



**14th Intergovernmental Session of
the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XIV)**
Jakarta, Indonesia, 4-7 April 2023

NEW PROGRAMME/PROJECT/WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL

I. PROPOSED PROGRAMME/PROJECT/ WORKING GROUP, AND ITS TIMEFRAME

(Please identify if the proposal will be a programme with a timeframe of no longer than eight years, or a project of no longer than four years. If you intend to propose a working group, please refer to the Guidelines for the establishment of WESTPAC Working Groups. The extension of programs/projects/working groups could be made, subject to their deliverables, performance and evaluation results)

WESTPAC WORKING GROUP ON SMALL ISLAND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SIRaD)

II. PROGRAMME/PROJECT PROPOSER (OR WORKING GROUP CHAIR), AND RECOMMENDED MEMBERS FOR THE PROGRAMME/PROJECT STEERING GROUP (WORKING GROUP), IF AVAILABLE

(The Programme/Project Steering Group, and Working Group shall consist of ACTIVE members. Once the new programme/project/working group is established, National Focal Points in Member States can recommend their qualified experts to the Group. Once the Sub-Commission establishes its new programmes/projects/working groups, WESTPAC designated Principal Investigators (PIs)/WG Chairs will play an important role in the WESTPAC international cooperative framework/process, as they are entrusted to coordinate the development of respective WESTPAC programmes/projects/WGs, engage relevant stakeholders, and deliver knowledge, tools and results needed to address priority needs of Member States in the region.)

The WG membership is open to anyone who is willing to promote, and has extensive experience in small island research and development. Members could be further finalized, as the WG activities unfold.

Proposed WG

WG CHAIR : Zainal Arifin (RC Oceanography – BRIN, Indonesia)

MEMBER : Aileen Tan (USM, Malaysia)

Hiroaki Saito (AORI, The Univ of Tokyo, Japan)

Yuncheng Deng (Island Research Centre, Ministry of Nat. Resource China)

Youn-Ho Lee (KIOST, South Korea)

Wenxi Zhu (IOC- UNESCO Westpac Office)

III. JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THIS PROGRAMME/PROJECT/WORKING GROUP

(Note: This part is extremely important. Please provide detailed justifications as much as possible.)

Small islands are characterized by small land area and/or small population size. Islands are considered small when their population are less than one million (Bertram and Poirine, 2007), and their area is between 1000 and 5000 km², with smaller islands being classified as tiny islands (OTIE, 2008).

Small islands can be found across geographic area of the member states of IOC Western Pacific Region. Such islands are individually distinct and host unique biological community as a result of endemism (Davis et al., 1997, Medail & Quezeil, 1999, Myers

et al., 2000; Vogiatzakis et al., 2008). In the coral triangle (CT) spreading 6 countries, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, Timor Leste, New Guinea and Palau, many small islands are regarded as hotspots of biodiversity on a global scale. They also have special geologic features and attractiveness in land and seascapes. Because of the unique characteristics and rich ecosystem services, these areas are under the pressure of various human activities, e.g., tourists, marine ranching, mining and potentially illegal fishery. In the last decade, development activities in small islands have been accelerated in the Western Pacific regions. The development activities are not always following principle of sustainable development or global SDGs, and induce serious impacts on the small islands' ecosystem such as ecosystem degradation, biodiversity losses, and coastal pollution with increasing population growth.

For sustainable development of the small islands, it is essential to understand the present state of the island ecosystems and the impact of development on the marine ecosystems, and to prepare best scientific knowledge to decision makers for planning balanced development and conservation strategy of small island. The Working Group on SIRaD WG is to assist the national government on sustainable use of small island ecosystem.

Small island consists of biophysical and social systems; biophysical systems can be composed of ecosystems such as sandy shore, mangrove, seagrass and coral reef, as well as terrestrial flora and fauna that form coastal resources; while social system involving human interaction within themselves and among ecosystem components' small island (Figure 1). Analysis Work will focus on the Ecological Status of the Small Island, Awareness and Stakeholders issues (e.g., blue food, tourism, freshwaters, and culture). Climate change related to blue carbon adaptation will be also studied during gap analysis work. Furthermore, alternative potential income of local communities will be explored based on the specific need of small island communities.

