

Integrative Strategic Research Programme for the 8th Phase (ISRP8)

FY2024 (Year 4) Business Plan

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1. Impacts and Outputs

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) continues to act as an agent of change to generate significant impacts towards sustainable and resilient society in broad areas of IGES expertise (climate change & energy, sustainable production & consumption, biodiversity & forests, and climate adaptation & water) through co-design, co-implementation, co-production and co-delivery with key stakeholders.

In the Integrative Strategic Research Programme for the 8th Phase (ISRP8), IGES will further promote an integrative and inclusive approach across sectors and disciplines at the institute by materialising the concept of the regional Circulating and Ecological Sphere (CES) with the launch of the Integrated Sustainability Centre (ISC). Accordingly, IGES also aims to take a “whole-of-institute” approach and make its operations more integrative.

IGES will aim to report 30 impact cases each year as one of the key performance indicators specified in ISRP8. ISRP8 will also aim for greater impact cases (three large/significant impacts and seven medium) and a variety of impact types by employing effective outputs and means (communications, networking, knowledge management) for the impact-making process at IGES.

Section 1.1. presents the Common Focal Areas where IGES units collectively aim to generate impacts. The intended impacts and influencing strategy will be updated and revised to achieve the intended results during ISRP8. Additional actions may be also incorporated in response to the latest progress or emerging issues.

Section 1.2. presents overall planned actions for producing strategic outputs (Section 1.2.1.) and academic outputs (Section 1.2.2.) that should help generate intended impacts, followed by those for IGES’s strategic networking and communications.

1.1. Common Focal Areas

Common Focal Areas are defined as priority areas where IGES will make efforts collectively to enhance impact generation beyond each research unit. Therefore, the Common Focal Areas are expected to provide an internal framework to drive and motivate research units to co-work and collaborate to generate greater impacts in those areas in cooperation with the Strategic Management Office (SMO). SMO Knowledge and Communications (KC) and SMO Research and Publications (RP) will facilitate such collaboration among research units to mainstream impact generation and to align with the Common Focal Areas, utilising various occasions attended by the management, for example, a series of thematic meetings on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), climate change, biodiversity, and circular economy and sustainable lifestyles.

Common Focal Areas are identified by reviewing intended impacts during ISRP8 by each research unit and selecting key issues to be addressed taking account of global, regional and domestic urgencies and priorities related to sustainable development, as well as considering IGES’s strengths (Table 1).

Common Focal Areas are composed of four parts: Focal Areas, Sub-focal Areas, Related Units, and Major Planned Activities. The Focal Areas are expected to be those target areas seeking greater impacts, i.e. (1) accelerating implementation of the SDGs (“Put SDGs on the ground”); (2) accelerating implementation of the Paris Agreement (“Make society net zero and resilient”); (3) accelerating implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (“Put biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030”); and (4) shaping circular economy and sustainable lifestyles (“Make it circular”). It should be noted that these four Focal Areas are closely linked to each other. In particular, IGES will promote an integrated approach to the various issues of (2) climate change mitigation and adaptation and (3) biodiversity. Furthermore, it is necessary to pursue and propose specific measures and solutions to address these issues through various activities in (4) circular economy and sustainable lifestyles. Sub-focal Areas are key components that IGES has been engaged in, with competent expertise and networks close

to the target areas. In each Sub-focal Area, research units are expected to work collaboratively and also try to find synergies among the Sub-focal Areas aiming for bigger impacts. Major planned activities were selected by each relevant unit.

Since this is the first time for IGES to set this type of framework, it is expected that the Common Focal Areas will be reviewed through the ISRP8 period, as necessary.

Table 1. Common Focal Areas

Focal Areas	Sub-focal Areas	Notes * All focal areas and sub-focal areas are not mutually exclusive, but rather closely interlinked.
(1) Accelerating implementation of the SDGs “Put SDGs on the ground”	a. Enhancing implementability of SDGs in the Asia-Pacific region	Activities relevant to global, regional and national review processes and contribution to knowledge production are included.
	b. Localising SDGs and shaping Regional Circulating and Ecological Sphere (CES)	Closely linked with other sub-focal areas such as ‘net zero cities,’ ‘sustainable land use and ecosystem services’ and ‘circular economy.’
	c. Promoting a socially just transition in Asia	Activities relevant to social SDGs such as Goal 5 (gender equality) and Goal 10 (reduced inequalities) are included.
(2) Accelerating implementation of the Paris Agreement “Make society net zero and resilient”	a. Ensuring implementability of the Paris Agreement	Activities relevant to global negotiation, review processes and contribution to knowledge production are included.
	b. Promoting Net zero Japan	Closely linked with sub-focal areas such as just transition/green recovery, sustainable land use, circular economy and sustainable lifestyles.
	c. Promoting Net zero Asia	Activities on Asia’s transformative and inclusive policies to achieve net zero and development goals are included.
	d. Promoting Net zero Cities	Closely linked with other sub-focal areas such as ‘localising SDGs and shaping Regional CES.’
	e. Mainstreaming and promoting implementation of climate adaptation	Closely linked with ‘sustainable land use and ecosystem conservation’ and CES.
(3) Accelerating implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework “Put biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030”	a. Strengthening global biodiversity policy processes	Activities relevant to global negotiation, review processes and contribution to knowledge production are included.
	b. Promoting sustainable land use and ecosystem conservation	Activities relevant to forest conservation are included. Closely linked with ‘localising SDGs and shaping Regional CES’.
	c. Facilitating non-state actors’ involvement in conservation	Activities involving businesses, and indigenous peoples and local communities are included.
(4) Shaping circular economy and sustainable lifestyles “Make it circular”	a. Mainstreaming circular economy	Activities in this sub-focal area are highly relevant to other sub-focal areas in climate and biodiversity.
	b. Mainstreaming sustainable lifestyles	Activities in this sub-focal area are highly relevant to other sub-focal areas in climate and biodiversity.
	c. Ending pollution and improving environmental quality	Activities include, but not limited to, solid waste, waste water, and air quality management.

The following gives an explanation about each Focal Area and Sub-focal Area:

(1) Accelerating implementation of the SDGs (“Put SDGs on the ground”)

Sustainability issues are inherently interlinked and context-dependent. IGES efforts to accelerate progress on the SDGs therefore involves taking an integrated, localised, and inclusive approach. In using this approach, we develop solutions that work across different dimensions of sustainable development and deliver a variety of co-benefits for stakeholders in and beyond Asia. This approach also underpins IGES efforts to promote the Regional Circulating and Ecological Sphere (Regional CES) as a model for building self-reliant, resilient, and decentralised communities that live in harmony with nature.

a. Enhancing implementability of SDGs in the Asia-Pacific region

The SDGs were adopted more than nine years ago, but progress has been either slow or non-existent on most of the 17 goals that are the centerpiece of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. The lack of progress is especially worrying in the Asia-Pacific region for environmental issues such as those captured in the SDGs concerning Life on Land (Goal 15), Life Below Water (Goal 14), Climate Action (Goal 13) and Responsible Consumption and Production (Goal 12) (Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2023, UNESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)). One of the main problems confronting policymakers in Asia is how to accelerate progress in implementing the SDGs.

IGES aims to address this problem by working with governments, businesses, civil society and other stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region to accelerate implementation of the SDGs. To do so, much of IGES research is working at multiple levels with diverse partners such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), United Nations Environment and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ), Global Compact Network Japan, West Java Province (Indonesia) and Sado City (Japan), to offer timely recommendations on how to make headway on the SDGs from an integrated perspective to policymaking. Some of IGES’ research draws upon analysis of global and regional trends to influence outcomes from key processes such as the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) and the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). An additional branch of work aims to encourage Japanese businesses to bring the SDGs into their core business processes, including supply chains. Yet a third stream of work involves the collaboration between local and regional governments to mainstream the SDGs (and integrated approaches based on SDG interlinkages analysis) into planning processes. A new project funded by the Wellcome Trust in the UK is working with cities in Japan and other G7 countries to integrate health co-benefits into climate policies. For all of the above areas and contributions, IGES also aims to create synergies across divisions and between stakeholders, and address trade-offs where they exist.

Major activities and expected outcomes in FY2024 include the following: (1) strategic recommendations on how Japan and other countries can strengthen stakeholder engagement and the follow up and review processes to enhance voluntary national review (VNR) and voluntary local review (VLR); (2) translating evidence on synergies into action as outlined in a recent synergies United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution; (3) contribution to the second UN Climate and SDGs Synergy Report (led by UNDESA and UNFCCC, in partnership with IGES and others) (Member of the Expert Group, Global Analytical Report, post SDGs discussion); (4) continued efforts to strengthen Japanese businesses actions on the SDGs; (5) key messages to influence discussions of the SDGs at high-level meetings and contribute to the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO7); (5) promotion of integrated SDG policy making based on IGES SDG interlinkage tool; and (5) publish issue briefs on the shape and structure of a post-2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

b. Localising SDGs and shaping the Regional Circulating and Ecological Sphere (CES)

The world is currently faced with enormous social, political, economic and environmental challenges, stemming from resource overconsumption (particularly by the wealthy), environmental degradation, population pressures, climate change and deeply entrenched inequalities, among others. In light of that, achieving greater societal sustainability and resilience requires new approaches and frameworks to integrate diverse knowledge around social, cultural, economic and environmental/ecological dimensions. The ambitions expressed in the UN2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction also underscore the urgency with which societies need to transform towards a more livable, just and ecologically sustainable future. Achieving these ambitious goals and targets with business as usual will not be possible unless they are localised and implemented through an integrated approach. As an overarching policy approach, the Circulating and Ecological Sphere (CES) concept stimulates a self-reliant, decentralised and sustainable society, by capitalising on the unique characteristics of urban-rural linkages within a defined regional space, to simultaneously achieve decarbonisation, optimal resource circulation, harmony with nature and economic revitalisation.

The 8th Phase of IGES's ISRP has prioritised the elaboration of the CES concept in the context of developing countries in Asia and application of the CES approach for addressing sustainability challenges through local actions. IGES and START International (based in the US) have launched a collaborative initiative, namely "CES-Asia Initiative" for advancing the CES Concept in South and Southeast Asia. On 14 October 2021, IGES, START International and the leading academic and research institutes in South and Southeast Asia, established the CES-Asia Consortium with the aim of advancing the CES concept for enabling resilience of city-regions in South and Southeast Asia. Recently, during the CES Regional workshop in January 2024, the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) also became a part of Consortium. In collaboration with the CES-Asia Consortium partners and local stakeholders, IGES will continue to advance the bottom-up approach through evidence-based research, co-development process and capacity building that strengthens understanding and promotes the utilisation of the CES concept to stimulate localised actions for addressing the diverse sustainability challenges in Asia.

Major activities for FY2024 include: (1) evidence-based knowledge generation on the application of the CES approach in Asian city regions to achieve important goals and targets including net zero transition, water energy food nexus, rural revitalisation, ecosystem management and exploring associated co-benefits; (2) co-development of CES action programmes shaped by the context of specific local needs and priorities (in Hachinohe, Nagpur, Manikganj and Rajasthan); (3) science policy dialogues/events on CES to provide a platform of sharing knowledge and capacity development; (4) Enhancing outreach of CES as practical means of localising global goals for the international audiences.

c. Promoting a socially just transition in Asia

A sustainable future requires working on both the environmental and social dimensions of sustainable development. In fact, working only on the environmental dimension may leave different groups or social segments behind. Focusing only on the environment may also discourage potential allies in the fight for a sustainable future from participating in key processes or taking transformative actions. However, significant problem facing policymakers and other stakeholders is how to manage transitions that are both environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive. IGES aims to address this challenge by advising governments, businesses and other major stakeholders on how to empower and engage diverse voices in decision-making processes and grassroots initiatives.

In FY2024, IGES aims to build upon and strengthen coherence across many ongoing activities that work across the social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Toward that end, it will extend and deepen research on equality and just transitions toward a Net Zero Asia that was published in special issue journal on Just and Sustainable Transitions. This may include the creation of informal platform within IGES that aims to share work on social equity and just transitions in Asia—with the potential to bring in outside stakeholders in the future. IGES will further publish an issue brief on how just transitions can be incorporated in a post-2030 set of SDGs. IGES will also publish an article on youth engagement in SDGs processes in Japan and Finland. Last but not least, IGES will publish a new book entitled "An Integrated Approach to Building a Sustainable Society" that discusses

an integrated approach linking science and policy toward the creation of a sustainable society, and introduce various practical cases that feature social equity or related themes where IGES has played a central role.

(2) Accelerating implementation of the Paris Agreement (“Make society net zero and resilient”)

Our world is experiencing various crises due to climate change, such as extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and ecological damage, but the window of achieving the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement is rapidly closing. This highlights the urgent need for us to make the transition to a net-zero and resilient society. To achieve the 1.5°C goal, IGES actively participates in discussions at an international level, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). We also cooperate closely with national governments and various non-state actors, including local governments and the private sector, providing support for the development of net-zero roadmaps and strategies. We also work to mainstream adaptation and mitigation measures. In this way, IGES forges ahead towards creating a net-zero and resilient society.

a. Enhancing implementability of the Paris Agreement

At the heart of the successful implementation of the Paris Agreement is whether and how effectively a ratchet-up mechanism through which Parties will increase ambition over time can work. By the end of 2021, many Parties raised the level of their climate action (mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation), but a significant gap still exists between the current levels of action and the levels required to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. By 2025, the year of the next round of the NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution) submission cycle, IGES envisages that the ratchet-up mechanism will be functioning.

To ensure this happens, IGES aims to generate impacts in the implementation of the ratchet-up mechanism. In particular, IGES will conduct research-based capacity building for Article 6 participation, reporting under the transparency framework, and participation in the global stocktake, while updating a reliable database of NDCs. To this end, IGES will work closely with international processes on climate change, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), G7, G20 and other related processes.

At the same time, provision and dissemination of science-based information is essential for the urgent action needed to address climate change. To this end, IGES also actively contributes to the processes of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), for the 6th Assessment Report (AR6) and upcoming 7th Assessment Report (AR7) cycles, as well as communicating the findings of the reports to relevant stakeholders such as local governments, business, and a general audience in an accessible manner.

Major activities in FY2024 include research-based capacity building for Article 6 participation, reporting under the transparency framework, and the follow-up of the first global stocktake, as well as engagement in international negotiations processes such as UNFCCC, G7 and G20. In particular, in November 2023, IGES started serving as the secretariat of the Paris Agreement Article 6 Implementation Partnership Center (hereinafter, ‘A6IP Center’), as stated in the Communiqué of the G7 Minister’s Meeting on Climate, Energy, and Environment (hereinafter, ‘the Communiqué’) concluded in April 2023. IGES will formulate tangible cases of implementing Article 6, by conducting actual capacity-building activities in several key countries such as Viet Nam, Bangladesh and Tunisia, as well as by supporting the submission of the initial report from the state parties under Article 6 to UNFCCC Secretariat through JCM (Joint Crediting Mechanism) projects. Moreover, through the A6IP Center as well as through the JCM, IGES will contribute to promoting the mechanism of international cooperation under Article 6 by holding workshops to enhance Article 6 implementation as well as expansion of JCM. The implementation of Article 6 also aims to build up high integrity of carbon markets, and workshops organised by the A6IP Center can be an opportunity to present actual cases of “Principles of High Integrity of Carbon Markets,” which were embedded into the Communiqué. On a different note, through the A6IP Center’s activities in FY 2023, the A6IP now comprises 76 state parties, around 30 UN/International institutes, and over 100 private sector organisations as of April 2024.

Based upon our research results, IGES also provides capacity building programmes for the development of NDCs and Long-term Low Emissions Development Strategies (LT-LEDS) by developing countries, in collaboration with JICA. Opportunities in the IPCC AR7 cycle will also be explored.

b. Promoting Net zero Japan

Japan declared its commitment to net zero emissions by 2050 in October 2020. To this end, related national strategies, policies and plans, for example, the Green Growth Strategy, the Strategic Energy Plan, and the Plan for Global Warming Countermeasures, were developed to align with net zero emissions. However, they are not seen as compatible with the 1.5°C goal. Many local governments in Japan declared their intentions to become net zero by 2050 at a municipal level. However, most of them have not yet developed strategies, roadmaps and policies to attain net zero emissions.

Against these backgrounds, IGES aims to contribute to the process of developing the next Strategic Energy Plan by developing a net zero roadmap which is consistent with the 1.5°C goal and simultaneously considers various social issues, thereby generating impacts on domestic policy process. In addition, the roadmap (“IGES 1.5°C Roadmap”) was co-created with stakeholders such as private companies, in particular Japan Climate Leaders Partnership (JCLP) members, and local governments to ensure its feasibility and broad support.

