

**CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT  
OF PEATLANDS IN THE HUMID TROPICS:  
*“From Research to Application”***

Henk Ritzema (Wageningen UR)

in co-operation with

Murtedza Mohamed (UNIMAS), Susan Page (UNLEI),  
Suwido Limin (UNPAR) and Henk Wösten (WUR)

contact: [henk.ritzema@wur.nl](mailto:henk.ritzema@wur.nl)

# Content

## Capacity Building in Tropical Peatlands:

- Why?
- Approach
- Implementation
- Monitoring and evaluation



# Why is Capacity Building in Tropical Peatlands needed?

- Three quarters of the world's tropical peatlands are in SE Asia
- Global ecological significance:
  - lowland rainforest
  - many endangered species
  - carbon store
- Humid Asia:
  - 14% of the world's land area
  - 54% of the world's population
  - Population growth
  - By 2025: double food production
- Peatlands last remaining resources for reclamation



# Why is Capacity Building in Tropical Peatlands needed?

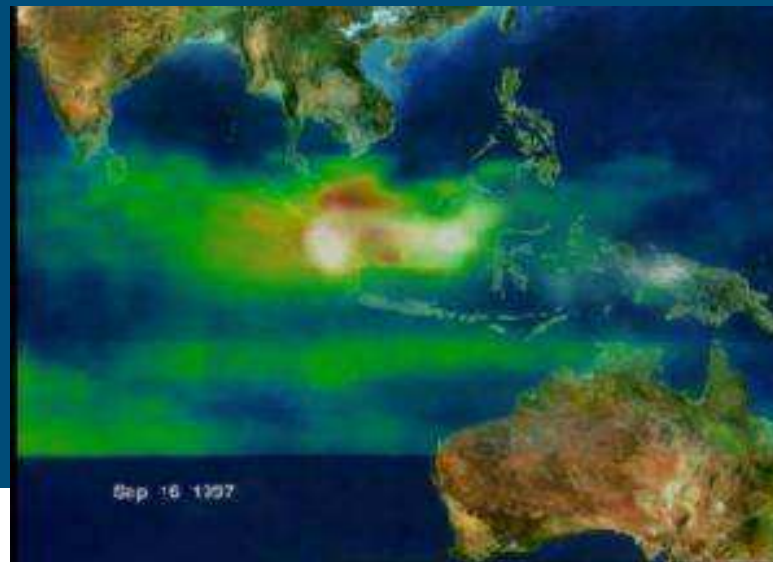
Peatlands  $\neq$  Mineral soils

- Organic soil
- Waterlogged
- Utilisation requires drainage

## CONSEQUENCES



- Subsidence
- Carbon emissions



# Approach

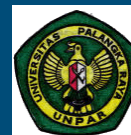
Establishment of a “*multilateral collaborative research network*” to address the sustainable management of tropical peatlands through a number of research, education and advisory projects.



