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***Report about my experience at Geospatial Week 2015***

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

I had the great opportunity to be present at Geospatial Week 2015 in La Grande Motte, France from the 30<sup>th</sup> September to the 2<sup>nd</sup> October. My participation was possible with the support of a travel grant from The ISPRS Foundation.

I particularly took part in GeoUAV Workshop, which was proposed during two days (1-2 October 2015) and was dedicated to Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, allowing researchers to share their knowledge and experience in the development and the application of this recent technology. Numerous themes were addressed, including new data management techniques or applications in agriculture, civil engineering, archeology, environment, etc. The two key notes speakers, Dr. Sylvain LABBÉ (IRSTEA, France) and Dr. Frédéric BARET (INRA, France), were really engaging and 27 interesting studies were presented in the Workshop, split in six sessions.

During the sixth session, I have given the following presentation: “HOW MANY HIPPOS (HOMHIP): Algorithm for automatic counts of animals with infra-red thermal imagery from UAV”. It was for me the first presentation at an international level and was an excellent opportunity to valorize my Master Thesis. My presentation was followed by interesting technical questions and discussions with several scientists. I was also implicated in the presentation of my colleague Julie LINCHANT, having the title: “WIMUAS: Developing a tool to review wildlife data from various UAS flight plans”. The possibility to have two published articles in the ISPRS Archives was for me a springboard for my future scientific career.

My participation at this conference was a complementary asset with my field and academic experience. The interest that I developed in remote sensing during my studies has been strengthened. I am now beginning a PhD Thesis on ecosystem services assessment in Cameroon tropical forests, and I will include my learning and contacts from this conference in my field work.

Yours sincerely,

Simon LHOEST

