

Progress Report 2018

Work Package 3

Sustainable Governance of Transboundary Environmental Commons in Southeast Asia

AcRF MOE (SSRTG)-funded research project, 2017-2022

Project code: MOE2016-SSRTG-068

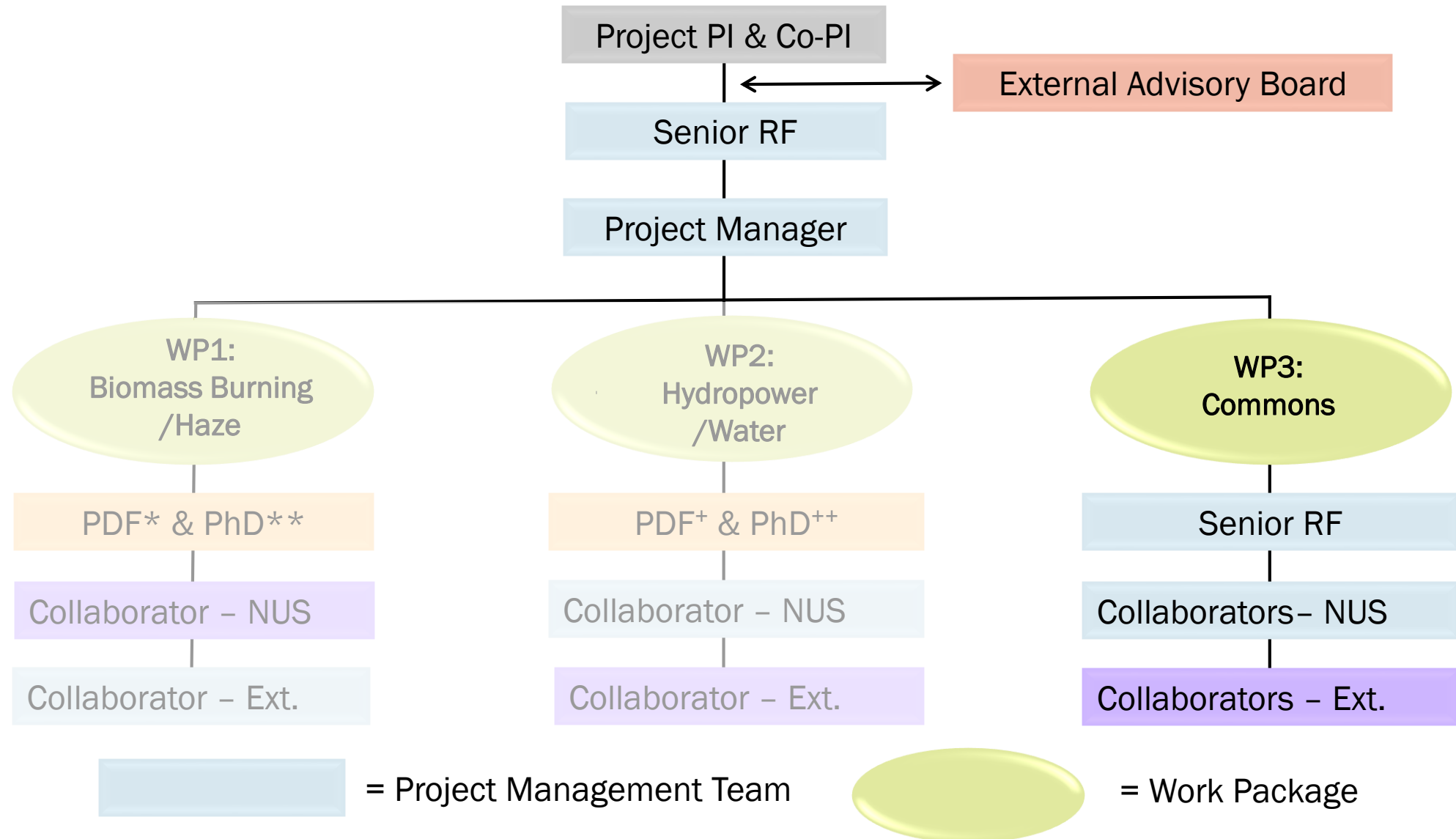


WP3 RESEARCHERS

Name	Institution	Role in project
Prof David Taylor	Geography, NUS	PI, PMT Chair, WP 1, & <u>WP3 co-leader</u>
Dr. Michelle Miller	ARI, NUS	WP1, WP2, <u>WP3 co-leader</u>
Prof Jonathan Rigg	ARI, NUS	Co-PI, PMT, WP2 leader & <u>WP 3</u>
MSSc Marcel Bandur	ARI, NUS	<u>WP3</u>
Dr. Daniel Friess	Geography, NUS	PMT WP2, <u>WP3</u>
Assoc Prof Alberto Salvo	Economics, NUS	WP1, <u>WP3</u>
Assoc Prof Sooyeon Kim	Political Sciences, NUS	PMT (WP3 rep), <u>WP3</u>
Prof Alan Tan	Law, NUS	WP1, <u>WP3</u>
Dr. Helena Varkkey	International & Strategic Studies, University of Malaya	WP1 leader, <u>WP3</u>
Dr. Diana Suhardiman	NAFRI, Lao	WP2, <u>WP3</u>
Assoc Prof Melissa Marschke	International Development & Global Studies, University of Ottawa	<u>WP3</u>
Prof Louis Lebel	Social and Environmental Research, Chiang Mai Univ	WP2, <u>WP3</u>
Dr. Carl Middleton	Political Science, Chulalongkorn University	PMT (WP2 rep), WP2, <u>WP3</u>

WORK PACKAGE 3

OVERVIEW OF PROJECT ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT



WP3: COMMONS: GOVERNING A SUSTAINABLE TRANSBOUNDARY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMONS IN SEA

Overview

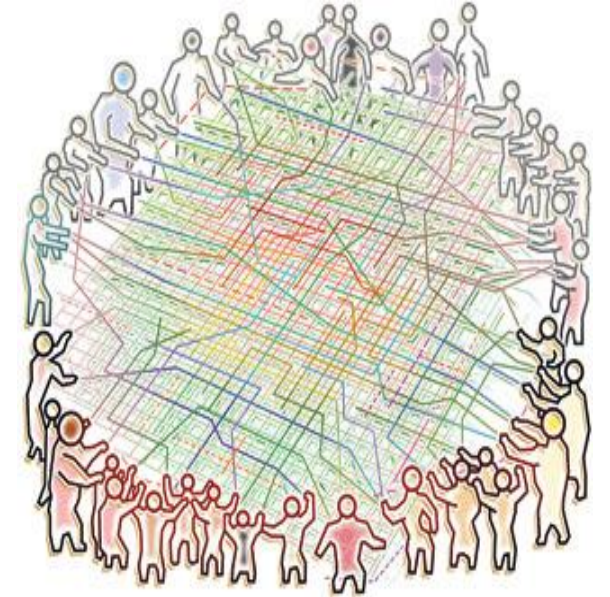
- Integrates empirical evidence, conceptual thinking and policy implications from WPs 1 and 2
- Examines concept of transboundary environmental commons within the specific context of Southeast Asia
- Integrates results with evidence from other parts of the world of best practice in the governance of transboundary environmental commons
- Produces evidence-based and theoretically robust foundation for policy development at national and international (ASEAN) levels

Problem Statement:

What are the commonalities and intersections that link major environmental challenges in SE Asia, and can governance solutions be devised to address the latent contradictions between increasing economic integration and the sustainable utilisation of resources?

WP3 GUIDING RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1) At what **scales** do different kinds of governance and legal solutions for transboundary environmental commons operate at, and to what extent do they address the contradictions between increasing economic integration and sustainable utilization of resources?
- 2) What types of **formal and informal institutions and rules** should be promoted For regional, national, provincial and local governance of CPRs (Common Pool Resources)?
- 3) What are the **socio-political conditions and governance arrangements** under which a more informed, inclusive, accountable, just and sustainable transboundary environmental commons in SEA could emerge?
- 4) Do conventional theories of CPRs need any **adjustment** to take into account scale, production-consumption linkages or other mechanisms in the case of transboundary environmental commons in SEA?



PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Project start date (M 1, Q1, Y1) was August 2017

	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5			
		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
WP3-Commons:																				
First project workshop and stakeholder engagement					X															
Commons agenda-setting study			X	X	X	X														
Site visits					X	X			X	X			X	X						
Reconceptualising commons study							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Second project workshop									X											
Third project workshop													X							
Fourth project workshop and sharing of results																	X			
Submission of journal articles				X														X		
Report from overseas professionals (professional services reports)									X				X				X			



Where we are at present (month 15, end of Q1, Yr 2)

WHERE WE ARE NOW/ CURRENT THINKING: HYBRID GOVERNANCE OF TRANSBOUNDARY COMMONS

Miller, M. A., Middleton, C., Rigg, J. and Taylor, D. M. “Hybrid governance of transboundary commons: Insights from Southeast Asia”, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, submitted 10 September 2018.

- **Transboundary commons** as a category of environmental goods that traverse jurisdictions and property regimes *within* as well as *between* nation-states.
 - Focus on networked political relationships, revenue streams, labour mobilities and environmental flows that defy containment and enclosure at national and sub-national scales.
 - Emphasis on geographies of human relationships that animate around particular resources rather than on transboundary resources themselves.
 - Transboundary commons are created and maintained through commoning work of hybrid institutions and actors across divided geographies of state, private and communal ownership around specific forms of environmental stewardship.

SPATIAL CATEGORIES OF TRANSBOUNDARY COMMONS

Mobile commons: govern resources that cannot be physically contained within demarcated spaces and bounded regulatory regimes (eg.; fresh water, fluvial sediment and animals that move across jurisdictions and property domains)

In situ commons: forged through transboundary relationships among a range of actors (state, societal, private sector) whose generative activities produce new situationally specific institutional practices and social norms for environmental governance.

In situ commons are intimately connected to mobile commons because governing transboundary resources that physically move across property divisions (mobile commons) require the coordinated efforts of spatially networked communities anchored in localities (in situ commons).

MOBILE COMMONS



- Do not fit into conventional orderings of the commons around clearly defined common property resource regimes with agreed rules of access by collective of users (Hardin, 1968; Ostrom, 1990).
- Mobile commons are never territorially fixed or bounded, even when transboundary agreements and frameworks define them as such (Ahmed and Hirsch, 2000; Fox and Sneddon, 2005; Hensengerth, 2015). Boundaries continually being rescaled around shifting (geo)politics and market relations as governance priorities change to focus on particular resources.
- Contemporary relevance of mobile commons rests on (geo)political adaptability and potential resilience in current era of anthropogenic environmental change.

IN SITU COMMONS

- Classical distinctions between conservation enclosures and open communal spaces/ commodification and common use no longer “fit for purpose” in governing common resources.
- “Pure” common property (Ostrom, 1990) has become relatively rare, especially in developing countries (Turner, 2017), where trend has been toward various privatisation measures as a means of protecting commons (Beban and Gorman, 2017; Schoenberger et al., 2017; Zanzanaini et al., 2017).
- Expanding role of markets in environmental governance across Southeast Asia signals a fundamental change in the future direction of commoning.
- Technologies are creating new commons through land reclamation, forcing us to think about changing ways of governing land use and resource ownership. Technology products give rise to “hybrid second natures” (Zimmerer, 2000).

HYBRID GOVERNANCE

- Deliberative, multi-sector (co- governance, public-private and private-societal) partnerships that collaboratively produce, synthesise and mobilise knowledge from diverse sources and through flexible institutional arrangements (Lemos and Agrawal, 2009; Armitage et al., 2012; Rana and Chhatre, 2017).
- Commoning more compatible with concept of hybrid **governance** than hybrid **management**.
- Commoning is more compatible with concept of governance than management, with its organising ethos around social inclusivity and informed decision-making in the pursuit of the broadly equitable (re)distribution of environmental benefits.
- Hybrid governance regimes not equally well designed!

RECONFIGURING POWER THROUGH TRANSBOUNDARY COMMONING

- Common property theory focuses more on user rights than on power relations.
- Power-based approaches afford more dynamic view of common property and abilities of key actors to catalyse environmental change in response to social realities (Ribot and Peluso, 2003).
- Hybrid engagements between “bundles of powers” (old and new, formal and informal, liberal and illiberal) shape transboundary commoning practices in Southeast Asia.
- Example: exploitation of flexible patronage networks to support mobile and in situ commoning activities (Nagarajan, 2017; Kenney-Lazar, 2018; Lund and Rahman, 2018).
- Fluidity of transboundary commoning spaces demands treatment of hybrid governance as ongoing process of experimentation.