In FY2024, IGES will aim at building momentum for a wide business stakeholder coalition to support 1.5°C aligned actions by actively outreaching IGES 1.5°C Roadmap with clear target of audience. At the local level, IGES will contribute to the capacity development of local governments to achieve their net zero emissions goals.

With regard to the achievement of net-zero emissions, the use of Carbon Markets/credits can be also considered as one of the means, whilst, "the use of credits should be in relation to unavoidable emissions and where science-based climate change mitigation strategies and targets are in place that prioritize direct action to mitigate emissions" (ii: Demand-side Integrity, "Principles of High Integrity Carbon Markets"). The A6IP Center will collaborate with various initiatives, which are working for high integrity carbon markets, Japanese companies which are working for net-zero, and others to conduct test application of the standards issued by the international initiatives. By disseminating such test examples in various opportunities, the A6IP Center is to contribute to high integrity of corporate activities for net-zero in Japan.

c. Promoting Net zero Asia

Asia is in a unique position as the world accelerates towards net zero targets. The region's vulnerability to climate change impacts demands urgent attention. In addition, there is a need to uplift the huge populations in developing economies out of poverty and ensure their well-being, thus placing a huge responsibility on the region. On the other hand, the leading four economies in the region, Japan, China, India and the Republic of Korea have all set timelines for achieving net zero goals, in tune with their national circumstances. The carbon market within the region also began making notable strides. It is, however, critically important for these countries to accelerate their efforts to achieve net zero and contribute to the 1.5°C goal.

By understanding how the net zero targets are gaining policy importance in the region, and also learning from experiences of each country, IGES continues to research several critical areas with an aim to contributing to the realisation of net zero in Asia. IGES is conducting research on net zero emissions and climate-resilient development pathways to develop guidance for a national long-term roadmap to synergise mitigation and adaptation by examining net-zero transition and its implications on resilience/adaptation in Asia. Furthermore, IGES develops a strategic action plan on climate change toward 2030 for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) using the guidance's methodology to facilitate an integrated transition synergising long-term mitigation and adaptation. Research on transboundary climate risks in Asia is being carried out and will make recommendations for how Japan can contribute to regional efforts to deal with the physical risks of climate change impacts, as well as transition risks associated with decarbonisation in Asia. Research is also being done on co-innovation and use of JCM for greater collaboration between developing and developed economies on environmental technologies, and this can lead to

innovative solutions for deploying mitigation technologies in developing countries. By following and outreaching progress achieved by various countries in the development of carbon markets and pricing, as well as air pollution-climate co-benefit policies, and the finer nuances of policy impetus, IGES also contributes to policy promotion domestically and internationally. Since achieving net-zero in Asia hinges on the sustainability of global mineral value chain needed for energy transition IGES conducts research to highlight global issues pertaining to supply-side concerns, environmental and social impacts and justice dimensions of the mineral value chain.

In FY2024, major activities will include: (1) strengthening policy research for promoting net zero strategies with a focus on climate-resilient and just energy transition in Asia; (2) strengthening climate mitigation collaboration among Asian countries using JCM and co-innovation approaches; (3) strengthening policy research and mutual learning for better carbon pricing practices in Asia; (4) strengthening engagement with academia, international organisations and industry for clean technology promotion; and (5) strengthening co-benefits research focusing on air pollution and climate co-benefits in Asia; (6) conducting research and preparing a guidance document on an integrated roadmap for mitigation and adaptation towards achieving a net zero and resilient society for ASEAN countries (and other Asian countries); and (7) building a methodology and preparing a draft of the ASEAN Climate Change Strategic Action Plan 2025-2030 (ACCSAP) that is to be published by the end of 2025.

d. Promoting Net zero Cities

Local actions are imperative to achieve the ambitious commitment to carbon neutrality, and local and regional governments play an important role to ensure and accelerate local climate actions. More than 1,200 cities and regions in the world had joined the global campaign “Race to Zero” by April 2024, and more cities are indicating their commitments to be net zero by at the latest 2050. In Japan, 1078 local and regional governments had declared their commitment to zero carbon by 2050 by the end of March 2024. It is critical to maintain this “zero-carbon city movement.” to encourage more cities to join the movement and ensure implementation of local climate actions. Climate actions not only address the climate crisis but also promote local economic opportunities such as creation of new industries and services, new or better job opportunities and just transition, which could contribute to the achievement of the SDGs at the local level.

IGES has been working closely with local and regional governments in Japan and Asia towards low-carbon/zero-carbon city development through city-to-city collaboration projects, policy studies, and regional and international conferences aiming at capacity development of cities through knowledge sharing. IGES is also engaged in city-to-city collaboration between Japanese cities and cities in European Union (EU) on sustainability agenda including climate change. IGES also supported and contributed to the IIASA-Japan joint project on climate change and cities. Through these activities, IGES aims to support local governments in developing roadmaps and action plans for the realisation of zero-carbon cities and to improve climate literacy for citizens and local businesses.

Based on these past activities, in FY2024, IGES will continue to be engaged in knowledge exchange on zero-carbon city actions, and will conduct research and projects to support cities and regions working towards decarbonisation. In Japan, IGES will continue a study to explore roles of intermediate organisations that could support local governments to design and implement decarbonisation projects. It will also focus on public participation-type planning process based on multi-stakeholder dialogues using the IGES-made methodology of 1.5°C lifestyle workshops and citizens’ climate assemblies. Besides, IGES will support local small and medium-sized enterprises to raise climate literacy and promote a transformation for decarbonisation in collaboration with local governments. In Asia, IGES will continue city-to-city collaboration between Japanese and Asian Cities. IGES will also organise international conferences and webinars that disseminate internationally lessons learned from leading cases among cities and provide recommendations on ways to accelerate local climate actions, such as the Zero Carbon City International Forum and other relevant events. Through the collaboration of IIASA and Japan, IGES will take action to promote Japan’s contribution to the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities.

e. Mainstreaming and promoting implementation of climate adaptation

The Paris Agreement stipulates adaptation as one of the two pillars of climate change measures along with mitigation, and calls for further adaptation actions in each country and globally coordinated efforts to achieve the Global Goal on Adaptation newly set in the Paris Agreement. In order to mainstream climate change adaptation and promote its implementation, a number of measures are needed, including further dissemination of information, capacity building of relevant organisations and actors, securing adequate funding, and sharing of good practices. In addition, synergistic effects with other pressing issues (e.g. adaptation and disaster prevention, adaptation and mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity conservation, adaptation and marine conservation, etc.) must be pursued to resolve adaptation issues in Asia-Pacific countries, including Japan.

IGES will play a leading role in the full-scale operation of the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT), which was launched jointly with the Ministry of the Environment and the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) to improve the environment for decision-making and practical adaptation actions in response to climate risks, in order to contribute to enhancing adaptation capacity of Asian countries. Furthermore, IGES will disseminate valuable information on climate change adaptation in the Asia-Pacific region through AP-PLAT. In addition, IGES will participate in various international initiatives and contribute to global efforts on adaptation while strengthening cooperation with relevant organisations and networks. IGES will also actively participate in various international initiatives and contribute to global efforts on adaptation while strengthening cooperation with relevant organisations and networks. Finally, IGES will contribute to international negotiations on adaptation through strategic policy recommendations based on a comprehensive analysis of international adaptation policies and actions to ensure that the Global Goal on Adaptation functions as an effective policy goal and that the Global Stocktaking Process functions effectively to achieve it.

Major activities and expected outcomes in FY2024 include contents and tools development for capacity development programme under AP-PLAT and regional/global engagements on adaptation processes and events. Specific activities include: compound and cascading disaster risk management at the national and local level; conducting capacity development analysis and programmes on the Adaptation Planning of the Asia Pacific; developing AP-PLAT Adaptation Database for promoting adaptation efforts through introducing good practices; testing and operationalising risk assessment methodology, application of the guidelines, cross-learning, multi-stakeholder engagement and capacity building under ASEAN Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation project (DRR-CCA) Phase 2; promotion of locally led adaptation (LLA) (including traditional and local knowledge system) through GCF readiness projects and joint IGES-APN initiatives on establishing LLA model case sites in Fiji, Nepal and Viet Nam, and participation as a supporting organisation to LLA principles through networks such as LLA hub of Global Center on Adaptation, LLA community of practices, Gobeshona Global Conference on LLA. Moreover, we are also contributing to different global assessment reports as well as doing a ground-based research aiming to make a strong empirical case that demonstrates nexus and transformative changes, and disintegrative solution pathways for different regions. For this, we are going to use different holistic approaches like socio-hydrology, planetary health etc., and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) simulation models in various case studies from Viet Nam, Nepal, Bangladesh, India etc. using different elements and their interlinkages.

(3) Accelerating implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (“Put biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030”)

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on Earth, and it is responsible for a multitude of ecosystem services that benefit humankind in complex ways. The rapid rate of biodiversity loss is a major challenge to humanity. IGES aims to contribute toward the recovery of biodiversity through the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and to the international discussions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). IGES also works closely with countries in Asia, carrying out solution-oriented research and offering technical support and capacity building.

a. Strengthening global biodiversity policy processes

Biodiversity policy and strategy at the international level (including on forests) plays a significant role in guiding biodiversity policy and strategy at the national and subnational levels. The most prominent current international biodiversity strategy is “Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), which was adopted by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It is complemented by the international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ).

The GBF was negotiated and adopted two years later than scheduled, due partly to the COVID-19 pandemic, and is valid until 2030. Countries around the world, therefore, have only six more years to reach the targets laid out in the GBF. Developing countries have a particular challenge, as they host most of the world’s biodiversity but often have the least capacity to conserve it. Support is needed from governments, and from organisations like IGES with years of experience especially in Asia and the Pacific. As a global policy research institute that includes biodiversity in its focus, IGES is becoming increasingly visible and active in international biodiversity processes, especially those involving the CBD and the Science-Policy Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). IGES provides technical advice and on-the-ground support, as well as conducting high quality and relevant research to inform biodiversity policy.

In FY2024 IGES will host and support the technical support unit for the IPBES Taskforce on Scenarios and Models. IGES will also continue supporting four researchers’ participation in the IPBES nexus assessment and IPBES transformative change assessment, and will continue contributing to key CBD, IPBES and other key global biodiversity documents and processes. IGES will also support and advise on the contribution of Japanese experts and governments to the IPBES process, particularly the 11th meeting of the IPBES Plenary, as well as supporting the dissemination of IPBES outcomes in Japan through events and translations of key outputs into Japanese. Further, IGES will strengthen its support to the Ministry of the Environment (MOEJ) at the OECD on important items that are also relevant to the CBD negotiations, such as engaging with the Working Party and providing expertise on national policies and investments related to biodiversity and ecosystems, and on the investigation of harmful subsidies. IGES will strengthen policy-relevant research particularly on socio-ecological scenarios and an integrated assessment model in Japan and other Asian countries. IGES aims to continue publishing biodiversity content in top peer-reviewed journals and key outlets of popular science communication.

b. Promoting sustainable land use and ecosystem conservation

The first two of the three objectives of the CBD are the conservation of biodiversity, and its sustainable use. The GBF includes a target to expand terrestrial and marine protected areas (including “other effective area-based conservation measures”) to 30% each by 2030. While gains are being made in forest cover in some parts of the world, the biodiverse tropics continue to be lost to agricultural expansion and other anthropogenic uses. Meanwhile, in developed parts of the world, land abandonment is often more of a challenge than land conversion, posing its own unique challenges. IGES will continue international collaborative research on land abandonment and restoration in Japan, Taiwan, the United States, France and Italy to generate policy recommendations.

IGES will continue contributing to the Forest Declaration Assessment, which assesses progress toward the global goals of halting deforestation by 2030 as set out in international declarations such as the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use. In addition, IGES will conduct research on sustainable land-use management to achieve global biodiversity conservation and reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the land sector. IGES will propose policy recommendations through exploring scenarios/pathways for a sustainable and resilient future under climate and ecosystem changes in Japan, Philippines and Indonesia. In doing so, IGES will produce knowledge and provide policy inputs to Japan and global stakeholders by enhancing collaboration with key partner organisations.

IGES will reinforce its contributions to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity on production lands and seas through the Satoyama Initiative, particularly by coordinating the Satoyama Development Mechanism (SDM), promoting a manual on mainstreaming landscape approaches into national biodiversity strategies and action plans

(NBSAPs), and supporting the government of Mauritius to recover from the 2020 MV Wakashio oil spill and promoting sustainable tourism while conserving and restoring ecosystems. IGES will also contribute to research and capacity building to operationalise IPBES's Nature Futures Framework toward a more sustainable and resilient future in Japan and other Asian countries. IGES will continue a research project on sustainable aquatic food systems in collaboration with WorldFish to operationalise IPBES's Nature Futures Framework and GBF in south and southeast Asia.

In FY2024, IGES starts a new research project funded by MOEJ to promote nature positive supply chains in the ASEAN region. Japan is heavily dependent on the natural capital of ASEAN countries through the import of various biological resources. Unsustainable production combined with climate change destabilises biological resources and this is now seen as an economic security issue related to the securing of biological resources in the ASEAN region. This project will gather information and study methodologies for promoting nature positive in the supply chains of natural resources from ASEAN countries to Japan, and will make policy recommendations to the relevant Japanese ministries. It will contribute to the achievement of biodiversity targets of Japan and ASEAN countries under the GBF and enhance non-state actors' involvement in conservation.

c. Facilitating non-state actors' involvement in conservation

While great expectations are placed on governments to address environmental issues, including biodiversity and forest conservation, their capacity is limited and varies from country to country. Collectively, business and other non-state actors have arguably an even bigger role to play, and considerably more untapped potential. Companies' attention to conservation has increased with the launch of guidance from the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) in September 2023. IGES is in a position to work with both governments and non-state actors, and even to foster public-private partnerships between them. An increasing proportion of IGES work on biodiversity involves non-state actors, especially business.

IGES will continue supporting forestry and timber business sectors, mainly in Japan, to purchase timber while avoiding illegally-sourced products. This will be done by supporting the implementation of the revised Clean Wood Act (CWA) by the Japanese government and researching the legal frameworks of timber producer countries and due diligence policy in demand-side countries, as well as practices by private companies. Given increasing global attention to promote private companies' actions, such as the EU regulation on deforestation-free products (EUDR) and the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) for zero-carbon transition, IGES will also research production and supply chains of forest risk commodities (timber, palm oil, coffee, cacao, rubber, etc.) focusing on policies and practice on the ground, as well as providing support to the business sector to improve their supply chains.

In FY2024, IGES will continue supporting Japan's involvement in key biodiversity-related global business initiatives, particularly TNFD. IGES also will continue supporting businesses to put such frameworks into practice, for example, through a contribution to the Japan Conference for 2030 Global Biodiversity Framework (J-GBF) and a survey of companies associated with the Japan Business Federation (Keidanren) to implement annual corporate surveys to assess biodiversity practices of businesses in Japan. It will also work with the tourism sector in Mauritius to enable the country to engage in sustainable tourism. IGES will collaborate with non-state actors and various local stakeholders to build future scenarios/visions for nature positive society/future at national, prefectural and local municipality scales. As a critical focus, IGES will continuously implement research projects to facilitate and enable the transformation of the production of agriculture and forestry commodities and their supply chains into a nature-positive process. In doing so, IGES will produce knowledge and provide policy advice to Japan and global stakeholders, while contributing to the achievement of global forest and biodiversity objectives.

(4) Shaping circular economy and sustainable lifestyles (“Make it circular”)

The current economic model is characterised by mass-production, mass consumption and mass disposal, and this is causing serious environmental degradation and pollution. To achieve a sustainable society, we need to make the transition to a circular economy and embrace sustainable lifestyles. IGES is contributing to this mission through a

wide range of activities in both developing and developed countries in Asia. IGES supports ASEAN member countries with their policy development to tackle marine plastic pollution. Working closely with a diverse range of partners, we propose policy options that encourage changes in lifestyles, services and distribution systems so that societies can make the switch to a circular economy based on effective resource circulation and sharing. Through the IGES Centre Collaborating with UNEP on Environmental Technologies or “CCET”, we also work closely with cities in Asia and contributes to promoting their waste management and recycling systems.

a. Mainstreaming circular economy

Along with mainstreaming of plastic pollution issues, mainstreaming of the circular economy (CE) as a policy agenda is now observed widely both at global and national level. In the current discussion on circular economy, there is both waste management-focused CE, and CE beyond waste management and recycling. At the same time, CE approach beyond waste management and recycling is yet to materialise either as policy or as a business model. From now on, it is vital to develop and strengthen policy discourse and approaches to CE beyond recycling and as an entry point for transition to sustainable socio-technical systems.

