

Research Project

Elemental mercury evasion from boreal mires

Project funded by own resources

Project title Elemental mercury evasion from boreal mires

Principal Investigator(s) [Alewell, Christine](#) ;

Co-Investigator(s) [Bishop, Kevin](#) ;

Project Members [Osterwalder, Stefan](#) ;

Organisation / Research unit

Departement Umweltwissenschaften / Umweltgeowissenschaften (Alewell)

Project Website <https://umweltgeo.unibas.ch/forschung/aktuelle-projekte/>

Project start 01.04.2012

Probable end 31.12.2018

Status Completed

Human activities, such as mining and burning of fossil fuels, have increased the mobilization of mercury (Hg) into the environment and raised the amounts in the atmosphere, soils, fresh waters, and oceans by a factor of three to five. International efforts to alleviate the problem of Hg in the environment are focused on reducing Hg deposition. However, it seems doubtful that these efforts will have a considerable effect, especially in northern countries, since so much Hg has already accumulated in the superficial organic soils of mires.

Knowing the land-atmosphere exchange of Hg in mires is crucial to predict how effective efforts to reduce anthropogenic Hg emissions will be in reducing the pool of Hg in these mires and ultimately the loading of the extremely toxic methylmercury (MeHg) from mires to surface waters.

We have developed the first long term application of the Relaxed Eddy Accumulation (REA) technique, a micrometeorological method, which has only been used in a few short-term studies on Hg fluxes from contaminated sites up to now. Since our instrument has been tested successfully, we are able to quantify the first seasonal land-atmosphere exchange of gaseous elemental mercury (Hg

Keywords mercury, evasion, mire, peatland, relaxed eddy accumulation, flux chamber

Financed by

University funds

Other funds

Add publication

Published results

2821781, Fritsche, Johannes; Osterwader, Stefan; Nilsson, Mats B.; Sagerfors, Jorgen; Akerblom, Staffan; Bishop, Kevin; Alewell, Christine, Evasion of Elemental Mercury from a Boreal Peatland Suppressed by Long-Term Sulfate Addition, 2328-8930, Environmental science & technology letters, Publication: JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

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Add documents

Specify cooperation partners

ID	Kreditinhaber	Kooperationspartner	Institution	Laufzeit - von	Laufzeit - bis
411056	Fritsche, Johannes	Kevin Bishop	Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet	01.01.2010	31.12.2012
411057	Fritsche, Johannes	Mats Nilsson	Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet	01.01.2010	31.12.2012
983625	Alewell, Christine	Bishop, Kevin, Prof. Dr.	University of Uppsala	03.01.2012	31.12.2015