The origins of hunting and gathering in the Congo basin

An archaeological perspective

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Structure

- Overview of the Lupemban
- Lupemban tools
- Distribution, chronology & site integrity
- Use-wear analysis
- Summary
Background to research

- Middle Stone Age
- Age = \( \sim 270 \) thousand years?
- Hafted technology?
- Woodland foraging?
Lupemban tools
Lupemban tools

?
Sites:
No stratigraphic info.
Surface sites
Minimally described
Stone lines
Prob. stone lines
• 4 core-axes: employed for heavy-duty tasks
• Medium-hard and hard materials (wood?)
• Equivocal, indirect evidence of hafting
Summary

- Very coarse-grained archaeological record

- Lupemban:
  - 1st sustained human presence in Congo
  - Specialised & diverse toolkit
  - Adapted for woodland foraging?
  - H-G in Congo = very long history?

- The future:
  - New sites?
  - More refined chronology
  - Environmental samples
  - Extension of use-wear
Thanks to...

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