In this context, IGES needs to develop a new theory of policy development for transition to circular economy and to conduct experimental projects facilitating new circular business models. In its capacity as a major policy think-tank in the Asia-Pacific region on circular economy policy, IGES will seek synergies and coordination among a range of on-going international initiatives on circular economy concentrating in the ASEAN and South Asian region. IGES will contribute in developing indicator systems for measuring the progress of CE beyond recycling in the International Resource Panel (IRP), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and other relevant processes. IGES aims to secure international collaborative research projects on food and plastics to enhance its expertise on policy research and incentive development for circular business models and lifestyles. By being involved with city action plan development on the 3Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle) and plastic pollution in ASEAN member countries and South Asian countries, IGES will try to establish several model cities such as those in Viet Nam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

In FY2024, IGES will continue to play a key role to support the governments in the Asia-Pacific region, including the Japanese government in facilitating discussions on effective policy principles and instruments including EPR, to implement circular economy business models through its engagement in the G7, G20, OECD and IRP. In addition, IGES will play a central role in mainstreaming the Circular Economy concept in business sectors through its engagement with J4CE, Platform for Accelerating Circular Economy (PACE), Global Plastic Action Partnership, and Alliance to End Plastic Waste. In addition to providing policy support, IGES, as the secretariat of the J4CE initiative, will collaborate with member companies to implement innovative business models, green technologies, and producer responsibility practices. Together, we aim to reduce waste generation starting from the upstream product design phase.

To ensure effective implementation of the global plastic agreement to be adopted in 2024, IGES contributes to enhance understanding and capacity for different policy instruments and data needs by national and city governments to tackle challenges associated with plastic pollution. In close collaboration with ERIA Regional Knowledge Center on Marine Plastic Debris, COBSEA, ASEAN Secretariat, G20, and the World Bank, aiming at capacity development for data-driven policy making in emerging economies, IGES will play a central role in coordinating various knowledge initiatives on plastics issues in ASEAN+3 and beyond. In particular, IGES and ERIA will establish an expert working group on Extended Producer Responsibility in ASEAN+3 to facilitate exchanges in policy and research experiences among experts and policy makers.

b. Mainstreaming sustainable lifestyles

The IPCC Working Group III Report published in April 2022 has a new chapter focusing on demand-side mitigation measures, including lifestyle, society and culture. The need for lifestyle changes toward net zero societies has been broadly recognised. In addition, carbon footprint analysis has become widespread in the past decade, enabling a

deeper understanding of the impact of citizens' lifestyles on GHG emissions. Changes in lifestyles can only be achieved if socioeconomic contexts of cities and communities are transformed and broader options of decarbonised products, services and behavioural choices are available. Therefore, strengthened support to the multi-stakeholder efforts to create alternative socioeconomic contexts, fully utilising scientific methods such as carbon footprint analysis and behavioural insights, are vital measures for realising inclusive transformations toward sustainable lifestyles.

IGES has taken on a leading role in promoting international cooperation, national and local policies, and grassroots initiatives to facilitate the transitions of lifestyles. At the same time, in each country and community, the project aims to strengthen methods to use scientific findings, such as carbon footprints, to shape local government policies and promote grassroots initiatives that are closely linked to lifestyles. Furthermore, IGES will contribute to international partnerships that facilitate collaboration between SMEs and others providing products and services, local communities and civil society organisations to ensure that decarbonised products, services, infrastructure and behaviour options are made available to cities and communities around the world.

In FY2024, IGES will continue to promote sustainable living through several key projects: (1) IGES will work with local citizens and governments to develop local visions and action plans toward local decarbonisation in a few municipalities including Kanagawa Prefecture, where IGES headquarters is located. Additionally, IGES will work with local educators to develop and test educational programmes on decarbonisation and lifestyles in highschools. IGES will also develop a guidance and a training programme for local actors such as educators and civil-society organisations to utilise the 1.5-Degree Lifestyles method to empower local communities to promote low-carbon living; (2) IGES has launched an action research project focusing on sustainable food consumption and production in local societies in two areas of Japan, namely, Osaka and Minami-sanriku. The project will engage with local citizens, producers and governments to analyse the impacts of the current food consumption/production on biodiversity loss and climate change, identify and pilot actions to enable alternative modes in which communities engage with food systems, and create local visions; (3) IGES has been working with partners in Asian countries to pilot the application of behavioural insights approach in tackling single-use plastic in school campuses and cafeterias. Building on the achievements up to FY2023, IGES will enhance the application of the guidance for local policymakers and practitioners to use behavioural insights in reducing plastic wastes, and establish stronger partnership with policymakers; and (4) IGES will continue discussions with national/regional partners on shaping new or continued international partnerships to enhance social experiments/entrepreneurships promoting decarbonised and circular living in Asia and the world.

c. Ending pollution and improving environmental quality

Managing pollution is crucial to improving human health and well-being as well as moving towards a pollution-free planet in line with the SDGs. Addressing waste, chemicals and air pollution is also linked to climate change mitigation, especially when action is taken against short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs, e.g. methane and black carbon). Emerging waste, such as plastics, e-waste and health-care as well as the implication this has for chemicals and pollution is a powerful motivation for sound management of chemicals and waste, as agreed on by the Member States at UNEA (United Nations Environment Assembly)-5.2.

In this regard, IGES, along with UNEP, ESCAP, World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and others, will continue supporting national and local governments to develop integrated waste management strategies and policies considering the reduction of SLCPs emissions, formulating evidence-based national plastic and marine litter action plans based on the 3Rs, as well as increasing resource efficiency and circularity while providing technical support to national and local governments in the region to strengthen institutional capacities and facilitate their implementation at the city level. To achieve this, IGES will continue its active involvement within the UNEP-CCAC (Climate and Clean Air Coalition) -Waste Hub and National Planning Hub in providing technical support and building capacities of developing countries in Asia (Indonesia, Cambodia, Micronesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka) to reduce SLCPs emissions from the waste sector, through managing food loss and waste, closing open dumps and reducing open waste burning. IGES also aims to integrate such measures into NDCs and other development plans.

In this year, IGES and its partners (Engineering X, the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA), Practical Action and UN Habitat) launched a new global project “Creating the enabling conditions for eliminating open burning of waste through regional roadmaps and city pilots” supported by the UNEP-CCAC

As for the plastic pollution prevention, IGES will provide technical support to national and local governments in at least three countries in the region to build the capacity to establish sound data management, policies and monitoring systems to manage transboundary plastic pollution in close collaboration with UNEP and ERIA Regional Knowledge Center for Marine Plastic Debris. IGES also engages with regional (ASEAN and South Asia) and global (INC, UNEA, G20, G7) policy dialogues for mainstreaming plastic pollution.

In FY2024, IGES will continue developing its expertise in the SLCPs reduction strategy through: (1) development of regional roadmap in Asia for reduction of black carbon emissions from waste sector; and (2) development of methane emission reduction roadmap in Cambodia and Micronesia, and in policy assessment on the plastic issue through: (1) development and maintenance of decision-making tools to estimate indicators such as GHG emissions and plastic leakage; (2) policy assessment of progress in G20 actions and publish 6th Report on Actions Against Marine Plastic Litter; (3) contribute to the technical working group on marine plastic debris of ERIA Regional Knowledge Center; and (4) contributing to OECD’s Global Plastic Outlook in Asia.

Regarding the impact generation, IGES has set the following key performance indicators ISRP8 (Table 2).

Table 2. ISRP8 Key Performance Indicators for Impacts

Indicator	Baseline (ISRP7)	Annual Target	2021 Results	2022 Results	2023 Results	2024 Results
Total impact cases reported	25	30	40	34		
(Breakdown) Large-scale cases	-	3	8	7		
(Breakdown) Mid-scale cases	-	7	16	9		
(Breakdown) Other cases	-	20	16	18		
Indicator without Target	Baseline (ISRP7)	Indicative Reference	2021 Results	2022 Results	2023 Results	2024 Results
(Breakdown) International processes	-	n/a	17	14		
(Breakdown) Policy and institutional changes	-	n/a	31	29		
(Breakdown) Practical solutions	-	n/a	23	27		
(Breakdown) Media	-	n/a	9	12		
(Breakdown) Academic	-	n/a	13	16		

1.2. Summary of Actions for Impact Generation

1.2.1. Strategic Outputs

Each research unit should submit their intended publication plans to SMO-RP and submit their intended impact generation cases to SMO-KC at the beginning of each fiscal year, detailing the planned outputs to be produced in the process of impact generation. SMO-KC will consolidate the information and carry out a follow-up to ensure the impact cases are materialised, as well as conducting an assessment of the results at the end of the fiscal year. The assessment will include clarification of linkages between the outputs and impact generation.

In its 7th Phase (ISRP7), IGES had an output target of about 100 publications annually for impact generation. For the 8th Phase (ISRP8), this target was raised to 150 and will include a wider range of output types (referred to as “strategic outputs”). However, this excludes academic articles and equivalent books and book chapters (referred to as “academic outputs”). IGES continues to produce diverse outputs for impact generation. Different types of outputs are appropriate for different target audiences and contexts in which intended impacts are to be generated.

In FY2024, emphasis will continue on the timely delivery of rather shorter outputs which can be produced more quickly and with more streamlined review processes compared to longer and more research-intensive policy reports. These include outputs which mainly provide quick information such as issue briefs and briefing notes as well as outputs which may include recommendations such as commentaries and articles published in non-peer reviewed journals. More emphasis is also expected on documents which are directly submitted to policy processes as well as translations of important non-IGES outputs. This policy does not negate the importance of traditional research-intensive, full-length policy reports, but aims to ensure the balanced dissemination of a variety of outputs that meet the needs of target audiences and the objectives of each impact generation case.

The key performance indicators for strategic outputs set for ISRP8 are presented in Table 3.

Table 3 ISRP8 Key Performance Indicators for Strategic Outputs

Indicator	ISRP7 Target	ISRP8 Target	2021 Results	2022 Results	2023 Results	2024 Results
Number of strategic outputs	100	150	226	167		

1.2.2. Academic Outputs

In ISRP8, IGES set a target of 100 academic outputs per year. This includes not only peer reviewed journal articles, but also academic books and book chapters as well as IGES research reports and working papers. In addition, ISRP8 sets a sub-target of 20 academic outputs with an IGES researcher as first author. IGES will also monitor the number of articles published in peer reviewed journals with impact factors larger than 3, as well as the number of citations received in a calendar year by peer reviewed journal articles published within the last five years. Scopus will be the main database used to monitor the number of citations instead of the Web of Science. Scopus includes a wider range of peer-reviewed journals and other publication types, so it is more appropriate considering the broad range of IGES research activities and target audiences.

IGES will continue to be involved in various assessment reports in FY2024. Eight IGES researchers are contributing to UNEP’s Global Environment Outlook (GEO7), two as Coordinating Lead Authors (CLA) and six as Lead Authors (LA). IGES researchers are also contributing to the IPBES Nexus Assessment, one as a CLA, and two as review editors. One IGES researcher is a Fellow of the IPBES Transformative Change Assessment. Two IGES researchers are contributing to the Second State of the 3Rs in the Asia Pacific report.

Sustainability Science, an internationally recognised peer-reviewed journal with a high impact factor (6.0, 2022) is a joint publication between IGES and the University of Tokyo. The editorial office is located at IGES. The journal is expecting its impact factor to continue to increase in 2024, which will further enhance its reputation as well as IGES as the host institution. The journal publishes six issues per year including various special features covering

timely topics including SDGs, circular economy, energy transition and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Topics of special features expected to be completed in 2024 include special-purpose currencies for sustainability, citizens' attitudes, preferences, willingness-to-pay for climate change mitigation options in Asia, understanding the embeddedness of individuals within the larger system to support the energy transition, Agriculture (re-)territorialisation: Balancing the promotion of local products and international trade in Europe, and operationalising the nature futures framework to catalyse the development of nature-future scenario. In addition, IGES researchers are encouraged to submit articles to the journal. All articles published in the journal (not only articles written by IGES researchers) contain the IGES logo mark, which has increased the visibility of IGES in the field of sustainability science. The editorial office also facilitates IGES researchers to publish books in the series "Science for Sustainable Societies" published by Springer.

The key performance indicators for academic publications and impacts set for ISRP8 are presented in Table 4.

Table 4. ISRP8 Key Performance Indicators for Academic Publications and Impacts

Indicator	ISRP7 Target	Annual Target	2021 Results	2022 Results	2023 Results	2024 Results
Academic publications	30 [1]	100	104	108		
Of which first-authored academic publications	-	20	45	35		
Indicator without Target	ISRP7 Target	Indicative Reference	2021 Results	2022 Results	2023 Results	2024 Results
IGES flagship and priority publications	2	4 (FY2020)	5	4		
Number of peer reviewed articles with Impact Factor over 3	-	28 (Feb. 2020-Feb. 2021)	66 (CY2021, Scopus)	79 (CY2022, Scopus)		
Number of citations received in a calendar year by academic articles published in the past 5 years	-	714 (CY2020)	1,433 (CY2021)	2,007 (CY2022)		
Annual increase in citations of academic articles in Scopus/Web of Science from previous year (February) [2]	-	34% (WOS Feb. 2020-Feb. 2021)	34% (CY2021, Scopus)	34% (CY2022, Scopus)		

[1] Only peer reviewed journal articles

[2] During the transition from WOS to Scopus in FY2021, figures from Scopus and WOS will be compared.

1.2.3. Strategic Networking and Communications

Along with strategic and academic outputs, strategic networking and communications are indispensable elements for impact generation. IGES defines impact as tangible societal changes, as well as changes in individual behaviour, due to actions taken by IGES and its partners. In other words, the purpose of strategic networking and communications is to plan, coordinate and execute the operations necessary to deliver IGES messages in a way that stimulates people's thinking and behaviour. It is important to promote project planning and implementation with a clear view regarding their objectives and means. To this end, we should firstly clarify what kinds of changes are intended, then we should also deal with the question of 'to whom, when, and how key messages and recommendations derived from IGES research should be delivered' in the course of project planning and implementation.

Strategic networking allows IGES to not only build and maintain relationships with partners who share the same objectives, but also leverage the strengths of each partner to enhance joint operations and create synergies.

Depending on the characteristics of the partner, there are various types of networks, including those that contribute to the co-production of strategic and academic products and those that contribute to the creation and enhancement of opportunities to disseminate IGES messages and recommendations. These networks will form the basis for IGES strategic operations.

The purpose of strategic communications is to use IGES communication channels to deliver key messages and recommendations from its original strategic and academic publications, as well as main findings from important global assessments on the environment and sustainable development. IGES communication channels include but are not limited to online and face-to-face events convened by IGES and its partners, press releases and announcements, websites, newsletters and social media. External media such as newspapers, TV and radio programmes, and magazines are also utilised when considered viable and effective. Strategic communications are essential for impact generation.

In FY2023, both the number of web views and media coverage are expected to exceed the baseline. The number of website views decreasing compared to the previous year, which is due to the fact that, from October 2023, IGES has changed its specifications for obtaining information on the behaviour of visitors to the IGES website only with the visitor's permission. Against this backdrop, the Global Stocktake and COP28 feature pages were launched early, as in the previous year, and content was actively added. These pages served well as media references, with the result that many COP-related articles in the media mentioned global stocktaking as a focus point. As such, it could be said that IGES was successful in shaping the tone of the debate.

In FY2024, activities related to strategic communication will be promoted by continuing to closely monitor the search volume of keywords in Japan and in other countries according to Google Trend. In Japan, the trend is that interest in climate change is declining, while interest in biodiversity is increasing. In 2024, with CBD COP16 coming up, it is necessary to take measures to link this trend to the inflow of visitors to the IGES website and media coverage. Outside of Japan, global search keyword trends show a downward trend for biodiversity, but an upward trend for climate change and circular economy. In order to capture these trends, we will strengthen our English-language content, utilise social networking services and strengthen our communication through the Google Ad Grant (free Google advertising space). Furthermore, in 2024, the final year of the 8th Phase, we will prepare a web renewal for more effective outreach with a view to the concept of the 9th Phase.

Table 5. ISRP8 Key Performance Indicators for Strategic Networking and Communications

Indicator without Target	Baseline (ISRP7)	Indicative Reference	2021 Results	2022 Results	2023 Results	2024 Results
Pageviews of IGES Website	854,000	Annual increase by 20,000	1,404,461	1,140,774		
Media Coverage	250	300 (2021 target) and annual increase by 10	205	342		

2. Governance

Governance-related matters at IGES will be led by SMO-PM under the supervision of the management (President, and Executive and Acting Managing Directors) in line with the basic principles laid out in ISRP8 in three main components: (1) Financial management, including fundraising (Section 2.1.); (2) Human Resources (HR) management (Section 2.2.), and (3) Internal management (Section 2.3.).

