

# Progress Report 2018

## Work Package 1

### Sustainable Governance of Transboundary Environmental Commons in Southeast Asia

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

Project code: MOE2016-SSRTG-068

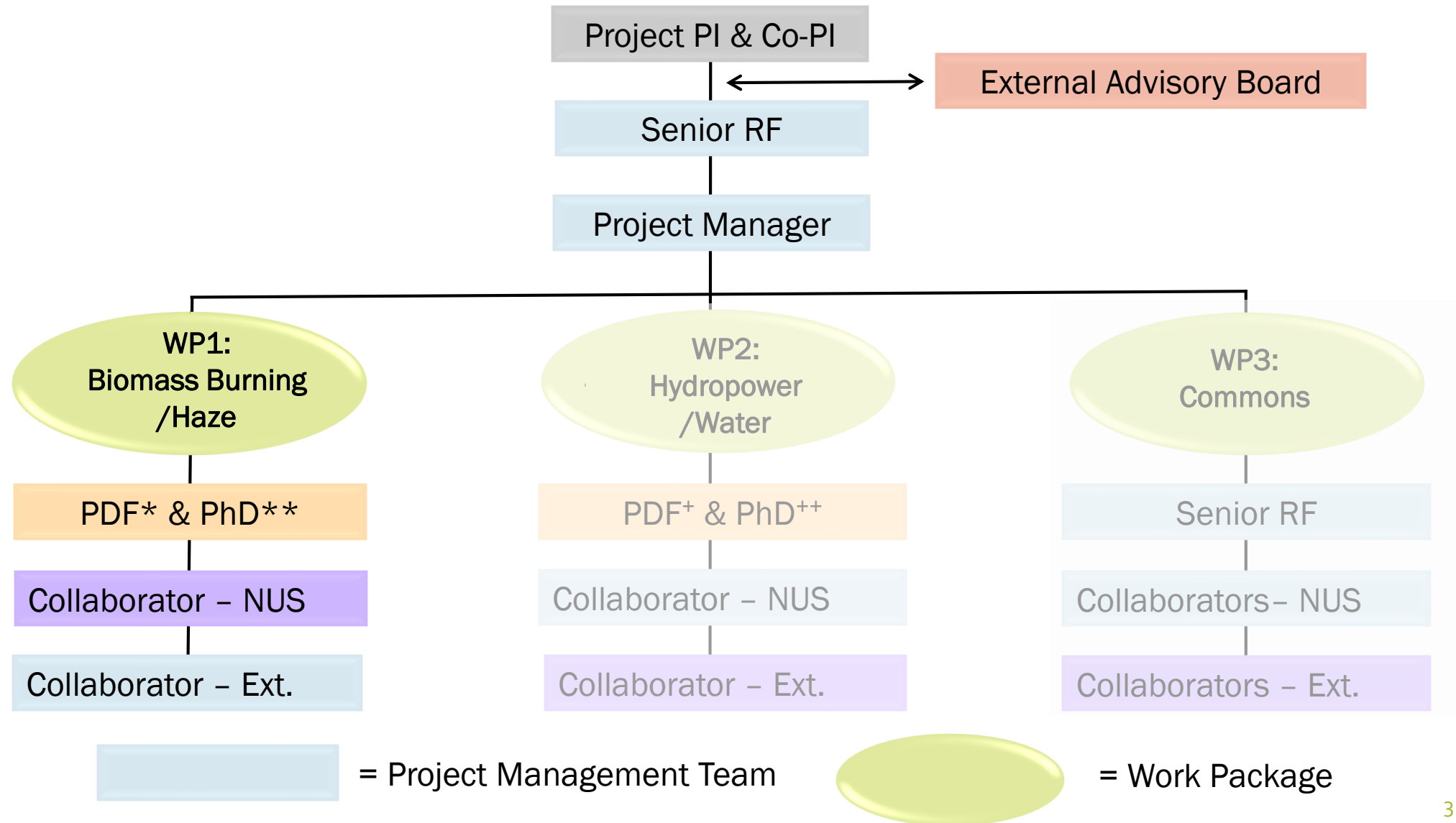


# WP1 RESEARCHERS

Name	Institution	Role in project
Dr. Helena Varkkey	International & Strategic Studies, University of Malaya	<u>WP1 leader</u> , WP3
Prof David Taylor	Geography, NUS	PI, PMT Chair, <u>WP1</u> , & WP3 co-leader
Prof Jonathan Rigg	ARI, NUS	Co-PI, PMT, WP2 leader & WP 3
Dr. Michelle Miller	ARI, NUS	<u>WP1</u> , WP2, WP3 co-leader
Assoc Prof Alberto Salvo	Economics, NUS	<u>WP1</u> , WP3
Prof Alan Tan	Law, NUS	<u>WP1</u> , WP3
Dr. Rini Astuti	ARI, NUS	<u>WP1</u>
Dr. Roman Carrasco	Biological Sciences, NUS	<u>WP1</u>
MSc Zu Dienle Tan	Geography, NUS	<u>WP1</u>

# WORK PACKAGE 1

## OVERVIEW OF PROJECT ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT



# WP1: BIOMASS (PEATLAND) BURNING: HAZE (ATMOSPHERE)

## Overview:

Haze has become an almost annual problem that severely affects environmental quality in Singapore and the broader SE Asia region.