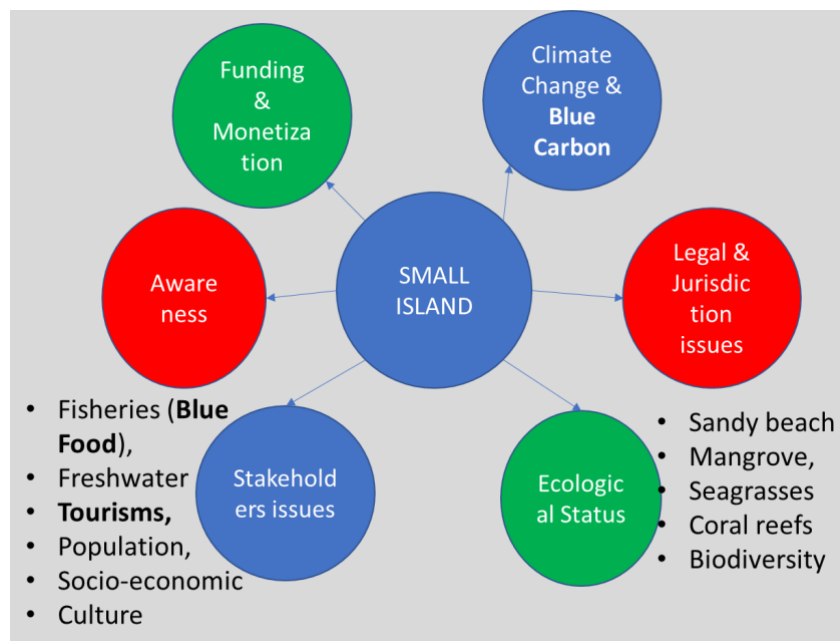


Figure 1. Components to be considered in Small Island Research and Development

IV. S.M.A.R.T OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES

(Note: The objectives of WESTPAC programmes/projects/working groups shall be specific, measurable, attainable/achievable, relevant, and time-bound)

The **objective** of the SIRaD WG is twofold, **firstly**, to provide a gap analysis of the impact of development activities on ecosystems' services of small island; **secondly**, to provide a synthesis report on the impact of development activities on the status of small island ecosystems, and research priorities needed in the Western Pacific Region

The working group will be done for two years (2023 – 2024). During the two years, the CIRaD WG will carry out several activities with the target as follow,

- To exchange views and ideas on small island activities that are able to contribute to SDGs, especially SDG #14.
- To conduct gap analysis on impacts of development and conservation efforts on small island ecosystems;
- To share and implement **Best Practices** of research and development to be conducted in small islands

The expected output of the SIRaD WG will be,

- Establishment of Small Island Research and Development Forum (SIRaD Forum) in the Western Pacific Region.,
- Production of publication or modules in local languages
- Creating a potential and better alternative income for the locals based on new activities such as eco-tourism, fishing using AI, and smart fish farming.

Through partnership with various stakeholders, the work of SIRaD WG will give an impact on communities in the form of,

- Empower the local authorities with “informed decision” on small island development
- Improve the livelihood/economy of the small islands with new alternative activities

V. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE PROGRAMME/PROJECT STEERING GROUP (OR WORKING GROUP):

(For the purpose of guidance and management, WESTPAC encourages each programme/project to set up its Steering Group with ACTIVE members. A draft TORs for this Group shall be developed, and submitted for considerations)

The Working Group will steer the development and implementation of the WG activities :

- 1) Advise to the PI from regional and national level on the review research and future research agenda.
- 2) Provide a guidance and direction in development of the framework of study
- 3) Monitor annually the progress of work of PI and national member team on the work activities of the working group
- 4) Evaluate the performance of the working group

VI. ENGAGEMENT OF RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS OUTSIDE ACADEMIA

(Please endeavor to outline and engage potential stakeholders of this programme/project, if possible. The list of stakeholders could be continuously expanded as the program/project enhances its impacts)

The research on small island encompasses area of remote sensing, marine debris, sea-ranching/aquaculture and blue carbon. The existing of small island research is between Research Centre for Oceanography BRIN and Centre for Coastal and Marine Resources Studies, IPB University (www.ipb.ac.id/page/research/pkspl/). Recently, the cooperation is under development with Korea-Indonesia Marine Technology Cooperation Research Centre (www.mtcrc.centre) including several universities in Indonesia.

