

Call for Registration

2nd International Workshop on Small Island Research and Development (SIRaD)

Malang, Indonesia, 2-4 October 2025



Background

Islands are biodiversity hotspots and home to rare and often endemic species. Due to their remote and isolated locations, small islands and their communities are on the frontlines of natural disasters, ecosystem sustainability, biodiversity protection, and climate resilience. In recent decades, economic expansion across the Western Pacific, driven by tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, and extractive industries, has delivered both economic growth and unintended environmental pressures. However, small islands face not only ecological challenges but also limitations in governance, inclusive planning, and adaptive capacity. These realities highlight the need for a more holistic and interdisciplinary approach that incorporates ecological research, community perspectives, and responsive policy frameworks.

Recognizing the urgency of multifaceted challenges faced by small islands, the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) initiated the Small Island Research and Development (SIRaD) Working Group, with the objectives of fostering interdisciplinary research collaboration, enhancing community-engaged approaches, supporting evidence-based policymaking for sustainable small island development, and strengthening regional cooperation among countries in the Western Pacific Region.

The first international SIRaD Workshop, held in 2023, Jakarta, highlighted the complex and interconnected challenges confronting many small islands. At the heart of SIRaD's approach is a strong commitment to ensuring that research does not remain in the academic domain, but is translated into concrete, actionable insights that inform policy decisions—particularly those shaping the future of small island development.

To advance these goals, the 2nd International SIRaD Workshop is scheduled for 2-4 October 2025 in Malang, Indonesia, to deepen synergies and enhance collaboration among researchers practitioners, and policymakers working on the sustainable future of island and coastal regions.

The event will be hosted by the Brawijaya University and the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN).

Objectives

The 2nd SIRaD Workshop aims to:

- Develop a common understanding of small island research and development status in the Western Pacific;
- Present interdisciplinary assessments of pilot lands, especially on the connections between marine ecosystem services and economic activities;
- Share insights from Indonesian research and policy communities that combine scientific evidence with stakeholder perspectives, supporting national and regional strategies for sustainable island development; and

- Explore opportunities for cooperation among institutions and countries in the region , including further development of institutional arrangements for small island research and development.

Date and venue

- Date: 2-4 October 2025, consisting of workshop sessions, 2-3 October 2025, and a field trip to Sendangbiru's community-managed coastal tourism area (CMC) and the government-run Sempu Island conservation site, 4 October 2025.
- Venue: Mercure Hotel, Malang, Indonesia

Expected Outputs

- A consolidated overview of R&D in selected small islands, integrating findings on ecosystem services, socio-economic dynamics, and governance to strengthen collaboration in the Western Pacific.
- A synthesis of Indonesian insights, highlighting community perceptions, ecological shifts, and adaptation practices, offering lessons for potential adoption by regional stakeholders.
- Joint research and policy recommendations, linking scientific and regional perspectives, and proposing collaborative small island R&D starting from pilot loci with strong learning and policy value.
- Strengthened institutional arrangement in the region, driving the small island research and development initiatives, with joint development opportunities, with an actional workplan for the next two years and beyond.

Participants

Experts and government officials with good knowledge and extensive experience in their national or institutional efforts related to small island research and development are highly encouraged to participate, and contribute to the discussions in the following sessions.

Tentative program:

The Workshop will be structured around:

Session 1: Institutional and national status about small island research and development.

Session 2: Research and development of the pilot islands: Amami (Japan), Jeju (South Korea), Langkawi (Malaysia), Pingtan Dao (China), Gili Matra and Gili Ketapang (Indonesia)

Session 3: Key common challenges and opportunities for future collaboration in small island research and development

Session 4: Indonesian stakeholders' perspectives on SIRaD research and development

Session 5: Brainstorming: Charting the Way Forward for the small island research and development in the region

Registration

Individuals who are nominated or self-nominated and are committed to contributing to the collective effort and shared goals are encouraged to complete the [online registration/application form](#) as early as possible, preferably before **3 August 2025**.

