

Advisory Committee Socio-ecological Research Team Report

16 - March -2026

The Research Project

Local stakeholders:

- Academia
- Communities
- Policy & Governance

Our team

Local Stakeholders



Hajime KAYANNE (Dr)
Professor, The University of Tokyo
Research Director and Supervisor



Yoshimitsu TAJIMA (PhD)
Professor, The University of Tokyo
Assessment of disaster prevention functions of coral reef coasts



Takenori SIHMOZONO (PhD)
Professor, The University of Tokyo
Assessment of disaster prevention functions of coral reef coasts



MAKINO Mitsutaku (PhD)
Professor, The University of Tokyo
Stakeholder participatory problem analysis



Naya SENA (PhD)
Researcher, The University of Tokyo
Stakeholder participatory problem analysis



Hiroya YAMANO (Dr)
Professor, The University of Tokyo
Spatio-Temporal design of ecosystem conservation as NbS



Hiroya ABE (PhD)
Researcher, National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Japan
Analysis of the use and conservation of marine environments and ecosystems



Yuki YOSHIDA (PhD)
Researcher, National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Japan
Valuation of marine space and stakeholder surveys



Tatsuhito KONO (PhD)
Professor, Tohoku University
Economic assessment of effect on adaptation measures including NbS



Jun YOSHIDA (PhD)
Associate Professor, Tohoku Gakuin University
Economic model building and analysis



Akihiko NONAKA (M.Eng.)
Associate, Nikken Sekkei Ltd.
Funding planning for social implementation

