

Topic Areas for Research in Aceh.

Group 1 — Jen Lucey

1. Looking at what is conservation success
 - low cost-high benefit, trajectory of project, do nothing vs. active management
2. Wider landscape impact
 - down stream, spill over, social/livelihoods
3. Resilience
 - financial, environmental & social

Group 2 — Jane Hill

1. Active/passive management of forests (different treatments) - Biodiversity, ecosystem services, carbon capture, resilience, climate change & drought
 - look at these through decomposition, seed dispersal, community reassembly, colonization
2. Soil management & recreation
3. Landscape – manipulate spatial design, connectivity, different forest types
4. Ecotourism & iconic species—local economy, livelihoods

Group 3 — Roger Kitching

Things to think about before starting the project:

- Determine what is the end point
- Learn from & integrate other projects in the region
- Select a senior Indonesian scientist involved early on a counterpart

Topic areas:

1. Riparian & fresh water flows
2. Tree-mixes/site preparation
 - only endemics, with or without palm oil clearing, spatial/temporal
3. Horticulture issues
4. Socioeconomic assessment and monitoring
5. Baseline & ongoing monitoring → target groups
 - conduct an initial 'bioblitz' (attractive to scientists, get people involved)

Group 4 — Rosie Trevelyan

1. Explore long-term social acceptability of restoration.
 - Stakeholder engagement
 - How does this work out
2. Restoration trajectories → given the initial context
 - Correlates with management
3. Traits approach to enhance restoration
4. Best time to intervene in restoration
 - Design different treatments
 - Change intervention times

Group 5 — Agnes Agama

1. The ultimate outcome is for the project to deliver advice to the industry and all stakeholders on best way to restore oil palm well also promoting ecosystem services and support livelihoods
2. Outputs—understanding best practices from different treatments that promote ecosystem services & biodiversity.
 - Iconic species, water, soil, ES, carbon, locals, local livelihoods
 - How components are correlated or anticorrelated to help decide what to restore
3. What are the treatments → how to manage? Active or passive management
4. Overall context/goals/add value to inform the project
 - Involve stakeholders, take time to do baselines

Group Discussion/Comments

- Be sure to follow FPIC
- Oil Palm naturalizing—important to incorporate local people, establish a system where they are benefitting and still able to get OP fruit
- Social science leads to local engagement, but often this interaction changes livelihoods and people's lifestyles, this needs to be understood
- Is there an impact on poverty? Halting conversion can result in increased poverty. There is a need for social/economic information and socio-economic work on the ground
- Dedicated restoration scientists, integrating with other projects. Work with satellite sites in the area that compliment/reflect other projects. There is an island-wise opportunity to generalize.

- What is the goal? End point? Restore to what point? It is important that people's ongoing role is clear. Understand that to 'go back to before' is very difficult. Landscapes are dynamic, need to decide where in history the project is returning to and design the treatments around this.
 - It is impossible to truly restore
 - Investigate restore versus rehabilitate (functionality)
 - What do the stakeholders want? Is it possible to deliver this?
 - Social resilience leads to longer/higher chances of success
 - RSPO doesn't know the end point, we need to provide this advice
 - It is not what is restored that is important, it is what is HEALTHY
- Social → stakeholder. Important to have direct PE (public engagement) in the research design. This is an easy way to leverage future funding
- Look at lessons learned from the Harapan project in Sumatra
- Baseline → initial investment is essential in all baseline data