2.1. Financial Management (Budget)

In FY2024, a fiscal balance will be made by keeping the project financial value-added (FVA)¹ ratios of externally-funded projects and raising funds where possible, as well as conducting continued cost-saving measures during implementation. The FY2024 budget continues to include a plan using the Deposit for Promoting Strategic Initiatives² (hereafter referred to as “Deposit”) for implementing IGES own initiatives and strengthening its capacities under the ISRP8 as well as for preparation for ISRP9.

An overview of the FY2024 annual plan budget is presented in Table 6.

Table 6. Overview of FY2024 Budget

(JPY million)

	FY2023 (Budget)	FY2024 (Budget)	2024-2023 Difference	(Reference)		
				TSU	APN	JISE
【Revenue】						
MOEJ and other Contribution	500	500	0	199	217	
Subsidies from Local Government	132	132	0		21	
External fund for Projects	2,175	2,505	330			7
Deposit	95	75	-20			
Others	35	35	0			54
Total	2,937	3,247	310	199	238	61
Support for office rent by Local Government ³	243	444	201	19	10	15
Grand Total	3,180	3,691	511	218	248	76
【Expenditure】						
Operation Costs for Externally Funded Project	940	1,047	107	69	168	9
Operation Costs for Own Initiatives	120	116	-4			
Personnel Costs	1,563	1,764	201	113	62	42
Administrative Costs	314	320	6	17	8	10
Total	2,937	3,247	310	199	238	61
Office rent supported by Local Government ³	243	444	201	19	10	15
Grand Total	3,180	3,691	511	218	248	76
Balance	0	0	0	0	0	0
(Reference)						
Project FVA Ratio (overall average)	62%	62%				
Admin & Facilities Costs per total expenditures	10.2%	9.5%				

¹ See Notes to indicators [3] in the Table 9.

² Deposit for Promoting Strategic Initiatives was established and approved at the Board of Directors (BOD) meeting in June 2015. The term of the Deposit will be extended until the end of ISRP8 (the end of June 2025). Note that the Deposit is set in line with the accounting law that regulates Public Interest Incorporated Foundations and the use of the Deposit is treated as an expense with matching past revenues already recorded in previous fiscal years.

³ Includes JPY 201 million for renovation costs for the headquarters building in Hayama, to address deterioration due to ageing and associated office rent support.

2.1.1. Fundraising (Revenues)

The core fund from MOEJ has been secured for FY2024 to the amount of JPY 500 million,⁴ and support from patron local governments and others are expected to be maintained at a similar level as FY2023. The total volume of project funds raised from funding agencies and other organisations (external funds) is aimed at JPY 2.5 billion (as budget-base), increasing by JPY 330 million from the FY2023 budget.

Each Unit will have specific fundraising goals at the beginning of the fiscal year and update their status to explore new funding opportunities and raise the financial base of IGES as a whole during FY2024. IGES will also work with an external expert to deepen engagement with potential new funding institutes and explore funding opportunities.

Indicating significant progress, IGES will fully operationalise the activities as secretariat to the Paris Agreement Article 6 Implementation Partnership Center with the financial support of around JPY 260 million from the MOEJ. IGES started to host the IPBES-TSU on scenarios and models from March 2024 and the Secretariat of Global Environmental Action (GEA) from April 2024 at TSF, and will also operationalise them. Other mid-large multi-year projects are expected to start, including the JAIF (Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund) project on DRR and ASEAN Climate Change Strategic Action Plan, a new project under IGES Centre Collaborating with UNEP on Environmental Technologies (CCET), and the EU-Japan Green Alliance Facility project⁵. In addition, as for MOEJ's research fund projects namely *Suishin-hi* (Environment Research and Technology Development Fund), IGES has been successfully selected as lead institute on the project for the topic on GHG and related atmospheric substances monitoring data and environmental policies (FY2024-2028).

2.1.2. Resource Utilisation (Expenditures)

(1) Externally Funded Projects

IGES continues to monitor the ratio and volume of project FVA. The target will be achieved by securing the projects with a certain amount of project FVAs, incorporating a certain part of research and operation work by IGES staff members, and minimising outsourcing and other direct expenses (proposing effective virtual workshops and consultations, etc.).

(2) IGES's Own Initiatives

IGES will continue to implement not only a number of activities based on various funded projects (domestic and overseas) but also other activities under its own initiatives:

- Strategic Research Fund (SRF) and Strategic Publication Fund (SPF)
- Networking and partnerships with key organisations and stakeholders, and Strategic Operation Fund (SOF) to support impact generation
- Communications such as website management, management of IGES digital knowledge products, and strategic translations
- Technology Solutions (TS) for responding to online communication and activities internally and externally
- International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific (ISAP) 2024 (combination of on-site and virtual, July 2024)

The Deposit will be used for SRF, SPF, SOF, ISAP, networking activities and others, as well as investment for provision of training opportunities for staff members, fundraising and renovation of website for ISRP9.

⁴ MOEJ's budget for the period of April 2024- March 2025.

⁵ IGES participates as a member of the consortium.

Table 7. Breakdown of IGES Own Initiatives

(JPY million)

Major Items	FY2023	FY2024	Sourced by Deposit
Strategic Research Fund (SRF)	20	16	16
Strategic Publication Fund (SPF)	5	3	3
Strategic Operation Fund (SOF)	15	14	14
ISAP	11	12	12
Outreach	14	13	7
Networking	9	9	9
Publication Support (incl. e-Library, database, etc.)	20	21	
Sustainability Science Secretariat	2	2	2
Technology Solutions	6	7	
Other operations	6	7	
Investment (capacity building, fundraising, website renovation, etc.)	12	12	12
Total	120	116	75

(3) Personnel costs

A considerable level of increase in personnel expenses is expected due to new recruitment of personnel for the implementation of projects newly started and fully operationalised in FY2024. In addition, there will be a uniform salary increase of JPY 100,000 for all full-time staff members, same as in FY2023, considering the impact of continuous price hikes on daily life.

(4) Administration costs

IGES continues to make efforts to maintain daily administration costs, the ratio targeted in the FY2024 budget is set around 10%.⁶ There will be a certain increase in expenditures from outsourcing cost of the IT systems renewal, maintenance and management after five-year use due to a significant increase in contractor's labor cost and inflation over the past several years, and the additional cost of renewing audio equipment and a projector for the conference room at Hayama headquarters after over twenty-year's of use.

2.1.3. Uncertainties in Financial Management

IGES will continue carefully monitoring of the increase in expenses, including travel cost, due to global inflation, an increased energy costs and other factors, as well as an uncertain trend in exchange rates. IGES will implement activities/operations planned in the FY2024 budget flexibly in line with the following points thereby realising sound operations.

- In the case that project FVAs could not be secured as planned, more efforts on cost reduction should be made through utilising internal resources and IT/online tools, reducing any unexpected increase in expenses during project implementation, utilising online or hybrid-type meetings to conserve resources and implement low GHG emissions business practices, and securing additional fund.
- If there is an increase in external funds, priorities will be given to promote IGES own initiatives and respond to emerging issues.

⁶ See Notes to indicators [4] in the Table 9.

2.2. HR Management

As FY2024 is the final year of the ISRP8, HR management will aim to ensure that personnel are available for the next period. It will also focus on the following points in an effort to make IGES more SDG-compatible and raise the capacity of staff members.

- Organise various regulations, guidelines, etc. in order to comply with changes in legislation and operate more efficiently to contribute to strengthening both productivity and work-life balance.
- Introduce the evaluation system and the labour management system to further improve the efficiency of administrative procedures.
- Promote IGES's diversity, equity and inclusion (DE&I) and work-life balance issues in the context of SDGs by setting an institutional initiative to identify issues/challenges and possible measures for improvement successively.
- Consider clarifying career plans and continue to explore capacity development opportunities for staff members including training or secondments to other organisations.
- Implement a mentoring programme (started in FY2022) focusing on newly appointed staff members to support communication and professional development aiming to ensure stable retention of staff members.
- Maintain childcare support certification (so-called *Kurumin*⁷) and women's participation promotion certification (so-called *L-boshi*⁸) successively by further improving/introducing necessary measures.

The number of full-time staff members planned for FY2024 is presented in Table 8.

Table 8. IGES Full-time Staff Members (Planned)

(Positions)

Categories	FY2023 (As of April 2024)		FY2024 (Plan, as of April 2024)
		Ratio of Female	
Professional Staff	167	52%	176
Principal staff	32	22%	32
Senior staff	71	51%	73
Associate staff	37	70%	45
Administration Specialist	20	80%	20
Dispatched from other organisations	7	0%	6
Assistant Staff	6	80%	6
Total: IGES Full-time Staff members	173	52%	182
Number of Administrative Staff [1] (Ratio of administrative staff to total full-time staff)	17.8 (10%)	61%	17.6 (10%)

Notes:

[1]: Number of staff members at SMO Planning and Management after reflecting the actual contribution caused by concurrent appointment, etc.

⁷ Certified by Labour Bureau of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in Japan to organisations that promote actions to support employees' childcare and satisfy certain standards.

⁸ Certified by Labour Bureau of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in Japan to organisations that promote women's participation and advancement in the workplace.

2.3. Internal Management

In FY2024, IGES internal management will continue implementing the following actions in an effort to make IGES operations more international, swift and transparent to support research and operations in line with ISRP8.

- PM will continue to coordinate internal discussion and prepare the integrative strategic research programme for the 9th Phase (ISRP9) with the management, SMO-KC and SMO-RP, inviting all staff members. As a part of ISRP9 preparation, SMO will identify suitable key performance indicators to achieve its goals and monitor progress.
- PM will continue to improve efficiency for internal administrative procedures in discussion with SMO sections and strengthen governance in consultation with in-house and external experts. PM will continue upgrading the HR system (aforementioned) and the accounting system with new functions, and revising internal rules where necessary.
- SMO Technology Solutions Services (TS) will continue to be the centre for improvement and innovation in IGES systems, tools and communications channels. This work includes continuing to update/modernise internal systems with the goal of enhanced efficiency and equal access. It also includes continuing the ongoing maintenance of existing systems (IGES website, IGES publication database, communication tools) and the introduction of new knowledge management systems and communications services and equipment in order to enhance IGES's impact generation (Section 1). In FY2024 TS will continue to work with the communications team to renew the IGES website. TS will also continue upgrading the online conference system and renew a conference system of HQ meeting room (aforementioned) with facility management team. IGES facility management team will renew and upgrade IGES-wide IT systems and its management contract for the next five-year cycle.
- IGES Eco-Action 21 committee will continue improving the environmental footprint of IGES offices through actions such as (1) reduction of CO2 emissions from energy use at IGES offices (especially Hayama headquarters, which generates the majority of emissions) through saving energy and considering switching electricity suppliers (expansion to renewable energy use), and reducing emissions from overseas mission travel⁹ and (2) promotion of SDG activities by staff members. IGES is scheduled to undergo an interim audit for the environmental management certification (so called Eco-Action 21 programme¹⁰) this year.
- With SMO-KC and SMO-RP, PM will continue coordinating discussions with IGES units and decision-making by management by hosting regular meetings such as monthly senior staff meeting (MSS), SMO executive meeting (SMO-EX)¹¹ and supporting KC in holding cross-unit thematic meetings not only to share information but also to assist units from the goal setting (milestones) to monitoring/evaluation on impact generation, outputs and financial management.
- IGES DE&I taskforce will continue internal discussion to finalise IGES's own DE&I Vision and Action Plan and contribute to the discussion of ISRP9 preparation.

The key performance indicators set for governance for ISRP8 are summarised in Table 9. The results of indicators with annual targets will be reported against targets in the business report in September. Those without annual targets will be also monitored for soundness of operation.

⁹ IGES online overseas mission request form requests traveling staff to report CO2 emissions from airplane use (linking to a calculator) and calls for reducing nonessential travels, combining/shortening overseas missions, or substituting with online meetings.

¹⁰ Certified by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan.

¹¹ SMO-EX is a weekly meeting among the IGES management and SMO Directors.

Table 9. ISRP8 Key Performance Indicators for Governance

Indicator with Annual Target	Baseline (ISRP7)	Target for ISRP8	2021 Results	2022 Results	2023 Results	2024 Results
Core fund contribution from Ministry of the Environment	JPY 500 million	JPY 500 million	JPY 500 million	JPY500 million		
Support from the three local governments (subsidies, etc.) [1]	Around JPY 135 million	Around JPY 135 million	JPY132 million	JPY132 million		
Volume of external funds (other than contribution and subsidies)	USD 20-25 million	USD 22-27 million	JPY1,856 million	JPY2,024 million		
Ratio of international external funds [2]	over 25%	as much as 40%	26%	27%		
Ratio of project financial value-added (FVA) (proposed budget-based) [3]	52% (FY2020 target)	55%	64%	63%		
Ratio of general administrative cost in the total expenditure [4]	9% (FY2020 target)	9%	10.1%	8.8%		
Ratio of administrative staff in total (Number)	11% (FY2020)	9%	8.5%	8.8%		
Ratio of taken annual leave	57% (FY2019)	80%	59%	58%		
Indicator without Target	Baseline (ISRP7)	Indicative Reference	2021 Results	2022 Results	2023 Results	2024 Results
Number of full time staff members	156 (FY2020)	160+ (plan) [5]	163	167		
Ratio of Tenure/Tenure-track staff in total	14% (FY2020)	50% [5]	48%	51%		
Ratio of female staff in management positions (Principal staff)	19% (FY2020)	30% [5]	24%	24%		
Rate of teleworking [6]	40% (FY2020)	40%	40%	39.3%		
Overtime [7]	10.5 hrs (Monthly overtime hours per person in FY2019)	Continue to be reduced	8.4 hrs	8.4 hrs		
CO2 emissions reduction from energy use and overseas missions [8]	450.7 t-CO2 (Energy use, FY2020)	n/a	340.6 t-CO2 (Energy use)	292.0 t-CO2 (Energy use)		
Number of web-based systems introduced, replacing paper-based systems	-	No further paper-based systems [9]	4	4		
Staff Satisfaction Survey [10]	Conducted in 2019	Conducted in FY2023				

Note for indicators:

- [1] Excludes support for HQ office rent from Kanagawa Prefecture and for KRC office rent from Hyogo Prefecture.
- [2] The definition is changed from the 8th Phase, and funds provided by institutions located overseas and funds from international organisations are recorded as “international external funds.”
- [3] Project FVA is calculated as: revenue less project operating expenditures such as outsourcing and travel costs. This is the amount available for personnel and other expenditures necessary for IGES strategic research and operations.
- [4] Excludes administrative costs for APN, JISE and TSU.

- [5] Largely depends on the recruitment (every four years in general) or promotion during the research phase (unscheduled). Figures are from ISRP8.
- [6] The standard level of teleworking (non COVID-19) at the individual level was set at 40% in 2020 when IGES introduced teleworking. During FY2022, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the level was set at approx. 50%, and staff members with special needs (family or health needs) were allowed higher frequencies. The results (the average frequency of teleworking by all staff members) in FY2021 and FY2022 were 44.9% and 39.3%, respectively, based on attendance records of March-May 2022 and March-May 2023, respectively. In accordance with the change of the legal status of COVID-19 that had been lowered to "Class 5" on 8 May 2023, IGES reviewed and renewed its guidelines for teleworking. The revised guidelines went into effect in July 2023 in which the standard level of teleworking is set at approx. 50% to continue improving staff members' life-work balance and their work efficiency.
- [7] Overtime by staff members who are not under the discretionary labour system was applied.
- [8] The volume of CO2 emissions will be monitored and also reported to the environmental management certification audit (*EcoAction 21*).
- [9] Except for systems that are paper-based due to regulatory requirements.
- [10] Administered by Japan Productivity Center (JPC).

Full list of the Common Focal Areas and Major Planned Activities for FY2024

<Unit name>

ISC: Integrated Sustainability Centre; **CE:** Climate and Energy, **SCP:** Sustainable Consumption and Production, **CCET:** IGES Centre Collaborating with UNEP on Environmental Technologies (hosted by SCP), **BDF:** Biodiversity and Forests, **AW:** Adaptation and Water, **BIZ:** Business Taskforce, **CTY:** City Taskforce, **FIN:** Finance Taskforce, **KRC:** Kansai Research Centre, **KUC:** Kitakyushu Urban Centre, **BRC:** Bangkok Regional Centre, **RCC:** UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Center (hosted by BRC), **TSF:** Tokyo Sustainability Forum, **IPBES-TSU:** IPBES Technical Support Units (hosted in TSF), **BJG:** Beijing Office, **SMO:** Strategic Management Office

*Repeated references are indicated in *italics*.

