

Comment Form 【FR2】

February 6, 2020

Title of the Project	Research and Social Implementation of Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction as Climate Change Adaptation in Shrinking Societies		
Research Term	FR2	Project Leader	YOSHIDA Takehito
General advice and comments of the EREC: (Mid-term Evaluation) Research and Social Implementation of Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction as Climate Change Adaptation in Shrinking Societies The Committee confirmed that this is an important and timely topic and noted some solid progress in visualizing the risks of natural disasters and evaluating the multi-functionality of EcoDRR. There is also interesting work ongoing in three field sites in Japan. At the same time, the Committee also felt that the project has now arrived at an important point in time where the direction of the research – and in particular how it will link to real-world decision-making and change – needs to be indicated more clearly. In complementing “traditional” DRR with Eco-DRR, what are the feasible options or new directions that can be identified? What are the obstacles to Eco-DRR-inspired measures (for example, the land ownership system)? How can decision-makers be stimulated to adopt such measures? In earlier conversations with the EREC, the possibilities for visualizing the comprehensive rate of return were discussed. This time, the Committee wondered if the project would be able to work on costs and benefits analysis or use a co-benefits framework to demonstrate the strengths of Eco-DRR. Insurance seemed to be a promising area of work for the project, but it was pointed out that insurance does not necessarily provide the right incentives and equity issues need to be considered. Building on the risk visualization and evaluation of multiple risks, where will the project be able to use the Eco-DRR idea to support “action”: is this in insurance, local or national policy, or with communities? Promising community-based work is happening and exploratory discussions with local policy-makers are underway, but the field sites seem to operate separately and it was hard to discern the main direction of the transdisciplinarity of the project. Finally, the Committee emphasized the importance of the “shrinking society” context as indicated in the project title. In moving forward, it will be crucial to consider how Eco-DRR in the early 21st century			

will be different from that in the period of rapid economic growth.