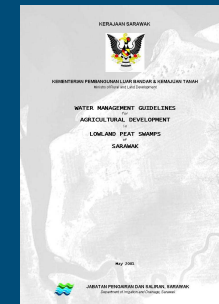
University of Sarawak



JABATAN PENGAIRAN DAN SALIRAN, SARAWAK

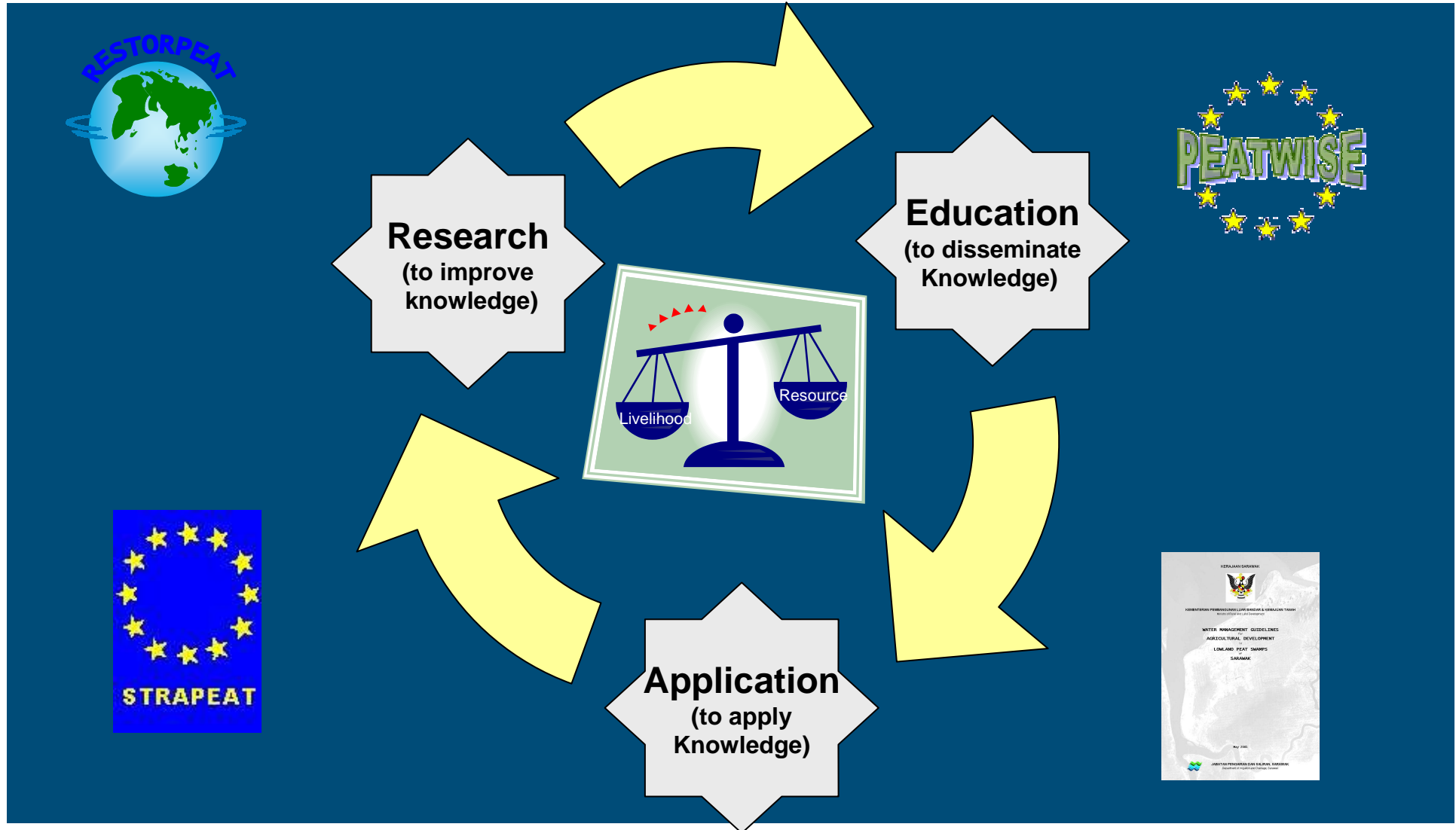


University of  
Palangka Raya



**LAWOO** The Wageningen Land and Water Research Group  
c/o