(1) Accelerating implementation of the SDGs “Put SDGs on the ground”		
Sub-focal areas	Related units (not limited to those listed)	Major planned activities for FY2024
a. Enhancing implementability of SDGs in the Asia-Pacific region	<p>Led by: ISC</p> <p>Joined by: AW, BDF, BRC, CCET, CE, CTY, FIN, KUC, SCP, SMO</p>	<p>[International process impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch of the second “Global Climate and SDG Synergy Report” (written by the Expert Group Members, convened by UNDESA and UNFCCC in the occasion of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2024 on July 2024 and follow up activities including the 5th UN Climate and SDGs Synergy Conference in Brazil during 6-8 Sep 2024, Summit of the Future in Sep 2024, CBD/COP16 in Oct 2024, UNFCCC/COP29 in Nov 2024, APFSD 2025 and beyond (President of IGES serves as one of the Expert Group Members and IGES will contribute whole process in collaboration with MOEJ) [ISC, BDF] Contribution to HLPF based on UNEP VNR project, SDGs Synergies Conference, SDG interlinkages tool, and VLR lab [ISC, CTY] IGES side event at HLPF 2024 [ISC] ISAP 2024 in July (Yokohama, Japan) [SMO with all IGES Units] T7/G7 Italy (2024) Policy Brief on G7’s Leadership in Climate Action [ISC] <i>G20 and G7: Support Japanese government to take a leading role in resource efficiency agenda through its involvement to G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue and G7 Resource Efficiency Alliance [SCP, FIN, BDF] [(4)a]</i> <p>[Policy/institutional change impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution to GEO Supporting Services: Module development for Science-Policy Seminars [ISC, CE, AW, BDF, SCP, SMO] Use VNR process to strengthen implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs in Asia [ISC]

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the integration of the SDGs into Japanese business planning and operations [ISC, CE, SCP, BDF] • Strengthen integration between air pollution and climate change in Southeast Asia [ISC] [(2)c, 4(c)] • Sixth ASEAN State of the Environment Report (funded by JAIF) [SMO, BRC, ISC, CE, SCP, CCET, BDF, AW, CTY] [(4)c] • Strategic action plan development to achieve SDGs by 2030 and carbon neutral society by 2050 in Da Nang City through collaboration with Da Nang City Government [ISC] [(2)d] • Application of the SDG interlinkages methodology and tool to thematic issues (climate actions, gender equality, etc.) and inputs to relevant policy processes [ISC] • Integrate health co-benefits into climate planning in cities in Japan and other G7 countries [ISC, CE, SMO] [(1)c] • Synergies and trade-offs of biodiversity-focused SDGs to support the design of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and the monitoring of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) [ISC] • <i>J4CE: Continue to act as a secretariat for J4CE to mainstream circular economy in Japanese business sector [SCP] [(4)a]</i> • <i>OECD, IRP and ERIA: Contributing to Indicator Development on Circular Economy as well as on plastics through its involvement in the expert working group of OECD, IRP, PACE, and ERIA[SCP] [(4)a]</i> • <i>Implementation of a pilot "SDG 6 Model City" project in ASEAN, which aims to facilitate the transfer of innovative decentralised wastewater treatment technologies and development of a regional harmonised method for microplastics sampling, collection and analysis in sewage treatment plants and in receiving water bodies [AW] [(4)a]</i> <p>[Practical solution impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the VLR of the SDGs through webinar, knowledge exchange meeting and others [CTY] • The State of VLR 2024 Report targeted at HLPF 2024 [CTY] • Disseminate Japan's experience and discussions on policy development on sustainable finance including the guidelines on green finance [FIN] • <i>Development of the ASEAN Regional "Harmonised Protocol for Sampling, Analysis and Monitoring of Microplastics in Sewage Treatment Plants and Riverine Environments in ASEAN [AW] [(4)a]</i> • <i>ASEAN's Journey Towards Sustainable Sanitation: A Practical Guide to Decentralised Wastewater Management [AW] [(4)a]</i> • <i>Decentralised Wastewater Management in ASEAN - Training Modules for the Realisation of SDG6 [AW] [(4)a]</i> • <i>Implementation of JICA's SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies to Extinguish Forest and Peatland Fire Using Environment Friendly Soap-based Fire Fighting Foam in Indonesia [KUC, CTY, BDF] [(3)b]</i> <p>[Academic impacts]</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to GEO-7 as a member of Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group [SMO] • Contribution to GEO-7 as coordinating lead authors and lead author [SMO, AW, CCET, ISC] • Contribution to the UNDESA's book on the interlinkages among the SDGs [ISC] • Implement recommendations in ASEAN Clean Air Solutions Report [ISC] [(4)c] • Journal paper on SDG key indicators and data solutions for the SDGs and post-2030 goals measurement [ISC] • Book chapter and journal paper on the WEF nexus approach for SDG advancement [ISC] • Journal papers on the concept of synergies and trade-offs and on the synergies and trade-offs of biodiversity-centric goals in the SDG framework [ISC] • Journal paper on climate and gender (<i>Global Environment Change</i>) [ISC] • Journal paper on climate and health (<i>Sustainability Science</i>) [ISC] • Joint consensus paper on SDG interlinkages by 50 experts/scientists (<i>Nature Communications</i>) [ISC] • Publication on post-2030 Agenda [ISC] • Conduct policy research on "Expansion and Impact of Sustainable Finance: Focusing on Climate Change and Biodiversity" [FIN] <p>[Media impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve VLR and SDGs webpages [CTY, ISC, SMO] • Produce explanatory content, such as webinars and podcast, aimed at general audiences [ISC, SMO, and others] • Launch the IGES webpage on PoDIWM-2 Project [AW] • Participate in the environment related events such as the Earth Day Japan (April, Tokyo) etc. [SMO and all the units]
b. Localising SDGs and shaping Regional Circulating and Ecological Sphere (CES)	<p>Led by: ISC and BDF</p> <p>Joined by: AW, CCET, CTY, FIN, KUC, KRC, SCP</p>	<p>[Policy/institutional change impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-development Workshop for CES based localised actions and alternative scenarios: Advancing Circulating and Ecological Sphere Approach for Localisation of Global Goals and Targets (<i>tbc</i>) [ISC, FIN, KRC] • Develop knowledge materials on application of CES approach for achieving nation and global sustainable development goals through integrated local actions [ISC, CTY, KRC, FIN] • Strengthen integration between air pollution and climate change in city plans and policies in ASEAN [ISC] [(2)c, (4)c] • <i>Research on sustainable land use management to achieve global biodiversity conservation and reduction of GHG emission from the land sector [BDF, CE] [(3)b]</i> • Contribution as a member of the Steering Committee to the OECD's SDGs localisation programme, "A Territorial Approach to the SDGs" [KUC] • Organise an Evening-Forum and other events as in-depth study opportunities on key topics for policy makers and researchers [TSF]

		<p>[Practical solution impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with city/region level stakeholders to develop city specific framework for application of the CES approach in Nagpur (India), Manikgonj (Bangladesh) and Rajasthan (India) [ISC, FIN] • Collaborate with Hachinohe City for application of CES approach toward healthy Net Zero transition [ISC] • Stakeholder’s consultation on facilitating climate action and SDGs integration from an interlinkage perspective in West Java and other places at the sub-national levels [ISC] • Develop an institutional framework of Sustainable Management Certificate Programme in the context of local revitalisation using SDGs framework [KUC, FIN] • SDG-related sustainable solution analysis (SDG3, 6, 7, 11 and 13) using SSPs (Shared Socioeconomic Pathways) scenario framework in Bhutan and other global regions [ISC] • Conduct research to further development the Hokusetsu Regional CES concept in line with Hokusetsu Satoyama Field Pavilion associated with Osaka-Kansai EXPO in 2025 [KRC] • Collaborate with Hyogo Prefecture to disseminate wood-biomass based Regional CES project in Hokusetsu to other areas in Hyogo Prefecture [KRC] • Collaborate with Hyogo Prefecture to promote Regional CES concept in Harima area based on biogas utilization [KRC] • Support to develop and implement Sado SDGs action (including Japanese SDGs Future City programme, CES programme, local climate action plans, nature positive activities) [ISC] • Conduct “the SDGs global human resource development programme that connects learning and society through environmental issues” funded by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) in Kitakyushu City, Kamikatsu Town and Minamata City [KUC] • Providing support to the VLR process of Asian cities in collaboration with relevant partners [CTY] • Contribution to the Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy [CTY] • Support capacity building for Japan’s regional banks on ESG (Environment, Social, and Governance) finance including sustainability linked loan [FIN] • <i>Viet Nam: Implementing 2nd Phase Activities to support Da Nang City, Viet Nam to promote 3R activities and policies in collaboration with Yokohama City through JICA (The Japan International Cooperation Agency) Project [SCP, AW] [(4)a]</i> • <i>Support developing a national policy framework as well as local action plans in Davao and Calapan cities for improving marine plastic debris management in the Philippines [KUC] [(4)c]</i> • Supporting 11 ASEAN Frontrunner Cities (Kep, Kampot, Banda Aceh, Surakarta, Xay, Yangon, Seberang Perai, Pulau Redang, Paranque, Saensuk and Prik) to showcase and demonstrate bottom-up innovative pilot projects for localising the SDGs, especially in terms of reducing land-based marine plastics and increasing urban resilience. [BRC] <p>[Academic impacts]</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launching of a book on the Circulating and Ecological Sphere [ISC, CTY] <p>[Media impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch the IGES webpage on CES [SMO, ISC] • Produce explanatory content, such as webinars and podcast, aimed at general audiences [ISC, SMO, and others]
c. Promoting a socially just transition in Asia	<p>Led by: ISC and SMO</p> <p>Joined by: CE, BDF, SCP, KRC</p>	<p>[Policy/institutional change impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote uptake and spread of Triple-R Framework [ISC] • Implementing a work on Post-COVID-19 Economy and Single-use Plastics for ERIA Technical Expert Working Group on Marine Plastic Debris and publish a synthesis report by the end of 2024 [SCP] • ADB flagship on green economy pathways in ASEAN to guide green economy transition in ASEAN [ISC]. • Contribution to Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)’s green economy assessment work [ISC] • <i>Integrate health co-benefits into climate planning in cities in Japan and other G7 countries [ISC, CE, SMO] [(1)a]</i> <p>[Practical solution impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct research on redesign policies for a decarbonised, circular and decentralised post-COVID-19 society [KRC] • Propose practical recommendations to make IGES more supportive of a diverse and inclusive work environment [SMO, ISC, SCP, BDF] <p>[Academic impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editorial duties for the peer-reviewed journal (“Sustainability Science”) [SMO, ISC, BDF] • A new IGES flagship publication “An Integrated Approach to Building a Sustainable Society” (to be published in 2024) [All IGES] • Develop special issue journal on Just and Inclusive Solutions in Net Zero Asia [ISC] [(2)c] • UCCRN report chapter on COVID-19, Cities and Climate Change [ISC] • Contribution to ‘10 Must Haves’ project led by the Earth League [ISC, CE, BDF, SCP, SMO] • Conducting research on gender equality and just transition towards a net zero society in Asia from an SDG interlinkage perspective [ISC] [(2)c] <p>[Media impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce explanatory content, such as webinars and podcast, aimed at general audiences [ISC, SMO, and others]

(2) Accelerating implementation of the Paris Agreement “Make society net zero and resilient”		
Sub-focal areas	Related units (not limited to those listed)	Major planned activities for FY2024
a. Ensuring implementability of the Paris Agreement	Led by CE Joined by: BRC, FIN, ISC, KUC, KRC, BRC(RCC)	<p>[International process impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in international negotiations processes such as UNFCCC, G7 and G20 [CE, ISC, KUC, AW] Conduct capacity building for Article 6 implementation (A6IP), and capacity building for submitting initial report under Article 6 (JCM) [CE] Organize workshops on promoting implementation of JCM consistent with Article 6 [CE] Support the Parties on the implementation of NDCs and the development of long-term low emissions development strategies (LT-LEDS); Support the Parties on the preparation for the first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR); Support the Parties to engage non-state actors and youth representatives in climate actions; Support UNFCCC on the organisation of the Asia Pacific Climate Week [BRC(RCC)] T20/G20: IGES team taking part in the preparation of policy brief on the topic of Climate Governance, led by Climate Champions team of UNFCCC [CE] GEO7: Contributing a section on critical minerals for the 16th Chapter of Global Environment (Energy System Pathways) Outlook by UNEP [CE] 10NICS: Contributing a chapter on Critical Mineral to the 10 New Insights in Climate Science, translating into Japanese and conducting webinars for Japanese audience [CE] Publication of ASEAN SOER6 [SMO, BRC, CE, AW, BDF, SCP etc.] Research on the impact of EU’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and implications for climate policies in ASEAN [ISC] <p>[Policy/institutional change impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building for Article 6 in consultation with Parties for supporting institutional arrangements, enhancing greater ambition for climate action, and meeting participation requirements for LDCs (Least Developed Countries) and SIDS (Small Island Developing States); the development of technical capacity to design and set baselines; support for the CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) transition [BRC(RCC)] Support the development of Climate Finance Access and Mobilization Strategies for the ASEAN region and for the Central Asia and South Caucasus region [BRC (RCC)] Follow and comment on Climate Club progress and border carbon adjustment for climate mitigation acceleration [ISC, SMO] Support non-state actors to understand and make use of the outcomes of GST1 [CE, AW] Support scientific/technical communities, such as JAXA and NIES, to strategically contribute to the Paris Agreement implementation, including the transparency framework, GST2, and the global methane pledge [CE,

		<p>AW, TFI-TSU, CCET, BDF]</p> <p>[Practical solution impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating business matching platform on climate technologies between Japan and India (JITMAP) [KRC] • Establishing business matching platform on climate technologies between Japan and Middle East [FIN, KRC] • Presenting practical examples of the (implementation of the) principles of high integrity of Carbon Markets through workshops and other activities [CE] <p>[Academic impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to the UCCRN report, a chapter on infrastructure [ISC] • Journal paper on forest monitoring and GHG estimation in the Philippines using Japanese (ALOS-2) satellite data [AW, CE] <p>[Media impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise media exposure opportunities by proactively proposing op-eds and interviews to the media [SMO] • Produce explanatory content, such as webinars and podcast, aimed at general audiences [ISC, CE, SMO, and others]
b. Promoting Net zero Japan	<p>Led by: CE</p> <p>Joined by: BDF, BIZ, ISC, KRC, SMO</p>	<p>[Policy/institutional change impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote publicity and understanding of 1.5°C roadmap [CE, KRC, BIZ] • Propose design options for carbon pricing [SMO, CE] • <i>Research on sustainable land use management to achieve global biodiversity conservation and reduction of GHG emission from the land sector [BDF, CE] [(3)b]</i> • Joint research with the Japan Wind Power Association for power system reform [CE] • Analyses and policy recommendation for progress of GX promotion policy and associated carbon pricing instruments [SMO-RP] • Analyses and policy recommendation for development of the revised Strategic Energy Plan and revised NDC targeting 2035 [CE, SMO-RP] <p>[Practical solution impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support MOEJ to explore best models of “Decarbonisation Leading Areas (脱炭素先行地域)” to achieve zero carbon district towards 2030 [ISC] • Encourage private sector to change their actions by reducing the dependence on the carbon credit [CE] • <i>Encourage private sector to change their actions by reducing the dependence on compensating their emissions with nature climate solution and forest Carbon credits [BDF, CE] [(3)b]</i> • Provide information on global trend for climate change (e.g. scientific findings including IPCC's estimate, policy trends in each country, financial trends, overseas business trends, etc.) and suggestions for Japanese companies and intelligence being derived from that with the private sector timely and promote decarbonisation