Beside the academia involvement, we are also working with the local government where the locations of the study site selected. Relevant stakeholders are potentially involved Coordinating Ministry of Maritime and Investment (CMMI), Ministry of Tourism (MoT), National Park Authority (NPA), Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean (MoFO) and National Fisheries Association (NFA). Local community organization (e.g., Fisher community, Tourist Operators) and Non-government Organization (Yayasan Pesisir Lestari, Terangi) will be invited to join.

Several potential partners to support SIRaD WG are as follows,

- a) Indonesia Climate Change Trust Fund (ICCTF), www.icctf.or.id
- b) GEF Small Grant Project,
- c) Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (the HD)
- d) Conservation Strategic Fund (CSF), <https://www.conservation-strategy.org/>
- e) Wayata Dockyard
- f) Local Fisheries Authorities
- g) Local Tourism Authorities
- h) NGOs such as., Yayasan Pesisir Lestari, Terangi etc.

VII. MAIN ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT DURING ITS TIMEFRAME

The period of the project will be for two years (2023 – 2024).

Workshop #1 (2023). Workshop will be done during the early period of the project to set-up the agreed method on conducting “Gap-Analysis”. The workshop agenda is

- a) Introduction to all members in the working group
- b) Discussion on the approach of method activities to be used under the SIRaD WG, to ensure each pilot site will be reporting similar methodology
- c) Establish a CIRaD forum consists of experts, local governments, communities, and industries.

Each small islands may not share the same economic importance e.g., some islands will focus more on artisanal activities like fishing while some will focus on tourism or smart fish farming. So, we need to look into specific case by case, and best practices in different islands.

2) **Analysis Work (2023).** Each member of WG will select pilot sites and obtain data on a cluster of small islands where the communities focus on traditional fishing, tourism industries and/or aquaculture activities. Sharing of **existing economy activities** in Small Islands among member states and develop ‘**best practices**’ for education, awareness, outreach, economy development, conservation etc.

A draft report of small island development vs. conservation efforts will be prepared for first year period.

3) **Workshop #2 (2024)**. The regional workshop will be done in 2024 with stakeholders, such as local communities, local governments, businesses and non-governmental organizations. Sharing of **success stories** and **challenges** and **way forward** among member states, involving various stakeholders; discussion on stakeholders, implementation and support from policy makers or/and local government.

4) **International Seminar (2024)**. As dissemination efforts on the status of small island research and development, SIRaD WG will join an international seminar on small island development hosted by IPB University.

VIII. PROPOSED WORK PLAN AND BUDGET FOR MAY 2023 - MAY 2025:

(Provide, in tabular form, the action items that should be included in the work plan and budget)

Programme/ Project/Working Group	Objectives	Activities	Expected outputs/outcomes	Date and Place	Funding required(US\$)	
					IOC	Other sources(i.e., from national/international sources)
Small island Research and Development Forum (SIRaD Forum)	The specific objectives of the WG i.e., 1); to provide a gap analysis of the impact of development activities on ecosystems' services of small island;	1.1 Workshop #1 on development of research method on small island ecosystems	Report on the methodological study on small island ecosystems	July/Aug., 2023; Jakarta, Indonesia	6.500	National: BRIN :12.500 (proposed under marine ranching proposal); International: UNESCO Jakarta: 18.000 under topic of WASH-Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in small islands.
		1.2. Analysis work: The state of small island, its development activities and ecosystem conservation efforts	Report on the current state of small islands at each country:	Sept - Dec. 2023; Within each member states		
	2) to deliver a report on the status of small island development and conservation efforts, as well as on research needs	2.1. Workshop #2 on the Analysis of small island ecosystem, its resources and the social condition of the local communities.	Draft Report on the impacts of small island development on its ecosystem services.	Jan – Dec. 2024	7.500	National: BRIN (Deputy of Development Policy- BRIN & Exec. Secretary of BRIN) International: sought from KI MTCRC

						<i>(through joint research),</i>
		<i>2.2. Joint International Conference on Small Islands Development (hosted by IPB University)</i>	<i>Papers from each country of WG will be presented</i>	<i>July 2024, Lombok, Indonesia</i>		
		<i>2.3 Finalization of the report</i>	<i>A report on the status of small island development and ecosystem conservation efforts.</i>	<i>Dec 2024</i>		