosphere”,
Institute of Environmental Physics (IUP), Univ. Bremen
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Hydrology-human-carbon linkages in central Africa

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I am an organic geochemist working with molecular-isotopic methods and interested in reconstructing paleo-hydrology and carbon cycling. During my work on central Africa I investigated the large-scale, long-term controls of rainfall variability in central Africa and predicted a large-scale carbon reservoir in the Congo basin which responded to hydrologic changes over the Holocene. Using cores from the now recognized largest tropical peatland in the central Congo basin, I was able to document a climatic tipping point for carbon sequestration/release. Under increasing climatic and anthropogenic stressors, the central Congo peatlands are one of the most vulnerable carbon reservoirs and recognized as a protection priority.