

Research Project FR: Final Year Project Evaluation Comments

Project Title	Toward the Regeneration of Tropical Peatland Societies: Building International Research Network on Paludiculture and Sustainable Peatland Management
Abbreviated Title	Tropical Peatland Societies
Project Leader	KOZAN Osamu
Project Period	5 years Full Research
Affiliated Program	Research Program 1 : Societal Transformation under Environmental Change

General advice and comments of the EREC:

The Committee was very positive about the achievements of the peatland project. These achievements include the collection of large volumes of natural science data including the innovative use of drones, analysis of historical data, work on land rights, and a certain level of connection with national-level peatland policy. Important articles have been published and several volumes in English are about to come out. This is a well-considered project in terms of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach, in particular around community engagement. Long-term field engagement enabled the team to work with villagers and other local stakeholders in meaningful ways. Rather than co-design up front as is usual, the project adapted and developed its approach during implementation. It was noted that the project benefitted from preceding research at Kyoto University, which facilitated the cultivation of long-term relationships, and from intertwining with a JICA project, which helped by contributing resources for field experiments. During the last two years, The COVID pandemic prevented fieldwork in Indonesia by the Japanese researchers, but the team managed to cope with this, among others by creative use of online communication.

It was noted that the international aspect, mentioned in the project title, was relatively less developed.

The Committee expressed the expectation that the local research-practice networks would be able to continue to be active and that the project team would strive to have the project approach and findings considered in local and national policy.