International Institute for Land Reclamation and Improvement (ILRI)  
6700 AA Wageningen  
The Netherlands.

# Approach



## Implementation: elements ↔ activities

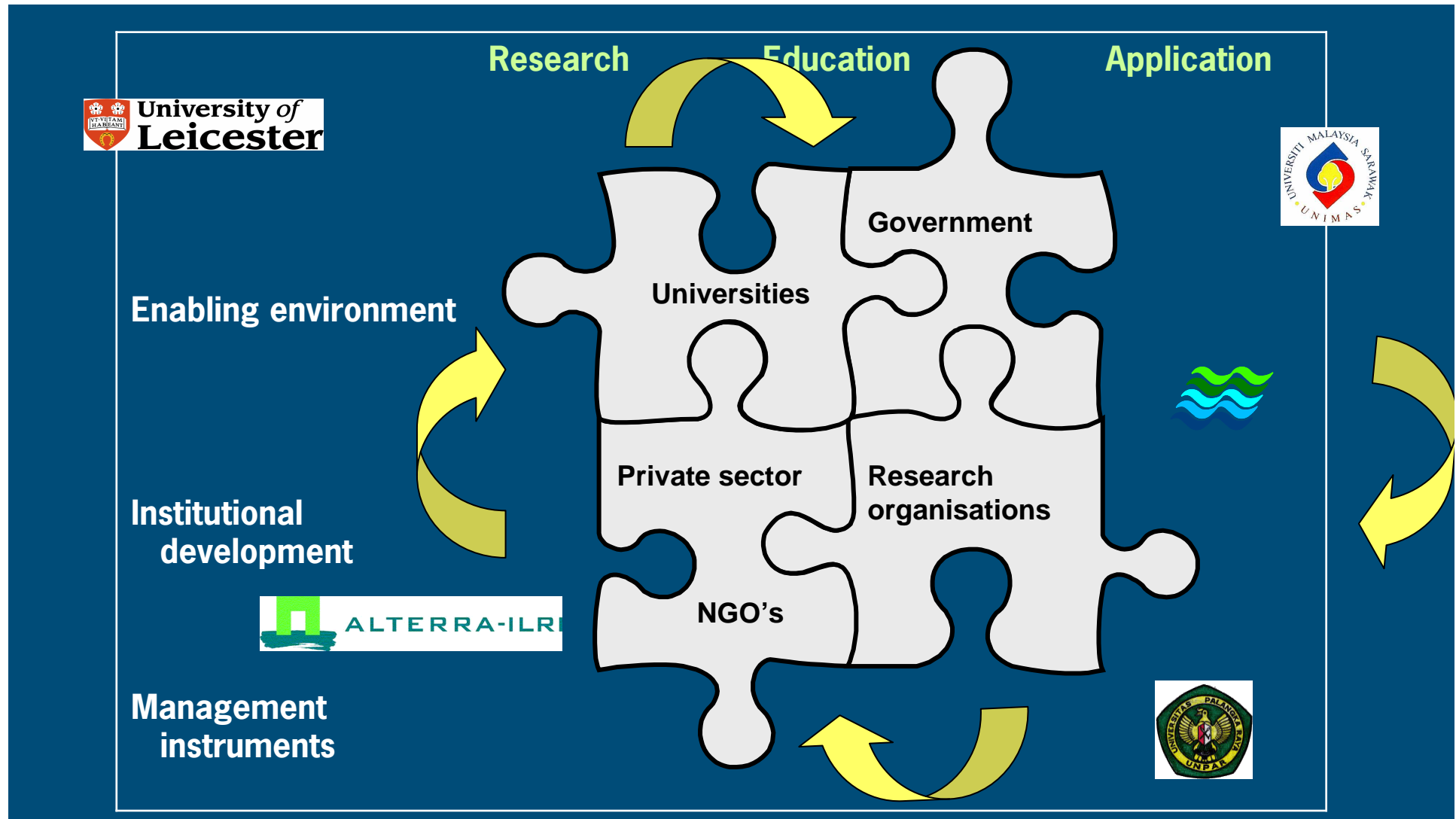
Capacity building has three types of elements:

