

The Take-home Message

To foster sustainable regional development

Unfortunately, efforts to attract industry, construction of amusement facilities, and introduction of external capital, in many cases, only end up stimulating local economies on a temporary basis.

To achieve sustainable regional development, it is necessary to create schemes based on local resources that enhance community vitality on a continual basis.

Such schemes are what we refer to as “Area-capability.”

To be successful at both environmental conservation and regional development

We believe that environmental conservation, regional development and vitalization should be carried out in an integrated manner. This is because, in regions needing development and revitalization, top priority is given, more often than not, to protecting livelihoods, and, as such, activities to protect the environment are rarely considered. If it is possible to carry out development and conservation in an integrated manner and to create independent local societies whose value is not measureable in monetary terms alone, such activity could also serve as a key for solving global environmental problems.

In Nishio City, Aichi Prefecture, local residents run the Higashihazu Fishery Cooperative and carry out educational activities.

In Rayong Province, Thailand, local fishers have adopted set-net fishing technology, a traditional fishing method used in Himi City, Toyama Prefecture, which has led to the use of new resources and the initiation of a new resource management scheme.



Adoption of set-nets installed by the entire village.

Our Activities

On Ishigaki Island, Okinawa Prefecture, efforts are being pursued that combine conservation with community revitalization and involve various industries including sightseeing, fishing, and animal husbandry.



Environmental education of high school students.

In Batan Bay on Panay Island in the Philippines, efforts are currently underway to introduce tiger prawn aquaculture methods developed in Lake Hamana, Shizuoka Prefecture.

Project Members

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He conducts research to investigate the actual state and challenges of resource use as seen by local residents from the standpoint of natural science and social science.

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Our research is carried out in collaboration with various research partners.

Coastal Area-capability Enhancement in Southeast Asia

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Ver. 1



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Our Point of View

Thinking globally, acting locally

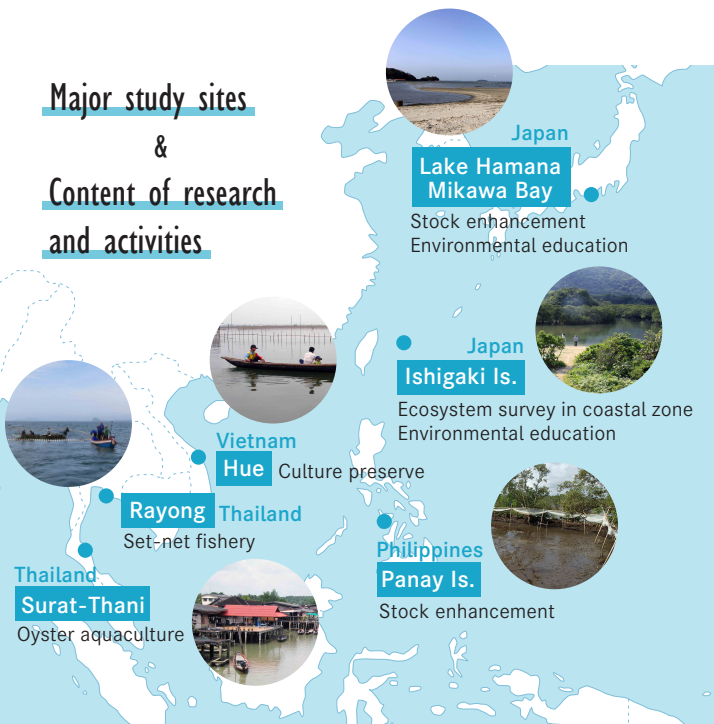
In recent years, we have seen the accumulation of global environmental problems that need very urgent solution. To address these environmental issues, we believe that individuals, organizations/groups, and companies must make choices and behave in a manner that takes the environment into consideration—in others words, what is needed is a change in awareness and behavior based on the spirit of “thinking global, acting local.”

If problem solving is carried out at the community level around the world, global problems will take care of themselves.

Proposal of Area-capability

In local societies, members of a community should, ideally, work proactively and continuously to ensure a vital community in the future. If that is not the case, societies will be plagued with a myriad of problems related to the economy and environmental conservation. We use the term “Area-capability (= potential for regional development)” to refer to the elements necessary for communities to achieve a brighter vision of the future.

