



Sustainability Series



Lisa Kelley

Politics and Policy Along an Indonesian Commodity Frontier

Since the late 1980s, Sulawesi, Indonesia has been home to one of the most rapid smallholder cacao booms (and busts) in recent global economic history. In this context, diverse civil society, state and corporate actors have supported investments in the 'sustainable intensification' of smallholder cacao production. This talk situates these policies against four decades of land use, land cover and livelihood change in Southeast Sulawesi. Integrating across remotely sensed imagery and oral histories, I first illustrate how current policies emerge out of and respond to earlier histories of state engagement. Prior state-led development regimes, I show, not only enabled production crisis by encouraging monotypic, input-intensive production; they also shaped high rates of forest cover loss and high smallholder livelihood dependence on cacao, key dynamics to which current policies respond. Drawing on in-depth interviews as well as field and household surveys, I then demonstrate that while current policies are supporting a modest diversification of some growers' mono-cropped fields, most households are slowly transitioning away from cacao production. I use these data to discuss how interdisciplinary research approaches can help to re-politicize and re-invigorate policy debates surrounding socio-environmental sustainability, outlining my broader vision for interdisciplinary research and teaching at UH Mānoa.

Lisa Kelley explores the intersections between economic development, land use and conservation policies and processes of agrarian change in Southeast Asia. Prior to graduate study in UC Berkeley's Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management, she worked for *The Nature Conservancy*, *The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network* and *The Center for People and Forests* examining forest and land governance and use in Southeast Asia. She received a B.A., *magna cum laude*, in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Princeton University in 2008.

Tuesday, April 18th

3-4:20 PM

Crawford Hall 115

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