		<p>practice and reflection on corporate strategy [BIZ]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote further knowledge related to 1.5°C aligned policies and roadmap for the private sector and assist policy engagement related to 1.5°C aligned policies by companies themselves [BIZ] • Support for private companies to collaborate and support activities with policy makers (government, parliament, etc.) to advance decarbonisation [BIZ] • Promote further knowledge related to the field (e.g. renewable energy, Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs), decarbonization of heat and chemical reactions, net-zero energy building and house (ZEB/ZEH), supply chain management for decarbonisation, etc.) and assist related policy engagement for decarbonisation practice by the private sector [BIZ] • Conduct survey and interview sessions on mini-publics including citizens' climate assemblies in Europe towards applicability to Japan [SMO] • Enhance policy dialogue on transition finance in Japan in cooperation with an international reputable institution, Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI) [FIN] • Propose enabling environment to promote transition finance toward managed phaseout of coal power plants in Japan in cooperation with Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ) [FIN, CE] • Formulate actual examples of the implementation of (demand side of) the high integrity of carbon markets [CE] <p>[Academic impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English academic journal paper and Japanese IGES working paper on power system analysis to achieve a power mix of 100% renewable energy [CE, KRC] • Published a journal article on the development of polycentric global climate change governance [CE] • Contributed to the chapter on Japan's strategy as an author of "Global Governance of Climate Change" (in Chinese), edited by Chinese Climate Ambassador XIE-Zhenhua [CE] • Published a journal article on estimating the renewable energy potential of Japanese municipalities using GIS methods [CE] <p>[Media impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise media exposure opportunities by proactively proposing op-ed and interviews, launch the special webpage on Net Zero [SMO] • Produce explanatory content, such as webinars and podcast, aimed at general audiences [ISC, CE, SMO, and others]
c. Promoting Net zero Asia	<p>Led by: CE</p> <p>Joined by:</p>	<p>[Policy/institutional change impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct research on the sustainability of global mineral value chain needed for energy transition [CE] • T20/G20 Policy Brief [CE, ISC], presentation at APCW 2024 [CE] • Undertaken research on hydrogen sector's role in net-zero in Asia. As part of this joint work was conducted

	BDF, CTY, FIN, ISC, SMO, BRC, AW, SCP, KUC	<p>by IGES, IISD and WRI to produce a research paper on India's sub-national green hydrogen initiatives [CE, ISC], and organised a joint workshop with WRI on 'Advancing the Net-Zero Agenda through Regional Cooperation in Green Hydrogen in Asia' [CE]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributing to Wellcome project focusing on health co-benefits of climate and clean air policies in Asia [CE, ISC] • Conducting research on co-benefits in installation of solar power in Asian cities (Quezon, Philippines), under the project supported by Climate Works [CE, ISC] • Contributed to JICA Training on Net-zero under the Japan-Singapore Partnership programme [CE, KRC] • Published joint policy paper on air pollution with UNEP: "The Effects of COVID-19 on Clean Air and a Healthy Climate in Asia's Cities" [CE, ISC] • Conduct research on net zero strategies of Asia, with focus on climate-resilient net-zero pathways, transboundary climate risk, technology, energy, just transition, transportation, circular economy, carbon pricing etc. Identify key approaches for Asian countries to accelerate towards net zero targets [CE, SMO, AW, ISC, BRC (possibility of IGES-wide teams)] • Kick-starting dialogue with Indian industry in pursuing JCM [CE] • Organise the 6th Japan-China-Korea Carbon Neutral Cities Forum as a TEMM (The Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting) project [CE] • Organise Japan-China-Korea carbon pricing forum for policy experience sharing and mutual learning [CE] • Joint research on alternative approaches to technology transfer (co-innovation) with leading institutions in Asia and Europe [CE, ISC] • Conduct research on development of hydrogen society in Asia [CE, KRC] • Provide technical support to researchers in several countries by developing medium- and long-term scenarios (Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Viet Nam) and convening science and policy dialogues involving various stakeholders concerned [SMO, BRC] • <i>Strengthen integration between air pollution and climate change in Southeast Asia [ISC] [(1)a]</i> • <i>Strengthen integration between air pollution and climate change in city plans and policies in ASEAN [ISC] [(1)b]</i> <p>[Practical solution impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support city-to-city collaboration towards zero carbon focusing on zero carbon district development in KL (Kuala Lumpur) City and surrounding area, with Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Saitama City [CTY, ISC] • Conduct feasibility study to promote decarbonisation of cement industry under the city-to-city collaboration between Kitakyushu City and Cilegon City and West Java Province [KUC] • Conduct feasibility study to promote recycling and decarbonization in India under the city-to-city collaboration between Kitakyushu City and Hyderabad, etc. [KUC]
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold the International Forum on Low Carbon Cities in Kitakyushu (organised by UNESCAP Northeast Asia Office and co-organised by Kitakyushu City and IGES) to lift the momentum for local decarbonisation and disseminate Kitakyushu's GX initiatives [KUC] • Support the activities of the Viet Nam Environment Administration (VEA) on urban environmental management and the activities of the Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment (ISPONRE) on national GHG inventories, etc. [BRC, AW, SCP, KUC] • Collaboration (and MoU (Memorandum of Understanding)) on Co-innovation to support the Innovation Facility of UNEP -Nairobi [CE] • Conduct AIM (Asian-Pacific Integrated Model) training course for researchers in Asia, in collaboration with AIM project team [SMO] • Conduct the study on the multiple benefits of mitigation [CTY, ICS, SCP, CE] • Jointly implement the Japan-China Environmental Cooperation Model Base Project (funded by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology)” with Sino-Japan Friendship Centre for Environmental Protection, and support the promotion of “the implementation plan for improving the co-benefit effect of pollutant reduction and CO2 reduction” in China, as well as the domestic wastewater management and habitat improvement in rural areas in China and the preparation of co-benefits policy recommendations for China’s green transformation and low-carbon development [BJG] • Raise environmental awareness and climate responses among the Chinese and the Japanese central and local government officials through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ invitation programme to visit Japan and also through the invitation programme funded by the Chinese side to visit China [BJG] • Raise environmental awareness and climate responses among the Chinese central and local government officials through support for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ invitation programme to visit Japan [BJG] • Review technical assessment on net zero transition pathway by hard to abide sectors in Asia and other regions [FIN] • Analyse and promote key mitigation options such as EV, PV and V2H in Indonesia and others [BRC] • Provide technical support for the promotion of the JCM project cycle [CE] <p>[Academic impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute working paper and book chapter to ADBI on Hydrogen energy [CE] • Publication on Co-innovation in UNESCAP Asia Pacific Centre for Technology Transfer [CE] • Book production on Transformative Technologies and Innovative Policies- in collaboration with MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) (Tentative) [CE] • Book production on Net zero in strategies [CE, AW and others] • Journal paper on future (2050-2100) urban solar energy potential in ASEAN countries under different urban planning scenarios [AW] • Journal paper analysing the determinant factors of renewable energy expansion in major ASEAN member
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		<p>states [CE, SMO]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journal paper evaluating the phasedown or phaseout pathways of fossil fuel power generation in ASEAN [CE, SMO and others] • Working paper on the latest progress of carbon market in major Asian economies and the implications for Japan [CE] • Journal paper analysing the evolvement pattern and functional mechanism of carbon market in China [CE and others)] • <i>Conducting research on gender equality and just transition towards a net zero society in Asia from an SDG interlinkage perspective [ISC] [(1)c]</i> • <i>Develop special issue journal on Just and Inclusive Solutions in Net Zero Asia [ISC] [(1)c]</i> • Contributing book chapter in Kyoto University's Coal Divestment Project [CE] • Journal paper on: Quantifying the Climate Co-Benefits of Hybrid Renewable Power Generation in Indonesia: A Multi-Regional and Technological Assessment [CE] <p>[Media impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise media exposure opportunities by proactively proposing op-ed, launch the special webpage on Net Zero [SMO] • Produce explanatory content, such as webinars and podcast, aimed at general audiences [ISC, CE, SMO, and others] • Article on 'A quick guide on how best to harness AI's potential for climate mitigation' (<i>Economic Times India</i>) [CE]
d. Promoting Net Zero Cities	<p>Led by: CTY and KUC</p> <p>Joined by: ISC, KRC, SCP, SMO, BRC</p>	<p>[Policy/institutional change impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of SSPs scenario analysis for cities [ISC] • Develop 2050 CN (Carbon Neutral) scenario for Bangkok Municipality and organise policy dialogues [SMO, BRC] • Improvement of the long-term mitigation scenario analysis in West Java, Indonesia, through linking the LCSR (International Research Network for Low-Carbon Societies) project with the SDGs [SMO, CTY, ISC, BRC] • <i>Strategic action plan development to achieve SDGs by 2030 and carbon neutral society by 2050 in Da Nang City through the collaborations with Da Nang City Government [ISC] [(1)a]</i> • Facilitation of the integration of the SDGs into long-term climate mitigation strategy development in West Java [ISC] • Support Sado City to develop local climate action plan [ISC] • Conduct a study to establish an intermediary support organisation at the prefectural level to help municipalities to implement the "Zero carbon district model project towards 2030" [KRC]

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore how prefectures would collaborate with intermediate organisations to support local governments for their decarbonisation [CTY, KRC, KUC, SMO] • Contribute to IIASA-Japan collaborative research project on climate change and cities [CTY, CE, ISC, KRC] • <i>Kanagawa Prefecture: Contribution to the development of local Global Warming Action Plan through contributing to Climate Citizen Assemblies using the 1.5°C lifestyle approach [SCP] [(4)b]</i> • <i>Hyogo prefecture: Contribution to New Lifestyle Commission of Hyogo Prefecture to organise citizens' workshops using the 1.5°C lifestyle approach [KRC] [(4)b]</i> • <i>Develop the 1.5°C Lifestyle Project as a joint project with Hyogo Prefecture New Lifestyle Committee [KRC] [(4)b]</i> • <i>Co-organise “the 4th 1.5 °C Lifestyle Workshop in Kitakyushu” for youth with Kitakyushu City Youth Station, and with corporation of Fukuoka Prefecture Food Loss Meister, and food-related stakeholders in Kitakyushu City [KUC] [(4)b]</i> <p>[Practical solution impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting city-to-city and region-to-region cooperation between Japanese cities and cities in EU and ASEAN towards carbon neutral goals and green recovery [CTY, KUC] • Promoting the share of ambitions, policies and lessons for zero carbon city development and ways to facilitate multi-level governance through conferences/webinars on zero carbon cities (e.g. co-organising FY2024 City-to-City Collaboration for Zero Carbon Society, Zero Carbon City International Forum 2024, COP events etc.) [CTY, KUC] • Development of new city-to-city collaboration between Japanese cities and Mexico City for promoting the net zero target and sustainable development strategies for cities [ISC] • Contracted to support the Hayama Town Global Warming Action Plan formulation project, wrote a research report as a basis for the Hayama Town Action Plan formulation and input into the Hayama Town strategic process [CE, JISE, KRC] • Following the adoption of the Ministry of the Environment's 2024 "Satoumi" model project, for which Hayama Town jointly applied with a consortium formed by IGES, Fujitsu, Shibuya Diving, and other businesses, conducted the demonstration study on marine environment monitoring along the Chojagasaki Coast in Hayama Town, and began building a citizen platform for the establishment of a recycling-based economy [CE] • Contribute to hydrogen station promotion project of Hyogo Prefecture [KRC] • Support Hyogo Prefecture's Hyogo RE100 Project [KRC] • Support a project to promote renewable energy in Awaji City, Hyogo Prefecture [KRC] • Conduct a study on net zero promotion in Himeji City, Hyogo Prefecture [KRC] • Facilitate knowledge-sharing and information exchange amongst universities' coalition by serving as the Secretariat of the working group on regional carbon neutrality [SMO]
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenario analysis and roadmap development for materialising the Awaji Environmental Future Islands Vision [KRC, CE, SMO]. • Support local SMEs to take a transition path for net zero by organising a GX executive business school as well as offering accompanying support in Kitakyushu [KUC] • Support Climate Citizens Assembly (CCA) in Suginami, Tokyo as well as accumulating and disseminating knowledge on the CAA [CTY, SMO] • Promotion of Japan's contribution to the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities such through the IIASA-Japan collaboration on climate change and cities [CTY, ISC] <p>[Academic impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCCRN report chapter on Infrastructure [ISC] <p>[Media impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise media exposure opportunities by proactively proposing op-ed, and enhancing the special webpage on Zero Carbon Cities [SMO] • Produce explanatory content, such as webinars and podcast, aimed at general audiences [ISC, CE, CTY, SMO, and others]
e. Mainstreaming and promoting implementation of climate adaptation	<p>Led by: AW</p> <p>Joined by: BDF, BRC, BRC(RCC)</p>	<p>[International process impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep abreast of global and regional efforts on adaptation and analyse the outcomes; contribute to the international negotiations on adaptation and provide strategic policy recommendations [AW] • Guidebook on the State of River Basin Reporting for Local Governments and River Basin Organisations in the ASEAN Countries [AW] • Technical report - Review of governance and management indicators for state of river basin (SORB) reporting systems in & ASEAN member states [AW] • Contribution to GEO-7 as co-convenor of Climate Change Adaptation Task Group (CCA) [ISC] <p>[Policy/institutional change impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under AP-PLAT, collaborate with partner institutions to operationalise the capacity development programme, implement an APN (Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research) project on Locally Led Adaptation in Fiji, Nepal, and Viet Nam [AW, BRC] • Support project formulation on compound and cascading disaster risks in Bangladesh and Nepal under AP-PLAT capacity development program, and support Adaptation Planning of countries in Asia-Pacific through utilising the resources of AP-PLAT [AW, BRC] • Promote adaptation efforts in the Asia-Pacific by developing policy-relevant case studies in AP-PLAT's Adaptation Database [AW]

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributing towards the engagement of Parties' adaptation contact points with a view to enhancing the dissemination of information between Parties and the Adaptation Committee (AC), Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP), Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability, and Adaptation to Climate Change (NWP), and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) [BRC, BRC(RCC)] • Conduct research project on defining transformative adaptation [AW] <p>[Practical solution impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) partner institutions to operationalise test risk assessment methodology and application of the guidelines for selected country and location specific conditions through structured capacity development programme under ASEAN DRR-CCA Phase 2 [BRC, AW] • Support cross-learning through multi-stakeholder engagement and capacity building initiatives designed under ASEAN DRR-CCA Phase 2 [BRC, AW] • 1st Regional (Inception) Seminar of ASEAN DRR-CCA Phase 2: "Integrating climate change projections in risk assessments with focus on spatial approaches" (<i>tbc</i>) [BRC, AW] • Implementation of GCF Readiness Project on Traditional and Local Knowledge (TLK) System for Resilience Building in Nepal and Pakistan as a GCF Delivery Partner (The project will support developing knowledge base on TLK, investment models and capacity building for incorporating TLK in GCF project and programs and thus facilitate flow of climate finance at the local level) [AW, ISC] • Joint collaborative research work between India and Japan on Nexus assessment between water, food and energy using water as an entry point and looking for disintegrated solution pathways [AW] • Developed vulnerability assessment methodology for the highlands of Thailand under the ADB funded project [AW] <p>[Academic impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Contribute to IPBES nexus assessment as experts [BDF, AW] [(3)a]</i> • Working for new scientific and transdisciplinary approach like socio-hydrology and planetary health approach to deduce nexus between water and human well-being [AW] • Several peer reviewed journal articles and two books are under production on water resource management and its relation with socio-economic development and achieving global goals like SDGs using integrated approach such as numerical simulation, quantitative and qualitative approach [AW] • Research on climate security with policy implications for Japanese security and other relevant policies [AW, CE, SCP, ISC] • Contributed to the Loss and Damage chapter of Global Adaptation Gap Report 2023, worked with UNEP World Adaptation Science Program to produce a policy brief on Adaptation Effectiveness [AW] • Development of a universal metric and its methodology for progress tracking of adaptation measures [SMO-RP]
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		<p>[Media impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise media exposure opportunities by proactively proposing op-ed, launch the special webpage on Adaptation [SMO] • Produce explanatory content, such as webinars and podcast, aimed at general audiences [ISC, CE, AW, SMO, and others]
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(3) Accelerating implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework “Put biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030”		
Sub-focal areas	Related units (not limited to those listed)	Major planned activities for FY2024
a. Strengthening global biodiversity policy processes	<p>Led by: BDF</p> <p>Joined by: AW, IPBES-TSU-SCM and others</p>	<p>[Policy/institutional change impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input into IPBES, CBD, TNFD and other global processes through external review and active participation in key meetings [BDF with support of others] • Support Japanese Government as part of delegation to IPBES Plenary [BDF] • Socio-ecological scenarios and modelling in <i>Suishin-hi</i> and e-Asia projects [BDF] • Support the Government of Japan’s biodiversity -related input in G7, G20 and GEA negotiations and meetings [BDF] <p>[Academic impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support for promoting the application and refinement of nature future scenarios and models [IPBES-TSU] • Support and advice to the IPBES-TSU on invasive alien species and scenarios and models [BDF] • Contribute to IPBES nexus assessment as experts [BDF, AW] [(2)e] • Contribute to IPBES transformative change assessment as expert [BDF] • Various publications to add to the body of literature on global biodiversity policy [BDF and others] <p>[Media impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate IPBES outcomes in Japan [BDF] • Convene Japanese IPBES experts in Japan [BDF] • Timely update of the IGES special webpage of IPBES [SMO] • Maximise media exposure opportunities by proactively proposing op-ed [SMO] • Produce explanatory content, such as webinars and podcast, aimed at general audiences [ISC, BDF, SMO, and others] • Publish high-profile commentary on key biodiversity [BDF]
b. Promoting sustainable land use and ecosystem conservation	<p>Led by: BDF</p> <p>Joined by: CE and others</p>	<p>[Policy/institutional change impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate the Satoyama Development Mechanism (SDM) [BDF] • Promote a CBD manual, produced by IGES and UNU-IAS, on the uptake of landscape approaches in NBSAPs [BDF] • Propose policy recommendations on land abandonment and restoration (Belmont ABRESO project) [BDF] • Research on sustainable land use management to achieve global biodiversity conservation and reduction of GHG emission from the land sector [BDF, CE] [(1)b, (2)b]