The Research Project



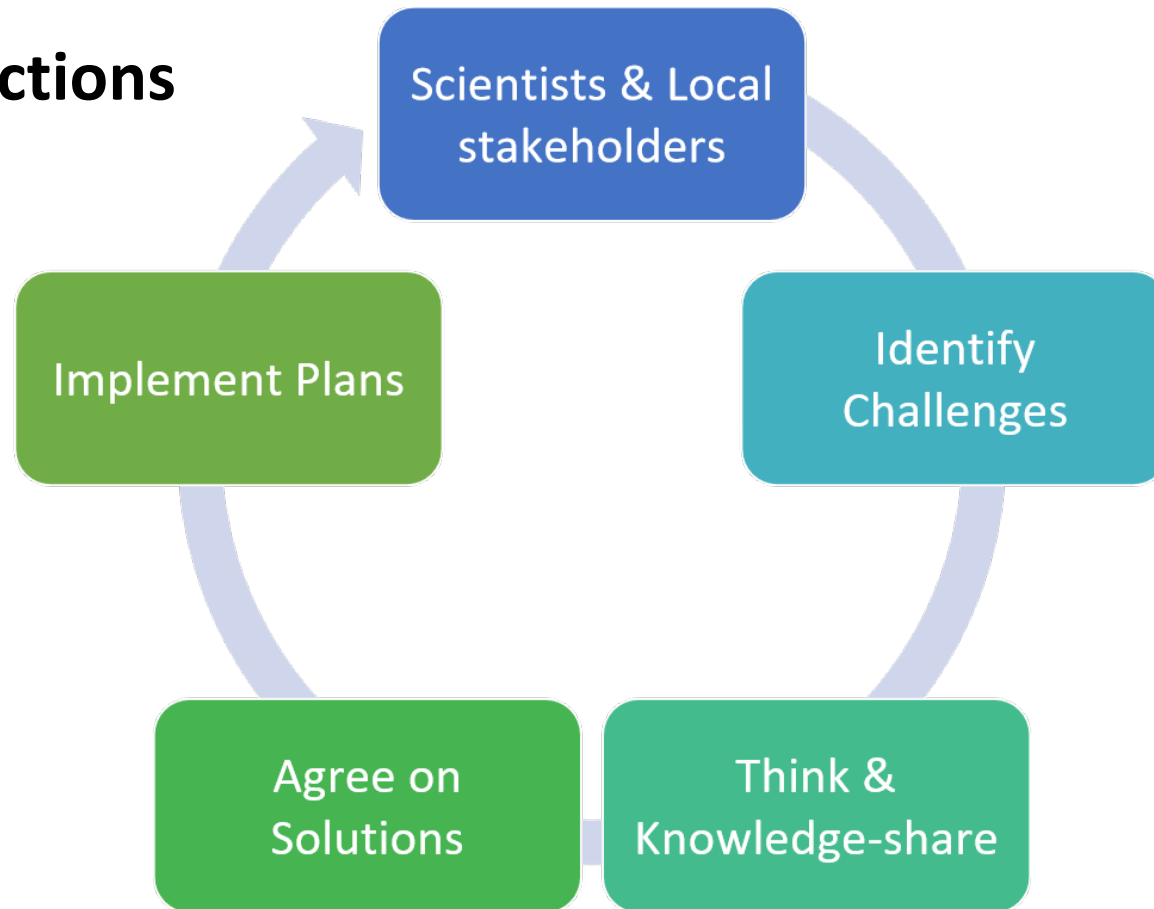
Our team

Local Stakeholders

 Yoshimitsu TAJIMA (PhD) Professor, The University of Tokyo <i>Assessment of disaster prevention functions of coral reef coasts</i>	 Hajime KAYANNE (Dr) Professor, The University of Tokyo <i>Research Director and Supervisor</i>
 MAKINO Mitsutaku (PhD) Professor, The University of Tokyo <i>Stakeholder participatory problem analysis</i>	 Takenori SIHMOZONO (PhD) Professor, The University of Tokyo <i>Assessment of disaster prevention functions of coral reef coasts</i>
 Hiroya YAMANO (Dr) Professor, The University of Tokyo <i>Spatio-Temporal design of ecosystem conservation as NbS</i>	 Naya SENA (PhD) Researcher, The University of Tokyo <i>Stakeholder participatory problem analysis</i>
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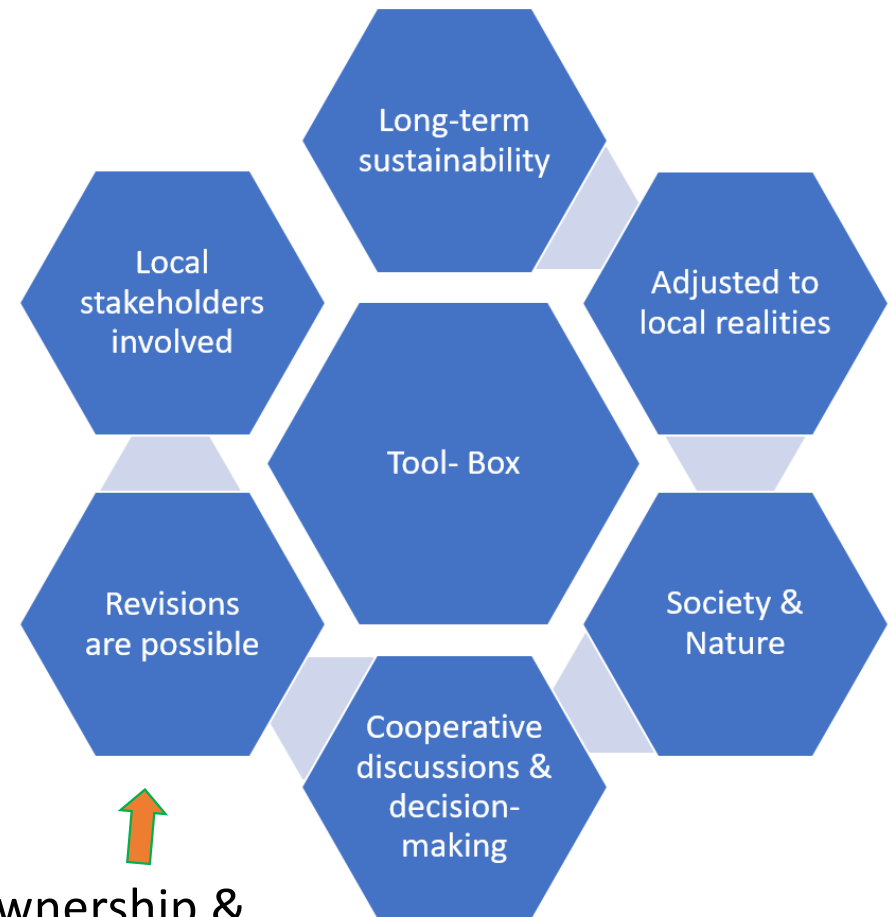
Flow of Actions



The ToolBox



Integrated approach



Sense of ownership & Adaptability

The ToolBox “A process, not a booklet”

- Database that maps local issues or necessary measures to achieve sustainability;
- Co-designed by local stakeholders, researchers and authorities;
- Based on cooperative discussions and decision-making;
- To find agreeable solutions;
- Strong co-designing process



