

## RESEARCH SEMINAR

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

# Private Sector Financing of Marine and Forest Conservation

17th April 2025 (Thu)  
4:30 – 6:00 pm (UTC+8)  
Rm 221, Chen Kou Bun  
Building, CUHK

Terrestrial and marine conservation remains severely underfunded, with the private sector increasingly promoted as a solution. Corporations, entrepreneurs, and investors are now redefining the role of financial capital and how it is channelled to solve environmental problems. This seminar will cover some current financing approaches for biodiversity conservation and ecological restoration, including corporate social responsibility, ecotourism, and blockchain technology. I will scrutinise the implementation of these approaches, highlighting challenges related to an array of political, social, and institutional factors. The talk will feature case studies involving mangrove forests in Southeast Asia (Thailand and the Philippines), and seafood supply chains in Australia.



### Benjamin Thompson

**Senior Lecturer (Assistant Professor)**

**School of Social Sciences, Monash University, Australia**

Benjamin Thompson is a Senior Lecturer in Geography at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. His research investigates the governance and financing of biodiversity conservation and environmental management. Focus is on approaches such as payments for ecosystem services, impact investing, ecotourism, and applications of digital technology such as blockchain to the environmental context. He evaluates the economic viability, social equity, and environmental effectiveness of these approaches, and highlights implementation challenges related to politics and institutions. He is particularly interested in their implementation in coastal and marine ecosystems such as mangrove forests and fisheries in the Asia-Pacific region.



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