

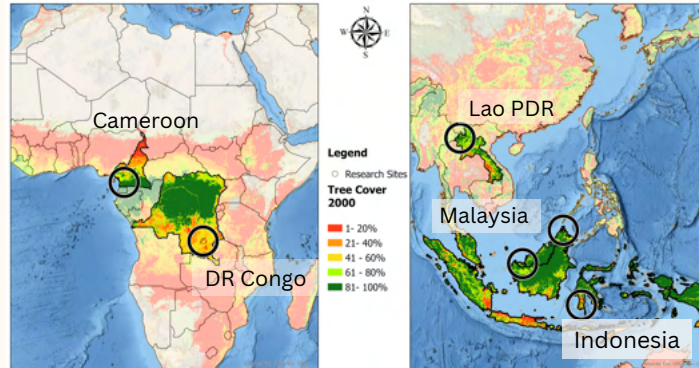


Country partners and project collaborators at the FairFrontiers annual meeting in South Sulawesi, Indonesia, July 2024

Read our publications, insights from the field, blogs, interviews with project collaborators, and more at our website:
<http://www.fairfrontiers.sakura.ne.jp/home>



Case Study Regions:



FairFrontiers

FairFrontiers Team

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- Hong Kong Baptist University
- Kyoto University
- Kyoto University of Advanced Science
- Stockholm University
- University of Copenhagen
- University of Helsinki
- University of Kinshasa
- Universiti Malaya
- University of Pretoria

Partners in the study regions

Cameroon

- Green Development Advocates

DR Congo

- Center for Intercultural and Interdisciplinary Research for Sustainable Development in Southern and Central Africa
- Forgotten Parks Foundation
- University of Lubumbashi

Indonesia

- Universitas Hasanuddin

Lao PDR

- National University of Laos

Malaysia

- PACOS Trust
- University Malaysia Sabah, Borneo Institute for Indigenous Studies
- Universiti Malaysia Sarawak

An inter- and transdisciplinary research project examining transformations in tropical forest-agriculture frontiers; with a focus on issues politics, power, precarity, and equity.



Research Institute for
Humanity and Nature
 大学共同利用機関法人 総合地球環境学研究所
 人間文化研究機構

Background and Research Questions

Throughout the tropics, forest-agriculture frontiers dominated by diverse swidden and smallholder farming mosaics are being converted to homogenous landscapes of plantation agriculture, or cleared for mining and infrastructure.

Despite often being labelled as “sustainable development”, the changing landscapes have not led to win-win social and ecological outcomes, and local smallholders have benefitted the least.

FairFrontiers applies a comparative research design and inter- and trans-disciplinary approaches to critically examine the histories, politics and socio-ecological dynamics across different geographies, and their equity implications.

Our research questions are:

- Whose interests drive transformations of forest-agriculture frontiers, who benefits and who are made precarious?
- How are wellbeing and ecosystem services interlinked?
- What are the factors enabling or hindering equitable and sustainable outcomes?

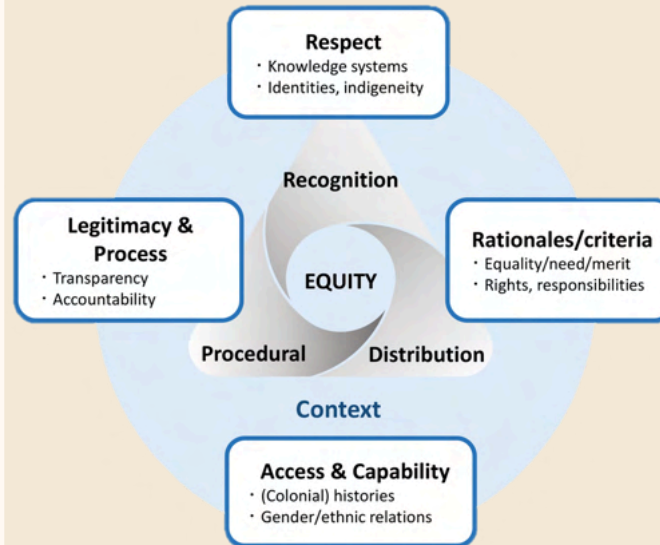


Landscape of agriculture, fallow and forest mosaics Sarawak, Malaysia

Analytical Framework

The project’s analytical framework is built on theories of power, everyday politics and plural values.

We carry out empirical assessments of equity by drawing on theories of social-environmental justice (see figure).



An analytical lens to assess equity in frontiers

*A world of dew,
And within every dewdrop
A world of struggle.*

露の世の露の中にてけんくわ哉

Kobayashi Issa (1810)

Methods and Approaches for Examining Forest Frontier Changes

Dynamics of forest frontiers transformations are critically examined:

Policy & Discursive Analysis

We examine the underlying politics and discursive power that underlies frontier change, including institutional path dependencies of (colonial and post-colonial) development and resource policies, and resistances.

Field Research on Human Wellbeing and Ecosystem Services

We carry out mixed methods, participatory research at the local sites in the six case study regions to understand the values, actions and agency (or lack thereof) of local people to manage and benefit from changing landscapes and ecosystem services.



Field research in Haute-Katanga, DR Congo

Telecoupling Analyses

We use the telecoupling approach to trace how material and immaterial flows affect frontier change. These analyses help us to understand how the complexity of and flows of investments, ideas, expertise, commodities can drive frontier change.