

Comment Form **【FR4】**

February 25, 2016

Title of the Project	Coastal Area Capability Enhancement in Southeast Asia		
Research Term	FR4	Project Leader	ISHIKAWA Satoshi
General advice and comments of the PEC:			
<p>The PEC noted considerable achievements in collecting data and working internationally with local communities and local governments.</p>			
<p>Much of the discussion turned to the consideration of the core concept of the project. PEC members virtually all indicated that they find the term and concept of Area Capability unclear and confusing. Several members asked about the similarities and differences with a number of other, established, concepts, such as ecosystem services, resource stocks, coastal zone management, ecosystem potential, carrying capacity, adaptive management or a general understanding of biodiversity and harvest levels. It was also pointed out that a rich body of relevant literature and practical experience exists and that it needs to be shown how the Area Capability relates to this (how does it build on and contribute the understanding in the literature?). The concept of Area Capability needs to be elaborated at the theoretical level, its validity clarified and its applicability to other areas explored. It will be useful to also include failed cases. Considering the role of institutions will also help illuminate the mechanisms involved.</p>			