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IGES secondment to Indonesia for JICA peatland research [BDF] • Policy recommendation on nature positive supply chains in the ASEAN region [BDF] <p>[Practical solution impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Mauritius government to promote ecosystem conservation and restoration through evaluation of ecosystem services, and sustainable tourism [BDF] • Encourage private sector to change their actions by reducing the dependence on compensating their emissions with nature climate solution and forest carbon credits [BDF, CE] <i>[(2)b]</i> • Implementation of JICA's SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies to Extinguish Forest and Peatland Fire Using Environment Friendly Soap-based Fire Fighting Foam in Indonesia [KUC, CTY, BDF] <i>[(1)a]</i> <p>[Academic impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various publications to add to the body of literature on land use and ecosystem services [BDF and others] • Contribute to the assessment reports of Forest Declaration Assessment Partners [BDF] • Research on the importance of conservation and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems [BDF] • Developing future scenarios and evaluating and projecting their biodiversity and ecosystem service outcomes in Japan (nation-wide), and three case study sites (Minami-sanriku town, Sado island and Osaka city) [BDF] • Developing future scenarios for sustainable aquatic food systems in south and southeast Asia [BDF] • Developing future scenarios for a sustainable and resilient future under climate and ecosystem changes in Japan, Philippines and Indonesia [BDF] • Journal paper on forest monitoring and GHG estimation in the Philippines using Japanese (ALOS-2) satellite data [AW, CE] • Research of utilisation and commercialisation of forest resource through <i>Michi-no-eki</i> in Japan [BDF] <p>[Media impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate easy-to-understand information through a blog (note) [BDF, SMO] • Produce explanatory content, such as webinars and podcast, aimed at general audiences [ISC, BDF, SMO, and others]
c. Facilitating non-state actors' involvement in conservation	<p>Led by: BDF</p> <p>Joined by: FIN, TSF</p>	<p>[Policy/institutional change impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on sustainable and legal timber production, supply chains and trade in timber producer and consumer countries [BDF] • Input into the implementation of the revised Clean Wood Act in Japan [BDF] • Research on production and supply chains of forest risk commodities (e.g. timber, palm oil, coffee, cacao, rubber, etc.) in view of promoting sustainable land use and supply chains, and climate change mitigation [BDF] <p>[Practical solution impacts]</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the refinement of the TNFD guidance and its use by Japan's companies [BDF, FIN] • Collaborate with the Keidanren Nature Conservation Committee, e.g. questionnaire survey of Keidanren member companies and global outreach [BDF, FIN] • Support the tourism sector in Mauritius to contribute to sustainable tourism [BDF] • Produce explanatory content, such as webinars and podcast, aimed at general audiences [ISC, BDF, SMO, and others]
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(4) Shaping circular economy and sustainable lifestyles “Make it circular”		
Sub-focal areas	Related units (not limited to those listed)	Major planned activities for FY2024
a. Mainstreaming circular economy	<p>Led by: SCP</p> <p>Joined by: AW, BRC, FIN, KUC</p>	<p>[International process impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> G7: Follow-up implementation of G7 Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency Principles [SCP] G20 and G7: Support Japanese government to take a leading role in resource efficiency agenda through its involvement to G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue and G7 Resource Efficiency Alliance [SCP] [(1)a] <p>[Policy/institutional change impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of a pilot "SDG 6 Model City" project in ASEAN, which aims to facilitate the transfer of innovative decentralised wastewater treatment technologies and development of a regional harmonised method for microplastics sampling, collection and analysis in sewage treatment plants and in receiving water bodies [AW] [(1)a] J4CE: Continue to act as a secretariat for J4CE to mainstream circular economy in Japanese business sector [SCP] [(1)a] ERIA: Continuing to promote capacity development and knowledge product development on data-driven policy making through organising ERIA Expert Working Group on Marine Plastic Debris [SCP, BRC, CCET] ERIA: Launching Expert Working Group on Extended Producer Responsibility [SCP, BRC] Continue to strengthen engagement with the business sector on circular economy through partnership with the Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW), PACE, and GPAP [SCP] OECD, IRP and ERIA: Contributing to Indicator Development on Circular Economy as well as on plastics through its involvement in the expert working group of OECD, IRP, PACE, and ERIA [SCP] [(1)a] OECD and ASEAN: Providing technical inputs to the deep-dive work on plastics in ASEAN+3 building on OECD's Global Plastic Outlook in collaboration with ERIA [SCP, BRC] OECD: Contributing to OECD Working Party on Resource Productivity and Waste as a part of Japanese delegation [SCP] <p>[Practical solution impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of the ASEAN Regional “Harmonised Protocol for Sampling, Analysis and Monitoring of Microplastics in Sewage Treatment Plants and Riverine Environments in ASEAN [AW] [(1)a] ASEAN's Journey Towards Sustainable Sanitation: A Practical Guide to Decentralised Wastewater Management [AW] [(1)a] Decentralised Wastewater Management in ASEAN - Training Modules for the Realisation of SDG6 [AW] [(1)a] Viet Nam: Implementing 2nd Phase Activities to support Da Nang City, Viet Nam to promote 3R activities

		<p>and policies in collaboration with Yokohama City through JICA Project [SCP, AW] <i>[(1)b]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five countries in ASEAN: Developing an integrated assessment framework of collection and recovery of metal resources from WEEE in selected ASEAN countries [SCP] • ERIA: Starting a review of policies and interventions of leakage prevention of plastics [SCP, BRC] • UNEP: Engaging in capacity development projects for plastic pollution prevention in Greater Mekong Sub-region in collaboration with UNEP [SCP, BRC] • Organisation of Biomass sub-committee under Kitakyushu Circular Economy Promotion Committee [KUC] <p>[Academic impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERIA: finalising the comparative analysis of packaging and food consumption pattern change in ASEAN cities during COVID-19 pandemic and after COVID-19 pandemic [SCP] • ERCA's research on "Establishment of an evaluation method for the mass balance method of plastic recycling using blockchain technology" [KUC] <p>[Media impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise media exposure opportunities by proactively proposing op-ed and interviews, enhance the special webpage of Circular Economy [SMO] • Produce explanatory content, such as webinars and podcast, aimed at general audiences [ISC, SCP, SMO, and others]
b. Mainstreaming sustainable lifestyles	<p>Led by: SCP</p> <p>Joined by: CCET, BRC, KRC, KUC, AW</p>	<p>[International process impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch scoping study toward establishing the programme on Education on Sustainable Living and Communities in the Asia Pacific region in cooperation with the EU SWITCH-Asia Programme [SCP] <p>[Policy/institutional change impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kanagawa Prefecture: Contribution to the development of local Global Warming Action Plan through contributing to Climate Citizen Assemblies using the 1.5°C lifestyle approach [SCP] <i>[(2)d]</i> • Hyogo prefecture: Contribution to Hyogo 1.5°C lifestyle initiative, which is based on IGES 1.5°C lifestyle project [KRC] <i>[(2)d]</i> • Hyogo prefecture: Contribution to New Lifestyle Commission of Hyogo Prefecture to organise citizens' workshops using the 1.5°C lifestyle approach [KRC] <i>[(2) d]</i> • Co-organise "the 4th 1.5°C Lifestyle Workshop in Kitakyushu" for youth with Kitakyushu City Youth Station, and with corporation of Fukuoka Prefecture Food Loss Meister, and food-related stakeholders in Kitakyushu City [KUC] <i>[(2)d]</i> <p>[Practical solution impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and implement a programme on decarbonisation lifestyle in school education [SCP]

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design a guidance and training programme for local educators and civil society groups to utilise the 1.5°C methods for local action-learning programme [SCP] • Kitakyushu city: Continue organising youth workshops on the 1.5°C Lifestyles [KUC, SCP, KRC] • Explore opportunities to apply the 1.5°C lifestyle approach in Malaysia [SCP, CCET] • Enhance pilot projects through applying the guidelines on reducing single-use plastics through the application of behavioural science, and strengthen partnerships with local policymakers [SCP]. • Implementation of action research projects to conceptualise and realise sustainable food consumption and production at the local level [SCP] <p>[Media impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise media exposure opportunities by proactively proposing op-ed and interviews, enhance the special webpage of 1.5°C Lifestyles [SMO] • Produce explanatory content, such as webinars and podcast, aimed at general audiences [ISC, SCP, SMO, and others]
c. Ending pollution and improving environmental quality	<p>Led by: CCET and SCP</p> <p>Joined by: AW, BDF, BRC, CE, CTY, FIN, ISC, KUC, SCP, CCET, SMO</p>	<p>[International process impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Negotiation Committee Process for Global Plastic Agreement: Support Japanese government to take a leading role in developing and negotiating the process for Global Plastic Agreement [SCP, CCET] • International Negotiation Committee process for Global Plastic Agreement: Highlight the needs and actions of emerging economies such as ASEAN member states by organising side-events, submitting opinions, and publishing policy briefs in collaboration with ERIA [BRC, SCP] • Contributing to the Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group (AOWG) on creating a science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention [CCET, SCP] • Assisting national and local governments to take voluntary actions to contribute to a collective effort to achieve the Global Methane Pledge to reduce global methane emissions at least 30% from 2020 levels by 2030 [CCET] • Contributing to the Greening Education Partnership, a global initiative that takes a whole-of-system approach to support countries to tackle climate crisis and pollution by harnessing the critical role of education [CCET] • G20: Playing a central function to compile a progress report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter by G20 [SCP, CCET] <p>[Policy/institutional change impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sixth ASEAN State of the Environment Report (funded by JAIF) [SMO, BRC, ISC, CE, SCP, CCET, BDF, AW, CTY] [(1)a]</i> • ASEAN: Organising technical expert working group of ERIA Regional Knowledge Centre on Marine Plastic Debris [SCP, CCET, BRC] • Assist Sri Lanka and Cambodia to institutionalize National Plastic Action Plans and strengthen their implementation with UNEP, JICA, ADB, World Bank and others [CCET, SCP]

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist Cambodia and Micronesia to develop a National Methane Reduction Roadmap with CCAC [CCET] • Development of regional roadmap to mitigate open waste burning in Asia as part of global initiative to stop open waste burning with CCAC and other partners [CCET] • ASEAN: Development of the “Regional Guidebook on Sustainable Decentralised Domestic Wastewater Management for ASEAN Resilient and Green Cities”, through JAIF Project [AW] • <i>Strengthen integration between air pollution and climate change in Southeast Asia [ISC] [(1)a]</i> • <i>Strengthen integration between air pollution and climate change in city plans and policies in ASEAN [ISC] [(1)b]</i> • Taking proactive approaches and hold discussions with USEPA, USAID, INECE, AELERT, UNEP and its partners (ELI, ADB, AusAID, EPAT, AELERT etc.) to strengthen partnerships for long-term collaboration on environmental compliance and enforcement as well as environmental social safeguarding and enhance international cooperation among environmental practitioners for collective capacity building [BRC] • Strengthening regulatory frameworks/provisions for Global Plastic Agreement [BRC] • Play a leading role in supporting the establishment of an EPR Working Group within ASEAN to foster regional collaboration and harmonise policies on waste management [BRC, SCP] <p>[Practical solution impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sri Lanka and Cambodia: continue in strengthening national and local policies and institutional capacities on monitoring plastic waste generation and reduction of plastic waste and leakages [CCET] • Developing and maintaining supporting tools for decision-makers such as GHG estimation tools and plastic leakage estimation tools [CCET] • Lebanon: implement a pilot project to establish cluster treatment facility for healthcare waste management to reduce environmental pollution and public health [CCET] • ASEAN: Publication of policy brief on data and monitoring based on the discussions by the ERIA Expert Working Group [SCP] • ASEAN: Developing and implementing a series of training programmes to improve technical capacity for local governments in ASEAN cities on: (i) effective utilisation of innovative decentralised wastewater treatment systems to address the long-standing issue of water pollution due to untreated or partially treated wastewater; (ii) tackling microplastics pollution in sewage treatment plants and receiving water bodies, through JAIF Project [AW] • National and local governments in Asia will strengthen policies and actions to stop open waste burning and building capacities for GHG estimation as well as prevention from open dumpsites [CCET] • CLAIR, CCAC: Supporting the promotion of decentralised composting of organic waste and reduction of methane gas emission from landfills in Surabaya City, Indonesia [KUC] • Continue to play a secretariat role to manage the “Green finance portal” established by the Japanese government [FIN]
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASEAN: Strengthening Capacity Development for Local Governments in ASEAN to Tackle Microplastics and Water Pollution through Decentralised Domestic Wastewater Management Approach, through JAIF Project [AW] • Implementation of WEPA Action Programs in Cambodia, Myanmar, and Lao PDR, aimed at contributing to the improvement of water environmental governance in WEPA partner countries [AW] • Implementing a city-to-city exchange project for marine plastic litter management between sister islands with a focus on innovative waste management solutions and sustainability practices including Rayong, Thailand [BRC, KUC] • Organising cross-region learning events and INC-related engagements with a compilation of best practices on reducing plastic pollution, effective EPR and waste management system in the Asia-Pacific region including Japan. [BRC, SCP] <p>[Academic impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Implement recommendations in ASEAN Clean Air Solutions Report [ISC] [(1)a]</i> • Develop regional report of open waste burning in Asia [CCET] <p>[Media impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise media exposure opportunities by proactively proposing op-ed [SMO] • Produce explanatory content, such as webinars and podcast, aimed at general audiences [ISC, SCP, SMO, and others] • Produce a series of video documents on plastic waste management covering key sectors like hotels, schools and fishing nets for policymakers and general public with UNEP-BRS [CCET]
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Appendix

A1. About ISRP8 (Excerpts)

1. Vision, Mission and Value Proposition for ISRP8

Vision

Transition towards a sustainable, resilient, shared and inclusive Asia-Pacific region and the world is steadily promoted, where planetary boundaries are fully respected, a green economy is substantially and flexibly implemented. Such a transition is fully aligned with zero-carbon development in line with the Paris Agreement, circular economy, resilience and biodiversity conservation, as well as improvements to the well-being of people based upon the SDGs.

Mission

Act as an Agent of Change conducting strategic research and operations based upon Co-design, Co-implementation, Co-production, and Co-delivery with key stakeholders, thereby generating impacts on policies, programmes and practices of various stakeholders to move society towards a more sustainable and resilient future, especially in Asia and the Pacific.

Value Proposition

A strategic research institute located in Asia, trusted by international/regional institutions and national governments concerned through timely and quality delivery of knowledge products, experienced in generating innovative ideas and disseminating practical knowledge for problem-solving by means of effective communications and other means, and appreciated by key stakeholders such as businesses, cities and civil society at various levels for strategic networking/partnership, with the aim of global transition to sustainability and resilience.