Identify → Compare → Prioritize → Monitor

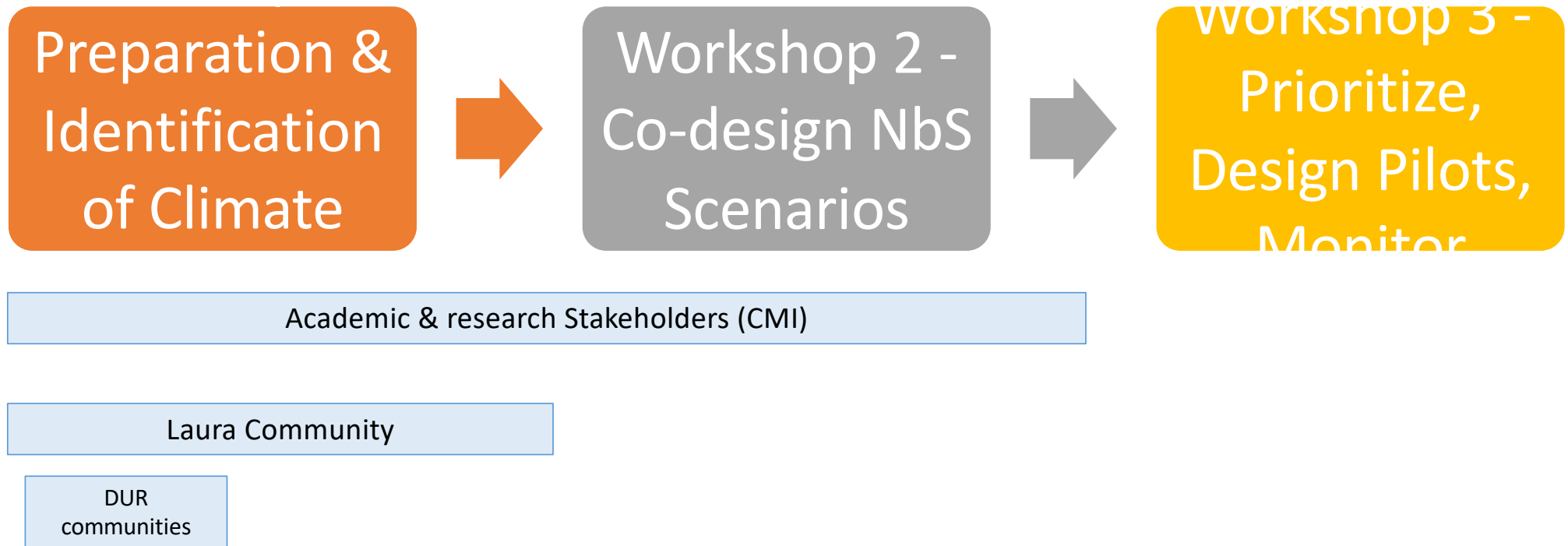
The ToolBox



- Time-intensive;
- Ensuring representation;
- Managing expectations;
- Integrating qualitative + quantitative evidence.



How the Toolbox is Adapted to NbS in Majuro



Recap of Workshops Outcomes

What Emerged From the Maps?

- ❑ Across groups, we identified:
- ❑ Priority Areas
- ❑ Key Climate Impacts
- ❑ Human Activities
- ❑ Vulnerability Hotspots



- Coral bleaching
- Coral degradation
- Freshwater scarcity

Rong Rong

LAURA

- Sea level rise
- Ocean acidification
- Coastal erosion
- Coral bleaching & degradation
- Agriculture decline
- Freshwater scarcity
- Infrastructure damage
- Food insecurity
- Saltwater intrusion
- Seagrass decline
- Waste accumulation

MAJURO ATOLL
MARSHALL ISLANDS

Eneko,
Enemanit, Ejit

Majuro Lagoon

- Pollution
- Fish stock decline
- Biodiversity decline

Ajeltake

- Coral bleaching
- Coral degradation

Airport

- Coastal Erosion
- Sea level rise
- Flooding
- Saltwater intrusion
- Agriculture decline

Rairok

SOPAC - MI 94.1

RITA

TELAP

- Waste accumulation
- Sea level rise
- Ocean Pollution

- Flooding
- Waste accumulation
- Coral bleaching
- Coral degradation

- Coral degradation
- Coral bleaching
- Seagrass decline
- Saltwater intrusion

Priority sites

- Key Challenges

From Problems → Solutions

Now that we agree on:

- ✓ Priority sites
- ✓ Key challenges

Next:

We begin thinking about solutions

- Nature-based
- Engineering
- Hybrid



Solutions



Problems

2026/2027 Planning

March - April

- Finalize Yearly Report
- Update the Toolbox

May - August

- NbS Team internal workshops
- Data Analysis and Toolbox building
- Preparation of fieldwork

September - November

- Fieldwork in RMI

November - January

- Report Writing
- Publications

February

- Communication of results
- Outreach activities in RMI and Japan