

Research Project FR: Final Year Project Evaluation Comments

Project Title	Research and Social Implementation of Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction as Climate Change Adaptation in Shrinking Societies
Abbreviated Title	Eco-DRR
Project Leader	YOSHIDA, Takehito
Project Period	5 years Full Research
Affiliated Program	3rd phase program1: Sugihara advisor

General advice and comments of the EREC

The Committee was very pleased with a great achievement that Eco-DRR project worked out. For entire Japan, the risk assessment of three hazards (river flood, landslides, and coastal flood) was conducted for the year 2010 and simulated for the year 2050 under a Business As Usual (BAU) scenario in which population decline and land use change will proceed as expected, and for the year 2050 under the Eco-DRR scenario in which each municipality will avoid exposure to the disaster hazards. The dataset and design of simulation shown in the report will serve as a basis for policy making by the national governments and local governments in disaster prevention and mitigation. Also, the project has been very successful in a quite comprehensive assessment of provisioning, regulating, and cultural value function in three regions of Japan. The effort to include traditional, local knowledge in Eco-DRR and to meaningfully engage local citizens, businesses, and government representatives is an important contribution. A valuable consideration of the multi-functional Eco-DRR models for insurance programs was taken into dialogue with government ministries as potential bases for policy implementation. Dissemination and data management is well-organized for the municipalities and public to produce the number of academic articles, books, booklets described in each local community, and many presentations as outputs. Making publicly available the results on the website (J-ADRES) will be a significant contribution.

To construct novel mitigation planning using the concept of Eco-DRR, the project examines the future direction of reducing the disaster risk of flood by considering biodiversity in low-lying areas. Appropriately managing and preserving ecosystem in flood affected areas which are different from the conventional disaster prevention plan. In Kunming-Montreal 2030 Targets, the strategy referred to as "30 by 30" - the expansion of biological reserves as much as 30 % of land and sea until 2030 - has become an international commitment. The idea of Eco-DRR is highly compatible and is expected to be a driver for pushing OECM (Other Effective area-based Measures), which combines disaster prevention and mitigation with biodiversity reserves. The Committee hopes the PL and other project members will remain committed to this issue and strive to make Eco-DRR the standard for land issues in Japan and beyond.