

## A World Without Mangroves?

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**Speaker:** Assoc Prof Dan Friess, Dept of Geography, NUS

**Chair:** Dr Chris Gouramanis, Dept of Geography, NUS

**Date/Time:** Friday 14 September, 3.30pm

**Place:** Earth Lab (AS2 #02-03), Department of Geography, NUS



### Abstract

Mangrove forests support the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people across the tropics. Yet, it is often stated that mangroves are one of the most threatened ecosystems on the planet, and scientists have envisaged a 'world without mangroves'. But why are we losing them if they are so important? Is a world without mangroves something that we will see over the next century? In this presentation we will discuss the benefits (ecosystem services) mangroves provide, the huge threats they face from deforestation and sea level rise, and some new approaches to conservation that are helping to protect mangroves and coastal communities into the future. Importantly, mangroves are a clear example of the need for an interdisciplinary, geographical approach that encompasses geomorphology, ecology, economics, policy and social sciences.

### About the Speaker

*Dan Friess* is an Associate Professor at the Department of Geography, NUS. Dan likes mangroves. Dan leads a group of researchers and students in the Mangrove Lab ([www.themangrovelab.com](http://www.themangrovelab.com)), working to 1) quantify the ecosystem services provided by mangroves; 2) understand threats to mangroves such as deforestation and sea level rise; and 3) link mangroves more strongly to conservation policy and restoration. As well as Singapore, Dan's research has taken him to Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, Philippines, Madagascar and New Caledonia.

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ADMISSION IS FREE - ALL ARE WELCOME