Interdisciplinarity, Ecosystem Services and Resilience: Exploring Peatland Futures

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Growing research capability to meet the challenges faced by developing countries

Focus on ‘challenge led and interdisciplinary research’ for

- innovation
- policy impact
if you dream, as some of you, I doubt not, have a right to dream, of future discoveries and inventions, let me tell you that the fertile field of discovery lies for the most part on those borderlands where one science meets another… Try also to understand that though the sciences are defined from one another in books, there runs through them all what philosophers used to call the commune vinculum, a golden interweaving link, to their mutual support and interpretation………

(D’Arcy, 1903)
GCRF ‘Building Resilience’ theme:

Project: ‘Resilient Pastoralism: Towards Sustainable Futures in Rangelands’ (NE/P01626X/1)

• International: UK, Kenya, Mongolia (UOL PI: Upton)

• Interdisciplinary:
  – Remote sensors
  – Human Geographers
  – Anthropologists
  – Animal Scientists
  – Economists
  – Ecologists

Explicit incorporation of arts and humanities…
‘Resilient Pastoralism’ (RP) project

Key questions:

• What are diverse stakeholder/cultural meanings of environmental change and resilience?

• What information requirements do stakeholders have.. that would help them build locally meaningful and culturally appropriate forms of resilience to both short and long term shocks?

• To what extent have previous projects/donor initiatives delivered these & been taken up by local stakeholders and policy makers? What are the barriers to uptake?

• How can new datasets and innovative methods & approaches be used to develop richer understandings of resilience & facilitate uptake?

• How can these lessons be scaled up?
RP Methods and Approaches
• Production and co-analysis of Remote Sensing (RS) data products

• Key Informant Interviews,
  – Local Households
  – Policy and NGO Communities

• Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), incl. analyses of Remote Sensing data products

• ‘Resilience Stories’
PhotoVoice

Goals:

• Recording and reflecting communities’/individual’s concerns;

• Promotion of critical dialogue through discussion of images;

• Policy engagement and impact—through creating, defining, *utilising* images..

(Pearce *et al.*, 2017)
RP Policy Issues and Impact

• Mapping specific policies & points of engagement

• Ongoing multi-stakeholder engagement through workshops

• ‘splitting apart’ of integrated, interdisciplinary approaches
SUSTAINPEAT (BBSRC; 2017-2019)

- PI Sofie Sjoggersten, University of Nottingham
- Indonesia & Malaysia
- Smallholder livelihoods & agricultural systems in peatland environments
- Oil palm conversion
- Interdisciplinary
- More explicit engagement with ES paradigm
  - Remaking of the world’ into collection of ES
  - Cultural ES particularly challenging/ problematic
SUSTAINPEAT Methods and Approaches

Include:

- Modelling
- ES valuation (non economic) & ranking: SOLVES
- Choice modelling
- Visual methods
- Coming together through scenario development
- Exploring actions for policy traction and engagement