If you are unable to access the online form, please complete the offline registration form ([Annex 1](#)) and email it to iocwestpac@unesco.org with the subject line: **Registration/Application Form – SIRaD Workshop**

Please note that funding for international travel is limited and will be prioritized for participants from developing countries. Selection will be based primarily on the applicant's CV, his/her work experience, and previous engagement with WESTPAC or other related international programmes.

Updated information about the workshop will be made available in due course on the WESTPAC website

Logistic Information for International Travelers



1. Entry Point and Arrival: Surabaya (Juanda International Airport – SUB)

International participants are advised to arrive via **Juanda International Airport** in **Surabaya**, East Java, Indonesia. Juanda Airport is the closest major international gateway to Malang and the SIRaD field site (Sendangbiru–Sempu Island). The airport serves direct international flights from Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, and other regional hubs.

- **Airport Code:** SUB
- **Distance to Malang:** ~85 km
- **Estimated Travel Time by Road:** 2.5–3.5 hours, depending on traffic conditions

Airport pick-up services will be arranged by the organizing committee. We recommend arriving no later than 1 October 2025 to allow sufficient time for rest and local travel.

2. Workshop Venue: Mercure Hotel, Malang

The workshop will be held at **Mercure Malang Mirama Hotel**, located in central Malang. This 4-star venue offers comfortable accommodations, conference facilities, and easy access to local amenities.

- **Hotel Address:** Jl. C.Tokroaminoto No.63, Malang 65112, East Java, Indonesia
- **Contact:** +62 341 367 777
- **Check-in/Check-out Times:** 14:00 / 12:00

Malang is a city in East Java, Indonesia. Prized by the Dutch for its mild highland climate, the city retains much of its colonial architecture. The Balai Kota building blends Indonesian and Dutch styles, and grand mansions line the main boulevard, Jalan Besar Ijen. North of the city, the Buddhist-Hindu Singosari Temple ruins are a remnant of a medieval kingdom. To the east is Mt. Bromo, a volcano with hiking trails (Wikipedia, 2025).

3. Field Trip Destination: Sempu Island and Sendang Biru

The field visit on 4 October 2025 will include a trip to:

- **Sendangbiru**, a coastal village located ~70 km south of Malang (~2.–3 hours by road), and
- **Sempu Island**, a designated conservation area accessed by boat from Sendangbiru Pier (~15–20 minutes crossing).

Activities:

- Site visits to community-managed tourism zones and government-run conservation sites
- Dialogue with local managers and policy actors
- Lunch and return travel to Mercure Hotel

4. About Sendangbiru



Sendangbiru is a coastal village located in South Malang, East Java, known for its rich marine biodiversity and active community-based tourism initiatives. The Community-Managed Coastal (CMC) area in Sendangbiru showcases an integrated approach to marine conservation and sustainable livelihood. Local groups, in collaboration with government and NGOs, manage ecotourism activities such as guided boat tours, sustainable fishing, and mangrove rehabilitation.

This initiative has empowered the local community through ecotourism income, increased environmental awareness, and participatory governance in marine resource management. It also serves as a model of grassroots marine conservation and community resilience in Indonesia's coastal zones.

5. About Sempu Island



Pulau Sempu is a small conservation island located off the southern coast of East Java, near Sendangbiru village. It is designated as a **Nature Reserve** under the management of the **East Java Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BBKSDA Jawa Timur)**. The island is characterized by dense tropical forest, rocky cliffs, and secluded beaches, making it an important ecological habitat for native coastal species and marine biodiversity.

Access to the island is tightly regulated to support conservation goals. As part of the SIRaD field visit, participants will observe how government-led conservation efforts are implemented in practice, and how these efforts connect with broader goals of sustainable coastal and island development.

6. Return Travel and Departure

Depending on individual flight schedules, international participants will be transferred from Mercure Hotel Malang to Juanda International Airport in Surabaya on 5 October 2025.