

Comment Form [Research Project FS]

February 26, 2016

Title of the Project	Toward the Regeneration of Tropical Peatland Societies: Building International Research Network on Integrated Peatland Management		
Research Term	FS	Project Leader	MIZUNO Kosuke
General advice and comments of the PEC:			
<p>The PEC noted with approval that the proposal has been considerably improved, taking into account dimensions such as land rights which previously had not been dealt with in detail, and that earlier PEC comments have been addressed.</p>			
<p>The topic of peat lands is of crucial global importance and this is therefore a timely proposal. However, a number of aspects of the proposal could be improved to further strengthen the project as it gets going.</p>			
<p>The PEC found the title confusing in the sense that it was not clear what the overall objective of the project is: to address local peat land issues in Indonesia, or to establish an international network?</p>			
<p>Highly complicated political issues are involved in making decisions on what to do with abandoned peat lands. While the team includes considerable social science expertise, it was nevertheless felt that the treatment of the complex situation is still relatively superficial and needs to be strengthened in order to take into account marginalized stakeholders' interests and that more sophisticated planning of the transdisciplinary approach is required. Additional social science expertise, for example in environmental health and governance need to be mobilized.</p>			
<p>At the same time, the contribution of natural science to the overall project also needs to be further clarified. How, on what conceptual basis, will the social and natural science aspects be integrated overall? Clear overall research questions to guide integration are needed.</p>			
<p>Many of the proposed methodologies and directions for solutions are well-developed and not new as such. The project needs to provide a stronger articulation of how it is combining these familiar elements into an original approach.</p>			