- Enabling environment
- Institutional development
- Management instruments

Three groups of activities:

- Research
- Education
- Advisory services

# Implementation: many stakeholders



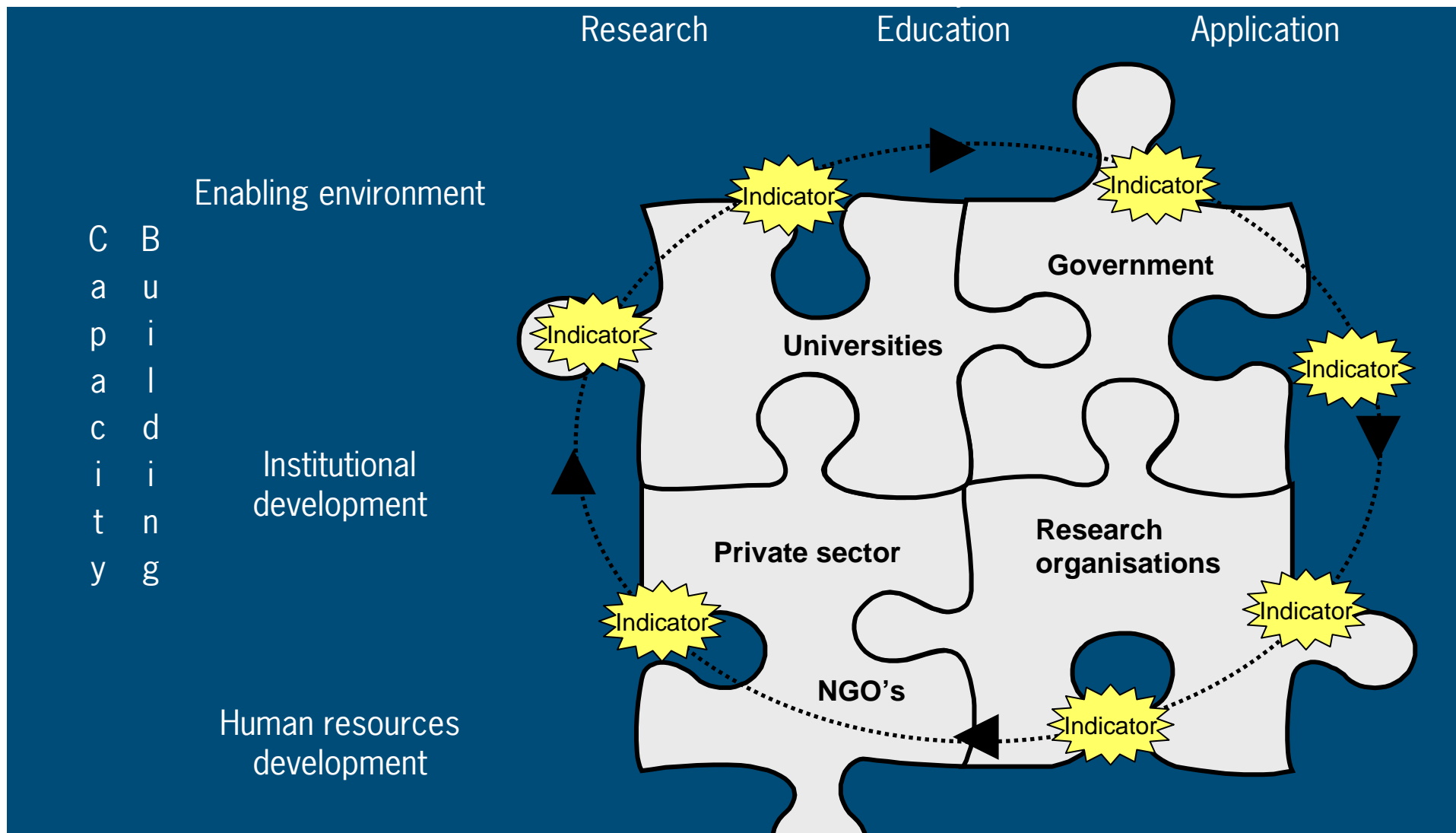
# Monitoring and evaluation

The three elements of capacity building have been addressed by the following activities:

- Promotion of partnerships
- Involvement of stakeholders
- Integration of the various disciplines
- Acquiring new knowledge
- Dissemination of knowledge
- Implementation of the newly acquired knowledge and skills.

Which indicators can be used to assess the results of these activities?

# Which indicators to be used?



# Research activities

Project results	Indicators
Increased knowledge on the natural resource functions	Website MSc's and PhD's Conference presentations Papers published in International Journals Joint action/studies and consultancies
Participation of stakeholders in setting the research agenda and dissemination of the results ("wise use principles")	Partner Meetings External funded projects Workshops/seminars/symposium Project evaluations
Dissemination of the wise use principles to all stakeholders	Website Conference presentations Guidelines / handbooks Papers published in International Journals Joint action/studies and consultancies

# Education activities

Project results	Indicators
Market assessment	Market survey Project evaluations Website Workshops/seminars/symposium
Curriculum developed and tested	Post-graduate course Training Modules
Improved knowledge and skills of teachers	Collaborative research Conference presentations Guest-lectures Partner Meetings Website
Increased knowledge on the natural resource functions by stakeholders	Conference presentations Decision support system Post-graduate course Training Modules Website Workshops/seminars/symposium

# Application: Advisory services

Project results	Indicators
Multi-disciplinary research on peat soil management in Western Johore	Conference presentations External funded projects Guidelines / handbooks Papers published in International Journals Project evaluations Workshops/seminars/symposium
Publication "Wise Use of Tropical Peatlands"	Conference presentations Workshops/seminars/symposium
Handbook for Environmental Impact Assessment	Guidelines / handbooks
Water Management Guidelines for Agricultural Development in Lowland Peat Swamps of Sarawak	Conference presentations External funded projects Guidelines / handbooks Project evaluations Workshops/seminars/symposium
Decision support system to visualize strategies for sustainable water management on tropical peatland	Conference presentations
Air Hitam Laut river basin management study	Collaborative research Conference presentations External funded projects Guidelines / handbooks Papers published in International Journals Project evaluations Workshops/seminars/symposium

## Summary: Indicators for the capacity building activities

Indicator	Research	Education	Advisory
Collaborative research		4	2
Conference presentations	133	2	4
Decision support system		1	
Edited conference proceedings	1		
External funded projects	2	2	3
Guest-lectures		12	
Guidelines / handbooks	3		3
Joint action/studies and consultancies	1		5
Market survey		2	
MSc's and PhD's	7		
Papers published in International Journals	23		2
Partner Meetings	7	5	
Post-graduate course		1 (+ 1)	
Project evaluations	2	1	3
Training Modules		6	
Website	2	1	
Workshops/seminars/symposium	6	2	5

# Conclusion

## Lessons learned for monitoring and evaluation:

- Capacity building needs a clear focus (in this case “*Sustainable management of tropical peatlands*”)
- Capacity building is not a stand-alone activity but an integral part of each and every project
- Capacity building is a long-term process ⇔ projects are short-term
- Capacity building includes many activities
- Indicators are a good tool for monitoring and evaluation
- Indicators should be defined for each activity
- Activities can have the same indicators
- Indicators should be defined at the start of a project (Logical Framework)
- M&E for Capacity building extends beyond the project life

# Capacity building for a wise use of tropical peatlands

Still a long way to go



Thank you

Trimah kashi