## Problem statement:

While much haze-producing biomass burning originates in Indonesia (burning of peatland), there are other sources of haze in the region (e.g. the burning of agricultural waste on mainland SE Asia, and transport and industrial emissions). Moreover there exists a range of incentives and disincentives and environmental preconditions that lead to the production of haze (and equally to the protection of landscapes from burning). What are these, what influences their activation/deactivation and what are their effects?

## Focal areas (preliminary):

- 1) Politics of peatland exploitation and restoration
- 2) Policy-based research on the ultimate causes of haze (e.g. characteristics of the oil palm product value chain)
- 3) Indonesia-wide analysis of drivers and patterns of peatland burning and restoration efforts
- 4) Negative emission technologies ~ implications for biomass management in SE Asia

Riau and West Kalimantan provinces, Indonesia, are the current geographic (study area) foci

**First Scoping trip to Riau Province (April 2018)** involving David Taylor, Helena Varkkey, Tan Zu Dienle, Michelle Miler, and Rini Astuti

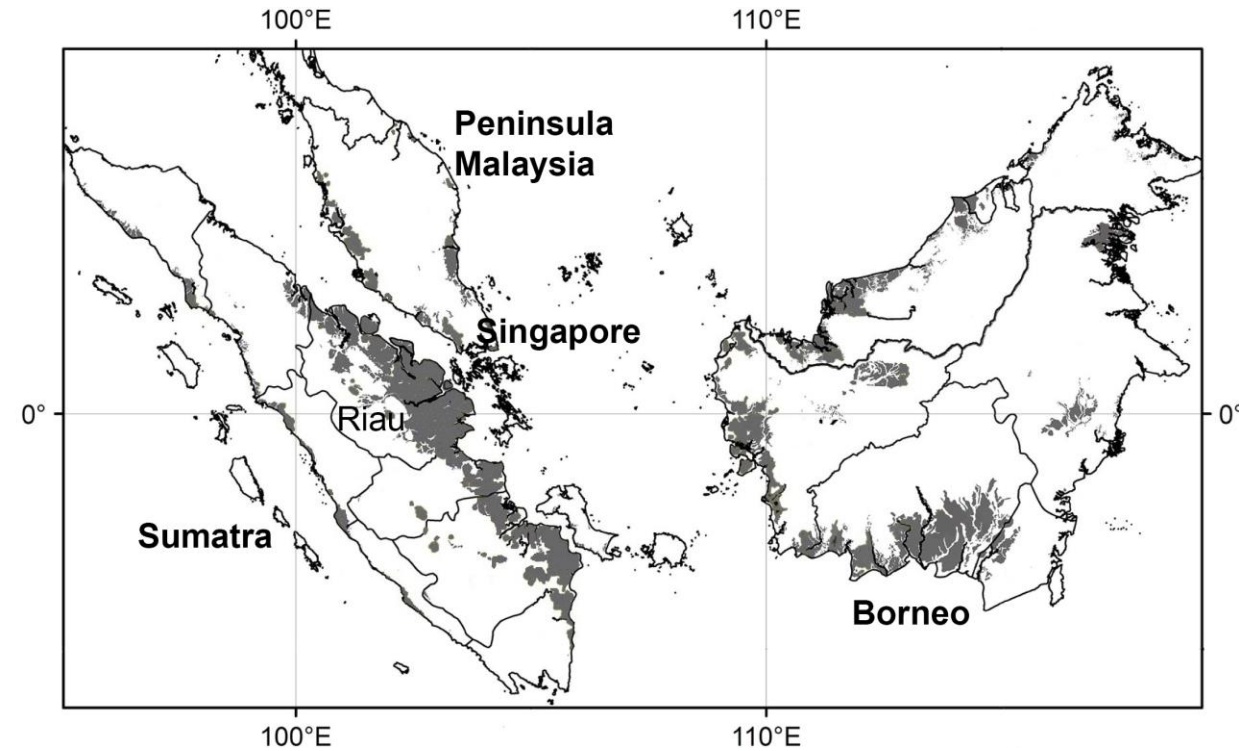
Visited Pekanbaru City and had discussions with several organisations:

