

Core FR Selection Evaluation Comments

*This evaluation takes place in the transition from Core Feasibility Study to Core Full Research, i.e. Selection of Core Full Research project.

FS Title	Development of a Future Design Methodology for the Multilevel and Pluralistic Implementation of Sustainable Visions
Proposed FR Title	Development of a Future Design Methodology for the Pluralistic Implementation of Sustainable Visions
Leader of the Proposed FR (Principal Investigator of FS)	NAKAGAWA Yoshinori
Proposed Project Period	3 years Full Research

General advice and comments of the EREC:

The project proposes to examine how future sustainability visions are developed, what factors influence their success or failure, what motivational role they can play, and how diverse visions can be harmonized. This broad thrust was found to be compatible with the expected role of a Core Project in developing transdisciplinary methodologies at RIHN.

The use of Future Design methodology to explicitly consider aspirations for the future was regarded as a strong point of the proposal, with the project focusing on a specific version of this methodology and exploring its applicability to other RIHN projects. Similarly, the focus on visions and their motivational role was appreciated as important in sustainability research. This also could potentially play a role in shaping the identity and strategy of RIHN. The Committee also noted with approval that the project had engaged actively with the ongoing Aakash and Nitrogen projects.

Some of the EREC members remarked that the proposal was relatively hard to understand and that it should not be too theoretical. The response to the questions and the interaction with the Committee helped clarify the approach considerably.

In spite of the strengths of the proposal, the Committee felt that the project would benefit from greater grounding in a larger and more substantial review of literature on sustainability visioning, participatory modeling, and transdisciplinary research. Broadening the proposal conceptually and operationally would provide it with a more solid foundation to contribute to the strengthening of transdisciplinary methodologies at RIHN. Further, it was felt that there is a need to develop a clearer view of the methodological development that is to result from the project, including how the resulting methodology goes beyond Future Design, and what sort of sustainability challenges would it be more apt for. It was suggested that a small number of EREC members might be mobilized to engage in a process of deeper developmental involvement with the research team, having ongoing multiple discussions over time to help shape their ideas.