



CGSEA
MAY-JULY '26



Team Highlights

WORK PACKAGE 1

Dr Yingshan Lau and Dr Miles Kenney-Lazar conducted fieldwork in **Vientiane, Laos**, from 25–29 May 2026.

During the field visit, they interviewed key stakeholders involved in forest carbon governance in Laos.



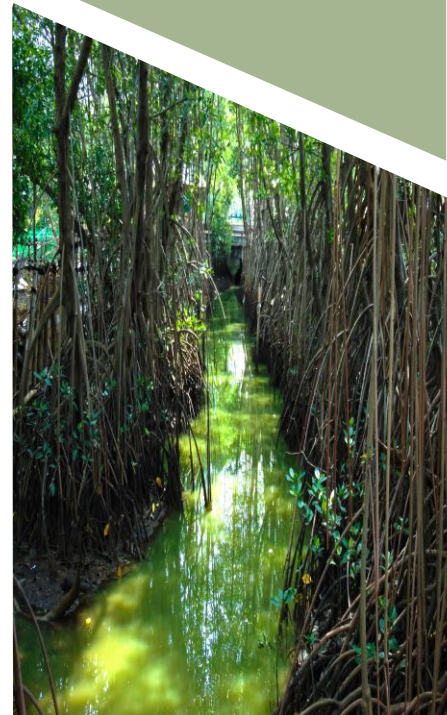
IN THIS ISSUE

Events	1
People	3
Publications	4
Announcements	5



WORK PACKAGE 2

Prof. Dan Friess shared insights on the current status, opportunities, and challenges of mangrove blue carbon initiatives across Southeast Asia, while **Dr Jay Mar D. Quevedo** presented a poster highlighting lessons from community-led mangrove restoration in West Kalimantan, Indonesia, at the **7th Mangrove Macro-benthos and Management (MMM7) Conference**, Ishigaki City, Okinawa, Japan, on 4 July.



WORK PACKAGE 3

Dr Janice Lee participated in the **IPCC Seventh Assessment Report (AR7) Working Group II Chapter 14 authors' workshop**, held in the Bahamas. The workshop focused on Chapter 14: Terrestrial, Freshwater and Cryospheric Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Their Services.

Dr Lee is currently seeking volunteers to assist with reviewing and synthesising relevant literature for the chapter. Contributors will be acknowledged in the final IPCC AR7 report.



Dr Jay Mar D. Quevedo was invited as one of the panel evaluators for the **Bohol Island State University 2026 Student Research Congress** held on 11 May, supporting the assessment of student research and contributing to the development of emerging scholars.



Dr Jay Mar D. Quevedo was invited as a plenary speaker to share insights on localising blue carbon governance at the **Forum on Blue Carbon and Sustainable Development**, organised by the Ocean University of China and the Center for Ocean Carbon Neutrality, Qingdao, China, on 6 June.



Yunrui Ren attended the **62nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC)** in Xishuangbanna from 28 June to 2 July. She delivered her presentation “**Education and Capacity Building in Forest Carbon Governance: Evidence from Lao PDR**” in the ‘Educating the Next Conservation Generation’ session.



Dr Janice Lee is a co-author of the forthcoming **ASEAN Guidelines on Nature-based Solutions and Ecosystem-based Approaches in the Forestry Sector** and the accompanying **ASEAN Toolkit on Nature-based Solutions and Ecosystem-based Approaches in the Forestry Sector**, including **Social Forestry**, jointly developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

Click [here](#) to learn more about the ASEAN Guidelines and Toolkit.

Dr Jay Mar D. Quevedo was invited to share his expertise on socio-economic assessment during the **Released Public Lands Joint Assessment Methodology Workshop** on 8 July, highlighting the importance of integrating socio-economic considerations into methodologies for assessing released public lands in the Philippines.





Dr Saritha Uda conducted field research in Sabah, Malaysia, from 19 to 26 July 2026, as part of her research on **transboundary peatland governance**. The fieldwork involved interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs) in **Kampung Luagan, Suasa, and Takuli**, with respondents from state and district government agencies, village leadership and community-based groups, academia, the private sector, and NGOs.

