

事 務 連 絡
平成 21 年 3 月 19 日

プロジェクトリーダー 殿

所 長 立 本 成 文

第 9 回研究プロジェクト評価委員会における評価シートについて（通知）

先に開催されました第 9 回研究プロジェクト評価委員会におきまして、評価委員会委員長より別紙のとおり貴プロジェクトにかかる評価シート（コメント）の報告がありましたので、お知らせいたします。

敬具

Interim FR evaluation (FR2)

March 17, 2009

Title of the Project	Vulnerability and Resilience of Social-Ecological Systems
Project Leader	UMETSU Chieko
GENERAL COMMENTS: A very well-organized Project, with its goals clearly presented. Integration of the data and formulation of recommendations that are applicable in other areas would certainly enhance the value of the Project's contribution. The Project Evaluation Committee members made the following comments: ① The project has four themes and they seem to be well organized this financial year. Meteorological and weather data can be used more effectively if the project opens the data strategically to the person and community. ② The method for approaching to household-level or community-level resilience seems to have been almost established, but how about the approach or method to understand the question of political-ecology? ③ This project's final goal is to strengthen resilience to environmental variations in the semi-arid tropics. In addition to analyzing the present state, to study how to deliver outcomes of this important research to local societies is also important for their well-being. I would like to hear more about this, if possible. Regarding researches in East Africa, I think IRI of Columbia Univ/NOAA is active in the same field. To strengthen collaboration with such an international institution may enrich the present project in case the link is not yet established. ④ When discussing resilience, there must be a criterion, or set of criteria, used to judge whether a community has a 'high' resilience or 'low' resilience. At this stage, the group can propose their own standard (not necessarily the absolute one) to be adapted to the area. If successful, it will help the local individuals and agencies develop local livelihoods in an interesting manner. ⑤ This project is studying how relatively impoverished human communities in semi-arid developing countries can adapt to worsening environmental circumstances, and hopefully recover or reinstate a better lifestyle. It is thus very significant in terms of RIHN objectives, and combines both social and environmental research. The organization and goals are efficient and clear, and significant amounts of data have been collected already. However, with all projects such as this, where the main aim is presumably to improve human responses to potentially hazardous situations, one must ask what kind of new insight can be expected. Human groups in Zambia and India presumably know how to respond to changing agricultural environments – can this project reveal new and unexpected ways of adapting that can be promulgated with benefit to the communities concerned? Perhaps it can, but this is not clear from the report. ⑥ Vulnerability and Resilience are two major concepts in environmental evaluation. How may we get better understanding of both concepts through this project? Since both the Vulnerability and Resilience are strongly region-dependent, how can the region in Africa selected in the project represent the common features for other regions? ⑦ The value of understanding how families and communities can be more resilient to environmental shocks is clear. This is also obviously a region that will benefit significantly. The key is to select some more general principles or recommendations from the detail. The interest in bringing the information to the local communities is important	

- ⑧ 1) The necessity to integrate findings in various sub-projects was mentioned in 2007 PEC meeting, regardless the use of models. 2) In addition to the project's measurements of precipitation, the results of the long-term observations in the national network can be activated for climatologically more stable statistics.

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