



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

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Professor Raphael Tshimanga,

Head, Department of Natural Resources Management.
University of Kinshasa,
Democratic Republic of Congo.

16 April 2018

Re. Congo Basin Water Resources Research Center (CRREBaC)

Dear Professor Tshimanga,

Thank you for sharing with us your exciting proposal for a water resources research centre for the Congo Basin, based at the University of Kinshasa. On behalf of water@leeds here at the University of Leeds, I would like to offer our wholehearted endorsement for your CRREBaC initiative.

water@leeds has similar aims to those you propose for your centre, so we recognise the importance of having a centre for water resources research. water@leeds has brought significant influence and success for our University, both in terms of funding and partnerships with local and international organisations.

water@leeds was founded with four missions; (i) Provide excellent internationally-recognised water science, technology and policy research, (ii) Maximise the effectiveness of research funding by becoming the focus for interdisciplinary water research, (iii) Generate world-leading research which has major impacts on society, environment and the economy, (iv) Train new innovative, excellent and interdisciplinary water experts. Since its launch almost a decade ago, water@leeds has become one of the largest water-related research and training centres of any university in the world. Our membership stands at over 330 researchers, drawn from all faculties at the University of Leeds. We are inspired by the local and global challenges presented by water, and we come together to take a leading role in addressing them.

As you know, water@leeds researchers are already involved in two important research initiatives focused on the Congo Basin, the CRuHM project, of which you are an integral part alongside Dr. Mark Trigg, and the Cuvette Central peat and carbon research of Prof Simon L Lewis and colleagues. The CRREBaC would undoubtedly provide new opportunities to expand our existing links and attract additional research funding for Congo Basin Research.

Finally, I would like to reiterate the importance of your proposal, for both the Congo Basin and international science and wish you success in gaining investment and support for your centre. It would be a privilege to be see the birth of a sister water centre to champion African science.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Joseph Holden

Director, water@leeds, Pro-Dean for Research & Innovation

University of Leeds