The research also included field observations at the **Klias Peat Swamp Forest Field Centre**. During the visit, Saritha was invited to present her research at the *Forestry Seminar Series @FPT*, organised by the **Faculty of Tropical Forestry, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS)**. The seminar provided an opportunity to share insights from the research and engage with researchers and students working on tropical forestry and related environmental issues.

Congratulations

We congratulate **Prof. Dixon T. Gevaña** on being awarded the **SEARCA Professorial Chair for Academic Year 2026–2027**, following the revival of the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA)'s Professorial Chair Program for the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).

The award recognises Prof. Gevaña's outstanding contributions to interdisciplinary research and leadership in mangrove conservation, blue carbon governance, climate adaptation, and community-based environmental management across Southeast Asia. As part of the Professorial Chair, he will deliver a public lecture titled *An Interdisciplinary Approach to Mangrove Conservation and Local Livelihood Development in Southeast Asia (SEA): Challenges and Opportunities for Collaborative Blue Carbon Governance*.

Click [here](#) to read the full announcement from SEARCA.



PEOPLE

Welcome

We are pleased to welcome **Yuna Bong** who joined our team as Research Assistant on 28 July 2026.

Her research interests include climate governance, peatland management, political ecology, and the political economy of environmental governance, with a geographical focus on Maritime Southeast Asia.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Highlights of our team's latest research and publications

Lau, Y. (2026). [Review of the book *Socializing Land: Plantations, Dispossession, and Resistance in Laos*, by M. Kenney-Lazar]. *University of Hawaii Press*.

Macintosh, D., Suárez, E., Salmo III, S., Gevaña, D., Sidik, F., Dharmawan, I., Nightingale, M., & Valderrábano, M. (2026). Mangroves of the Western Coral Triangle. In D. J. Macintosh, E. L. Suárez, S. G. McGregor, J. C. Ellison, E. A. Botts, & M. Valderrábano (Eds.), *Global risks to mangrove ecosystems: Red List of ecosystems of intertidal forests and shrublands*. *IUCN*.

Marks, D., & Baird, I. G. (2026). Hidden Smoke: Air Pollution, Agrarian Change, and Governance Gaps in Luang Prabang, Laos. *Critical Asian Studies*, 1-23.

Marks, D., & Leeruttanawisut, K. (2026). Addressing Barriers to Fair Community Participation in Mangrove Carbon Credit Projects: Insights From Thailand. *Environmental Policy and Governance*.

Nacionales, N., Gevaña, D., Guinto, M., Castillon, J. F., Cabello, D. R., & Tolentino, N. (2026). A Community-Based Approach to Empowerment and Resilience of Mangrove Social-Ecological Systems in Quezon Province, Philippines. *Journal of Environmental Science and Management*, 29(1).

Nob, C. J. R., Isowa, Y., Trillo, J. P., Pananganan, B. G. S., Cooper, E. K. T., Hinoguin, A. D. P., ... & Kajita, T. (2026). Mangrove-Associated Fish Biodiversity in Selected Philippine Bioregions During the Northeast (Amihan) Monsoon: Insights from eDNA Metabarcoding for Biomonitoring. *Environmental DNA*, 8(2), e70273.

Quevedo, J. M. D. (2026). Can the 'One Health' approach be integrated into blue carbon projects? A perspective from the Philippines. *Nature-Based Solutions*, 9, 100347.

Varkkey, H., Miller, M. A., & Taylor, D. (2026). Nested carbon governance in Southeast Asia: Towards just nature-based solutions? *Environmental Policy and Governance*, 0, 1-19.



ANNOUNCEMENT: UPCOMING WORKSHOP

Stakeholder Workshop on Nature-based Carbon Governance in Southeast Asia

CGSEA will be hosting the **Stakeholder Workshop on Nature-based Carbon Governance in Southeast Asia: A Collaborative Approach to Policy Brief Development** on **3–4 December 2026** at the **Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore**.

The workshop will bring together CGSEA researchers and stakeholders from government, industry, and civil society to collaboratively develop three policy briefs on terrestrial forests, coastal and freshwater ecosystems, and peatlands and agricultural soils. These briefs will support evidence-based policymaking across Southeast Asia and will subsequently be translated into relevant national languages to facilitate wider dissemination and uptake.

Invitations will be sent out from mid-August. Please keep an eye on your inbox — we look forward to meeting you at the workshop!

FOLLOW US FOR THE LATEST UPDATES