- Disaster Centre Study, University of Riau and Abdurrab University
- Peatland Restoration Unit at the Provincial level and Forestry Agency
- WALHI (Friends of the earth Indonesia)
- JMGR (Network of Riau Peatland Communities)
- Jikalahari
- WWF
- Yayasan Mitra Insani
- Yayasan Elang

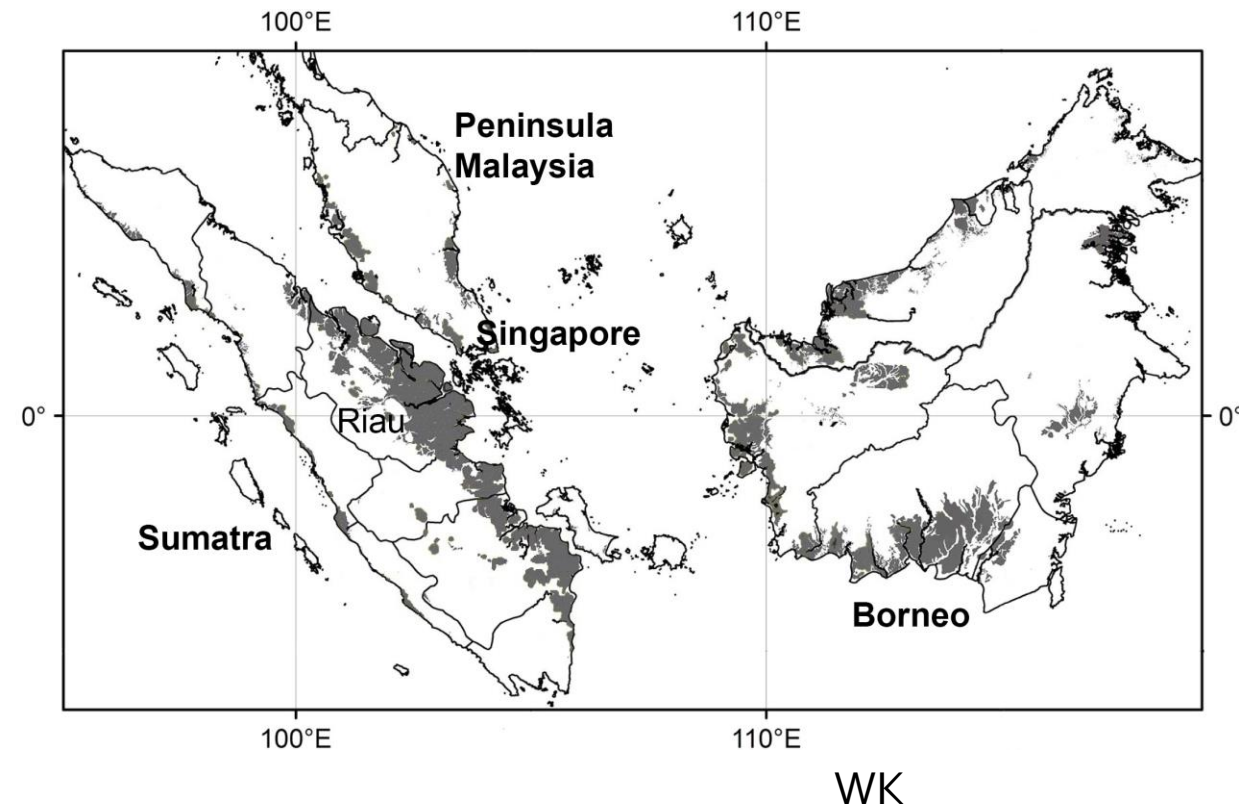
Visited Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper (APRIL) in Pelalawan District

Visited Kampar District (Rini Astuti) and had discussions with the following actors:

- Palm oil smallholders
- Winrock International



Extent of peatlands in Malaysia and Indonesia (grey-shaded areas). Riau Province shown.



Extent of peatlands in Malaysia and Indonesia (grey-shaded areas). West Kalimantan (WK) Province also shown.

