Comment Form 【FR1】

February 14, 2019

Title of the Project	Research and Social Implementation of Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction as Climate Change Adaptation in Shrinking Societies		
Research Term	FR1	**Project Leader**	Yoshida Takehito

General advice and comments of the EREC:

The project addresses an important issue, in particular in the context of Japan's shrinking population.

The Committee noted that a considerable amount of research has gotten underway, based on a large network of collaborators. The main task ahead, while the project is still at an early stage, is to further develop a theoretical framework to drive the research. This should be done in close collaboration with the Program, so that the project can find a comfortable niche in the program structure. In the context of the program, the project should also further explore historical precedents of ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction.

The Eco-DRR approach is being developed as a critique of, and alternative to, traditional engineered infrastructure development. The evaluation of the effectiveness of the ecosystem-based approach, as well as identifying its shortcomings and limitations, are therefore particularly important. A clear set of criteria needs to be developed to facilitate such evaluation. Learning from experiences (including "3/11") and avoiding mistakes is important and thus this can involve evaluating historical and international examples. Reviewing the literature on such examples would also be supportive of strengthening the theoretical framework.

Concrete suggestions and questions from the Committee included the following:

· Social capital and community institutions also need to be considered.

· How will the project deal with the issue of land ownership?

· There is a need to go beyond local interventions and consider policy recommendations.