Major study sites & Content of research and activities

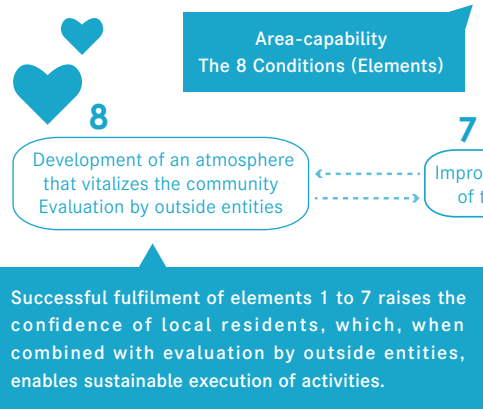


What's Area-capability?

Area-capability

Ways of using local resources for sustainable regional development

The eight conditions for regional development (vitalization) organized in terms of Area-capability, which we introduce together with a discussion of the important points.



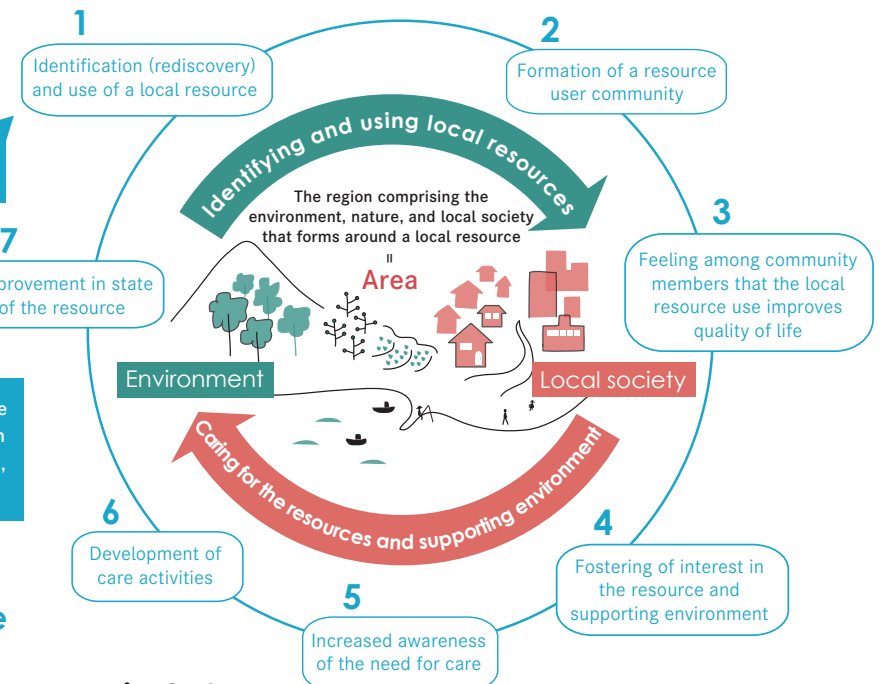
Point 2 Caring for local resources and the supporting environment

To be able to use a local resource in perpetuity (sustainably), it is necessary to think about and “watch over” the resource and the environment supporting the resource, rather than “managing” the resource. We refer to such consideration, observation, and treatment of the environment as “care.” To be able to carry out this “care,” each member of the user community must foster an interest in and understanding of the resource and supporting environment and develop a sense of stewardship that leads them work to improve the state of the resource through care.

Point 1

Identifying and using local resources

A local resource is a natural or cultural resource unique to a given region that can exist in harmony with the region’s natural environment and culture. Hot springs and sightseeing resources are easy-to-understand examples of local resources, but do not exist everywhere. Every region has local resources. In some cases, however, it may necessary change one’s way of thinking or point of view to identify them. What is important is that the resource is used in the local community. If local resource use lead to the formation of a new community of resource users rather than the accumulation of benefit to certain individuals or groups, it will contribute to the realization of sustainable, vital community.



Point 3

Cooperation among local residents, experts, and government

For a community (local residents) to be able to conduct activities sustainably, it is important that experts and governments work together with communities. Objective verification and evaluation by outside entities not only enables the creation of systems that are scientifically more reliable but can also increase the confidence and pride of community members.