## Second research scoping trip to West Kalimantan (May 2018) by Rini Astuti

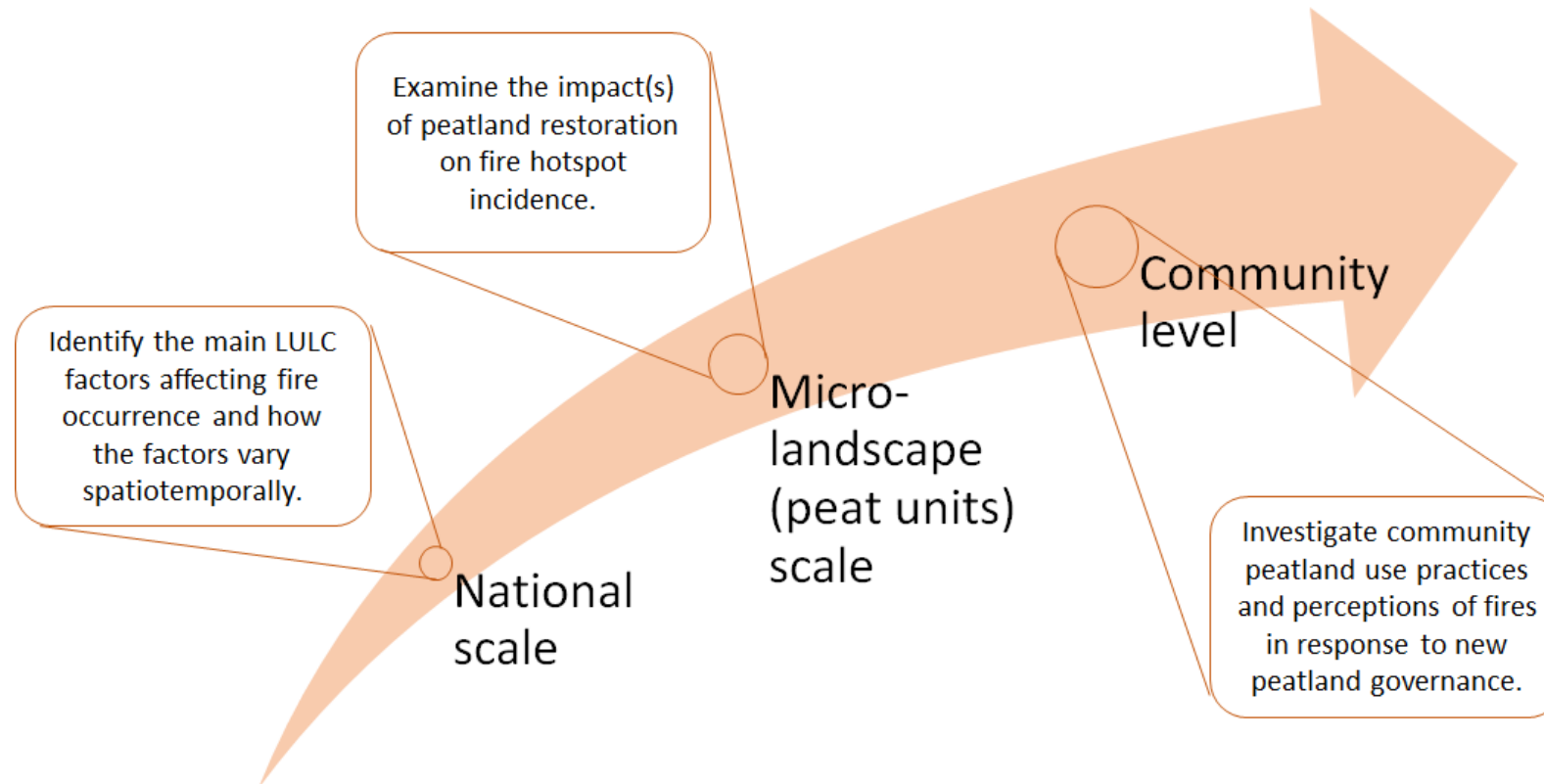
- Visited acacia plantations (PT Mayangkara Tanaman Industri and PT Wana Subur Lestari) to learn about peatland hydrological management in Kubu Raya District
- Interview with government officials, academics, and NGOs

Since these initial visits, Rini has commenced ethnographic fieldwork in Riau and West Kalimantan provinces.

Rini also attended the Asia Pacific Rainforest Summit and met with a range of stakeholders in our research:

- Cifor
- PT Mayangkara Tanaman Industri
- Riau Ekosistem Restoration (private sector),
- Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia
- Peatland Restoration Agency
- NGOs (Walhi, Kemitraan)
- Gadjah Mada University academics

Zu has also been making good progress on her PhD (commenced January 2018). Her PhD aims to “to understand the drivers and patterns of peatland burning and the impacts of community restoration efforts. Through statistical analyses and in-depth interviews, the research seeks to provide a contextualized understanding of the issue and produce relevant recommendations for future peatland management”. Zu plans to adopt three scales of analysis in her PhD, starting with a national-level analysis of Land Use Land Cover change drivers of fires.



# PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

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

	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>WP1-Atmosphere:</b>																				
First project workshop and stakeholder engagement				X																
Preliminary site visits			X																	
Fieldwork					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Community-level study					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Study on peatlands					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Second project workshop								X												
Third project workshop												X								
Oil palm value chain study					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Terminal site visits																	X			
Policy brief																X	X	X		
Fourth project workshop and sharing of results																	X			
Submission of journal articles										X				X				X		



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