

Penultimate year FR Evaluation

Title of the Project	Collapse and Restoration of Ecosystem Networks with Human Activity
Project Leader	YAMAMURA Norio
General advice and comments of PEC	
<p>The project is well progressed with substantial research and the findings are much clear. The project can be identified as a representative project that is aligned with the mission of the RIHN. However, one of the most serious challenges seems to be an assumption that maintaining ecosystem is mandatory regardless of people's pursuing their own quality of life. The four categories of policy options are not well oriented on what the target of this project is focused. The more anthropological inputs should be made toward the finalization of the project. Humanity aspect is so crucial to strengthen as the project deals with networks and interactions between policy makers and local people.</p>	
Reply	
<p>Ecosystems and services provided by the ecosystems are the foundation for human wellbeing. We have studied sustainability of ecosystems and tradeoffs among different types of ecosystem services. We admit that placement of the four scenarios in the project was not clear in the last presentation for PEC. After intensive discussions, we slightly change the scenarios. We distinguish the three other than BAU (business as usual) as follows; 1) the scenario that prioritizes provisioning services evaluated in the current global market, 2) the scenario that prioritizes ecosystem services for global benefit including both provisioning and other services not highly evaluated at the moment (such as regulation services) and 3) the scenario that prioritizes ecosystem services for local benefit. By analysis of the scenarios, we illustrate tradeoffs among different ecosystem services and between local and global benefits.</p> <p>In the last presentation, we might put too much weight on the scenario analysis. A lot of field works have also been conducted to indentify the mechanisms of the problems including social and anthropological surveys. Toward finalization of the project, we further integrate field data, scenarios, and theory to visualize that the results are backed up by thick data.</p>	