

## Comment Form 【FR2】

February 14, 2019

<b>Title of the Project</b>	<b>Toward the Regeneration of Tropical Peatland Societies: Building International Research Network on Paludiculture and Sustainable Peatland Management</b>		
<b>Research Term</b>	<b>FR2</b>	<b>Project Leader</b>	<b>Mizuno Kosuke</b>
<b>General advice and comments of the EREC:</b>			
<p>The Committee found this project by and large progressing well, with much fieldwork already accomplished and underway. The topic of tropical peatlands is tremendously important: they contribute significantly to global greenhouse gas emissions and are a major source of serious regional air pollution, while palm oil plantations are an important element in the national economy that also has a drastic impact on local livelihoods. The project is engaged in interesting experiments with rewetting and regeneration of peatlands, while striving to facilitate governance and management arrangements that can be embedded in national policy constraints. The work on land tenure and entitlements is a very important precondition for success of the experiments, but it was felt that its framework needs to be further expressed based on the literature. This may also contribute to a strengthened connection between paludiculture and local livelihoods.</p>			
<p>The presentation highlighted a somewhat bewildering variety of activities and the Committee is concerned that the synthesis of the various elements is still largely missing. The participatory experimental fieldwork appeared somewhat separate from the ecological and other natural science research and the work on haze and human health. Transformability is an interesting theme that has the potential to serve to integrate many findings. However, the approach to transformability needs to move beyond activities in the field to a more conceptually structured one that is linked to the international literature and enables the extraction of generalizable insights. There is also a need to further indicate how the project will measure, combine and synthesize the data obtained to evaluate vulnerability and transformability.</p>			
<p>Since a lot of fieldwork has already been accomplished, the project now needs to devote considerable time and effort to ensuring high impact publishing.</p>			