

Consolidated EREC Comments on the Programs

One overarching concern cutting across the programs was the observation that the substantive coherence between the programs and their constituent projects is rather limited. The Committee noted that this gap occurs in all programs and concluded that stronger substantive integration is needed. It was suggested that projects are more explicitly developed to align with the main thrust of their programs.

Core Program

The Committee was pleased with the strong development of the Core Program, with two Full Research projects and two Feasibility Studies running over the past year. The importance of the Core Program, as a key vehicle for synthesis of RIHN research and experiences, embedding the principles of the Institute, was widely shared.

Given this important role, it was noted that Core budget resources are relatively limited and it was suggested that Core Projects seek additional external funding, as well as that the duration of Core Projects might need to be extended beyond the current three years.

At the same time, the Committee expected more from the Core Program in terms of systemic integration and asked what vision could drive such integration. In some ways, the Program represents the profile of the Institute. In global environmental studies, fieldwork is carried out in many sites all over the world and the Core Program should contribute towards synthesizing this through meta-analysis. At the same time, researchers need to get out into the world, create new ideas, new concepts of the Anthropocene, and the Core program might support such engagement.

Finally, RIHN needs to position itself as a place for young researchers and the Core Program is a good example of the activities of young researches.