2. Organisational Arrangement

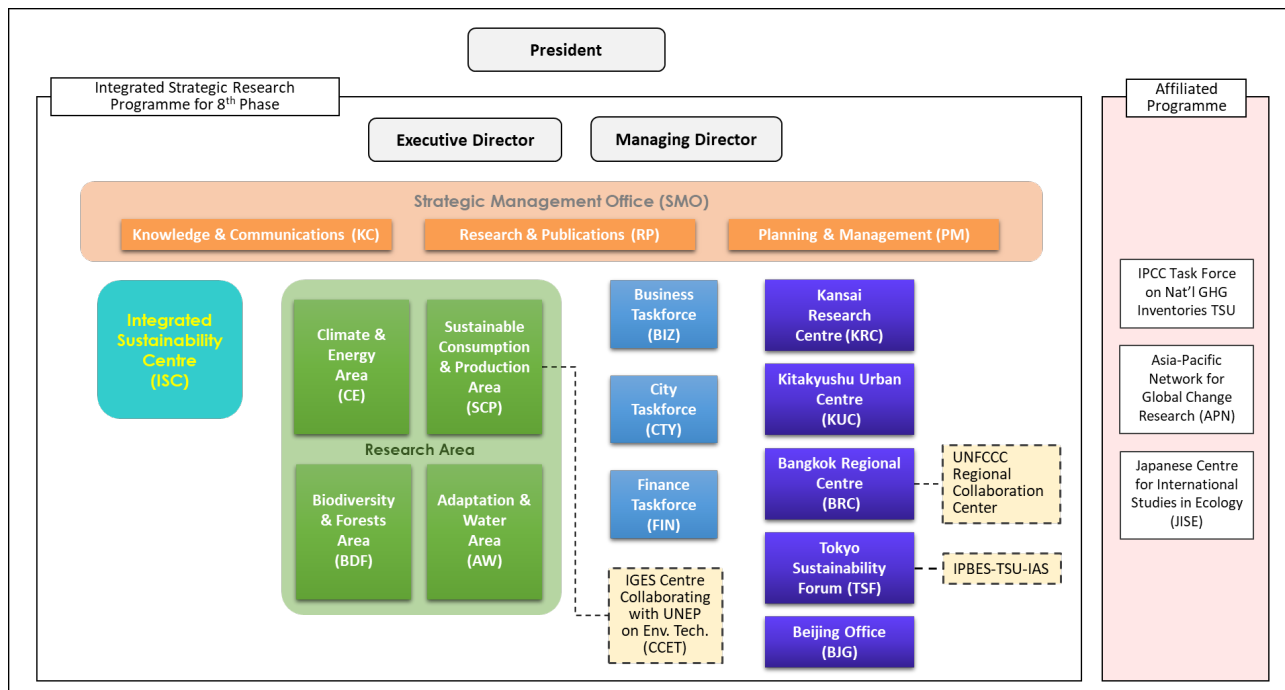


Figure A1: Organisational Structure for ISRP8

3. Focus for Impact Generation in ISRP8 by Unit

3.1. Integrated Sustainability Centre (ISC)

ISC will work with stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific to accelerate progress on the SDGs and formulate an ambitious post-2030 agenda. ISC will work toward this objective by strengthening the science-policy-society interface. ISC's research and programming will combine science-based tools and methods (interlinkages analysis, scenario analysis and machine learning); socially-response governance models and strategies (polycentrism and metagovernance); and cutting-edge policy frameworks and solutions (e.g. Regional-CES, Triple-R framework, green recovery, just transition, co-benefits integrated NDC/VNR/National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), integrated local climate action/VLR/Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (LBSAPs)). This unique combination of tools and perspectives will be employed in concrete case studies and shared during key policymaking processes Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD)/High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)/UN General Assembly (UNGA), UN Environment Assembly (UNEA), and G7/G20), solidifying our position as a change agent on sustainability in Asia-Pacific and beyond.

3.2. Climate and Energy (CE)

CE will strive to generate impacts on (1) implementation of the Paris Agreement, in particular, the implementation, evaluation and updating of NDCs, the submission of biennial transparency report under the Transparency Framework, and contribution to Global Stocktake; (2) formulation of long-term zero emissions strategies and the implementation of short-term measures consistent with the long-term goals in Japan, and other Asian countries, including the practices of state and non-state actors toward the smooth and just transition, and (3) implementation of carbon pricing, JCM and other offset mechanisms to achieve net zero emissions.

3.3. Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)

SCP will boost IGES's standing as a vital and indispensable policy think-tank and development partner for ASEAN and ASEAN member states for circular economy, sustainable lifestyles and marine plastic issues. We want to be associated as having a publicly-recognized functional role in policy harmonization and regional integration of Asia and the Pacific region. CCET will be a strategic partner of UNEP and other UN agencies operating in the Asia-Pacific region, as an instrumental arm for capacity development of national and local governments in emerging countries.

3.4. Biodiversity and Forests (BDF)

BDF will formalise our contribution to international policy processes, including those of the CBD and the IPBES, through their official meetings and assessments. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework and New York Declaration on Forests will be key processes with which to align. BDF will also contribute to promoting sustainable forest management with guiding key legislation at the national level, as well as frameworks for assessing biodiversity and implementing subsequent measures. We will contribute to an improved understanding of how to promote sustainable socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS), and to an understanding of how communities can be assisted in responding to degradation of key habitats.

3.5. Adaptation and Water (AW)

AW will work closely with BRC for the successful full-fledged operation of AP-PLAT's capacity-building programme. For that purpose, we will keep strengthening the partnership with capacity building institutions and international initiatives in Asia and identifying the opportunities of collaborative works, promoting basic studies and developing adaptation tools and materials to lay down the foundation of the programme, and engaging in concrete capacity-building efforts, among others. AW will keep working on critical research and projects on adaptation, including monitoring and evaluation, ILK, Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), transboundary adaptation, PWLM/PCLM, socio-hydrology, DRR-CCA integration, and compound risks. In addition, we will continue to contribute to international efforts on adaptation, including UNFCCC, IPCC, Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB), PEMSEA, The Himalayan University Consortium (HUC), APAN Forum, and the Adaptation Without Borders Initiative (AWBI). AW will maintain its secretariat service for WEPA to achieve better water environmental governance in Asia. We also plan to work closely with ASEAN Secretariat and international partners to further promote a decentralised wastewater management approach in ASEAN countries and utilise this

approach to address the challenge of emerging pollutants such as microplastics. It is expected that CES will become an institution-wide programme building on efforts for Nexus among others.

3.6. Business Taskforce (BIZ)

BIZ will continue activities to exert influence on Japan's Energy Mix Policy, more ambitious NDC for UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP), and to support adaption of carbon pricing in Japan. To create impact through the business sector, we will continue to work on increasing progressive companies as the Japan Climate Leaders' Partnership (JCLP) members and to expand the needs of renewable energy through growing the size of RE100¹²/RE Action¹³ membership. In addition, we will support companies in its decarbonisation in areas beyond renewable energy towards achieving net zero by 2050.

3.7. City Taskforce (CTY)

Aiming to encourage more cities to become carbon-neutral, resilient and sustainable, and to ensure credible policy planning and implementation of cities, we will continue to work closely with local and regional governments in Japan and overseas. It aims to provide necessary knowledge support, including methodologies in policymaking and implementation developed through scientific interpretation on the good practices of cities, especially those of Japanese local governments. To this end, CTY will work in close partnership with international organisations and city networks such as UNESCAP, UN-HABITAT, ICLEI, and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). City-to-city collaboration and mutual learning is one of the core approaches CTY will take. Cross-unit collaboration within IGES will be strengthened more in the 8th Phase to address diverse and complex sustainability challenges of cities.

CTY will keep two main topics of its activities/research from the 7th Phase, namely climate change and the SDGs. Since more cities are now aiming for carbon neutrality by 2050, we will conduct research and activities that aims to provide policy support and capacity of local governments to address climate issues. SDG localisation also continues to be a priority topic. Through promoting mutual learning on localisation mainly through VLR, we will provide necessary capacity development support with our analysis of good practices on the integration of the SDGs in existing policy frameworks and governance, partnership building, and monitoring and evaluation systems. Specific SDGs will be addressed based on the needs of cities and the availability of external funds (e.g. waste, mobility, urban planning, etc.).

3.8. Finance Taskforce (FIN)

FIN intends to provide practical solutions to generate impacts in the following three areas: (1) actual environmental benefits or impacts by green and sustainable finance; (2) shifting financial flows to decarbonised efforts in Japan; and (3) mobilising finance contributing to the SDGs at the local and regional level (implemented, for example, through Regional-CES) in both Japan and the wider Asia Pacific region.

3.9. Kansai Research Centre (KRC)

KRC will continue promoting technology transfer in India, Thailand and other countries where opportunities arise. Activities in India are expanding to the areas of pollution management focusing on air pollution caused by thermal power plants and energy-intensive industries, whereas the focus in Thailand is on energy saving of industries and buildings in association with the Japan Platform for Redesign: Sustainable Infrastructure (JPRSI). Collaboration with Hyogo Prefecture is expanding as well, ranging from designing a woody biomass utilisation business model in Hokusetsu region, supporting cities pledged to be carbon neutral by 2050, to designing a decarbonising road map, matching private companies with service providers of renewable energy power purchase agreement (PPA), and promoting decarbonised society development among university and high school students.

¹² International business initiative committed to 100% renewable power, working to massively increase corporate demand for and delivery of renewable energy

¹³ A new initiative in Japan for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), educational institutions, medical institutions, and local governments to declare switching to 100% renewable electricity by 2050.

3.10. Kitakyushu Urban Centre (KUC)

KUC continues to bolster local actions in the area of zero-carbon, circular economy, green growth, and the SDGs. KUC will further explore ways to contribute to the institutionalisation of a sustainability concept in city policies and practices in Asia-Pacific cities; the dissemination of information on the global trend of environmental agenda to local stakeholders in the Kitakyushu and Kyushu region; as well as the local coordination in transition to zero-carbon cities, circular cities, localising the SDGs as a local hub in the Kitakyushu and Kyushu region in this area.

3.11. Bangkok Regional Centre (BRC)

BRC intends to create the following impacts: (1) increase the capacities of ASEAN governments to develop and implement climate change adaptation policies and projects through ASEAN project on disaster risk reduction by integrating climate change projection into flood and landslide (2nd phase) and AP-PLAT; (2) adopt know-how driving clean development and mobilise resources for regional engagement in climate change activities by implementing several projects of the UNFCCC-IGES Regional Collaboration Centre (RCC); (3) improve environmental compliance and enforcement of pollution control practices in 18 Asian member countries of Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network (AECEN); and (4) improve environmental quality in ASEAN cities through better long-term city planning and higher capacity to implement transformative local actions, closely linked to the SDGs by proposing and conducting ASEAN SDGs Frontrunner Cities Programme (2nd phase).

3.12. Tokyo Sustainability Forum (TSF)

TSF will continue to contribute to the impact generation of IGES by providing a comfortable and safe office environment for IGES staff. In particular, TSF will strengthen its support for online meetings and remote work, which are rapidly increasing at TSF in the era of “new normal.” TSF will also support IGES Management in attending online international conferences to showcase the latest findings of IGES.

TSF will strive to improve its operations with regular feedback from IGES staff. In addition, TSF will hold seminars and workshops to enhance the collaboration between IGES and national agencies such as MOEJ, as well as non-national stakeholders including the private sector and local governments. TSF will provide necessary assistance to IPBES-TSU-IAS and ICLEI-JAPAN and conduct activities to strengthen the collaboration with them.

Furthermore, TSF will work on projects in cooperation with relevant IGES teams on Biodiversity and emerging issues that do not fall under the scope of other units. In particular, with regard to Environmental Impact Assessments, TSF will actively work on necessary surveys, development of information platform, and bilateral support to strengthen the Environmental Impact Assessment systems and implementation in Asian countries in support of the overseas business expansion of Japanese companies.

3.13. Beijing Office (BJG)

As the Integrated Coordination Platform between the governments/cities/companies of Japan and China, BJG will conduct the model projects introducing air pollution control technologies etc. with co-benefits effect, whose outcomes will be disseminated and promoted on the markets in the Asian region including China. By doing so, BJG will contribute to materialising a decarbonised society, and will support environmental business between Japanese and Chinese companies.

A2. Plans/Achievements by Other Projects for Public-interest Purposes

1. Technical Support Unit (TSU) for the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The TSU for IPCC-TFI provides scientific, technical and organisational support to the TFI under the supervision of the TFI Bureau (TFB) to fulfil the following major objectives:

- To develop and refine internationally agreed methodology and software for the calculation and reporting of national greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and removals;
- To encourage the widespread use of this methodology and software by countries participating in the IPCC and by signatories of the UNFCCC.

The activities planned for FY2024 are explained in (1) to (6) below.

(1) Production of Reports to Supplement or Refine the IPCC Inventory Guidelines

The TFI has been tasked by the IPCC Panel to produce two new Methodology Reports for the preparation of national emission inventories, commencing in 2024. The first is a Methodology Report on the estimation of emissions of Short-lived Climate Forcers (SLCFs) designed to assist compilers of national pollution inventories as well as climate modelling used for IPCC Assessment Reports by generating improved emission data. The outputs from a Scoping Meeting held in Brisbane, Australia, 26-28 February 2024 will be considered by the IPCC Panel at its next Plenary in July 2024. Subsequent drafting of the Report will be undertaken by 2027 starting with a 1st Lead Author Meeting in early 2025.

A Second Methodology Report was commissioned by the IPCC Panel to develop estimation methods to support reporting by governments of net sinks from activities to deploy technologies to remove, capture and store or reuse carbon dioxide. These activities have been identified by the IPCC 6th Assessment Report as being critical “...to stay on a pathway to keep the temperature of the planet’s atmosphere stabilised around 1.5C above pre-industrial levels. The work of the TFI will support the deployment of these technologies by providing a framework against which Governments may confidently report on the mitigation results of these activities.

(2) Expert Meeting on Reconciling Land Emissions

An IPCC Expert Meeting will be convened by the TFI in Italy in July to consider the interpretation of anthropogenic net emissions from the land by climate modelers used in IPCC Assessments against the IPCC Methodologies previously published by the TFI and applied by all country-parties to the UNFCCC. Differences in interpretation of anthropogenic sinks/sources from the land may make as much as a 15% difference to assessments of the remaining carbon budget available for anthropogenic activity, as applied by the Global Stocktake processes under the Paris Agreement. The meeting is aimed at making the work of the climate modellers more policy-relevant.

(3) Development, Maintenance and Improvement of IPCC Inventory Software

The IPCC Inventory Software Update will be launched in 2024 to support the use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, in particular by developing national governments reporting under the Paris Agreement for the first time at the end of 2024. Developing country participation is critical for the success of the Paris Agreement. The TFB has agreed to act as a kind of Project Board to oversee the governance of this software project and will receive quarterly progress and accountability reports. The ongoing challenge for the TFI will be to devise processes to manage the maintainability of the software over time, especially with the presence of many developing country users. A plan for the long term management of the software will be put to the Project Board at the end of 2024. The latest version

of the IPCC Inventory Software can be downloaded from the TFI website (<https://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/software/index.html>).

(4) Management of IPCC Emission Factor Database (EFDB)

The IPCC EFDB is a database of emission factors and other parameters whereby national experts can find nationally appropriate values to develop national GHG inventories in accordance with the IPCC inventory guidelines. However, the process of data searching and data approval for the population of the EFDB has been assessed as being too labour-intensive and a review is underway to consider ways of making the system more efficient. A Management Group has been formed and will report to the IPCC TFB in late 2024. (<https://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/EFDB/main.php>).

(5) Inventory Internship Programme

An intern(s) may be accepted if and when it is deemed helpful to TSU in carrying out some work. This programme may not be implemented if such a need does not arise.

(6) Collaboration with Other Organisations

In FY2024, the TSU will continue cooperation with other organisations on inventory-related matters: in particular, the UNFCCC secretariat, the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), the Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) etc. through participation of its staff members as resource persons and provision of inventory-related supporting materials developed by the IPCC TFI. The TSU will also collaborate with other projects in IGES, where appropriate, on matters relating to estimation of anthropogenic GHG emissions and removals.

2. Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)

APN is an intergovernmental network that is promoting collaborative research and capacity development of scientists in developing countries in areas including climate change, biodiversity and ecosystems, risk reduction and resilience. Through supporting research and capacity development, APN contributes to the formulation of policy that assists sustainable development and low-carbon societies in the Asia-Pacific region. In FY2024, APN is planning to conduct the following activities based on the Fifth Strategic Plan (2020-2026), which was developed in February 2021 and extended by two years in June 2022 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

(1) Collaborative Regional Research Programme (CRRP) Open Call (supporting international collaborative research)

To deepen the understanding of global change and its influences in the Asia-Pacific region, and to contribute to the development of a sustainable society by providing scientific input on global change to policymaking, APN will conduct the FY2024 call for proposals on international collaborative research projects.

(2) Scientific Capacity Development Programme (CAPaBLE) Open Call

As part of a programme that focuses on developing the scientific capacity of developing countries, APN will support the implementation of training and workshops to facilitate cooperation and sharing of information among early-career scientists and other stakeholders under the research topics of APN.

(3) International Forums and Workshops etc.

i. Proposal Development Training Workshop (PDTW)

To enhance the capacity of Early Career Professionals in member countries to develop proposals and compete effectively in the call for proposals, APN has organised the Proposal Development Training Workshop (PDTW) every year. In FY2024, the PDTW will be held in-person for the Pacific region in Fiji from 26-30 August 2024.

ii. Joint activities with Hyogo Prefecture

In collaboration with Hyogo Prefectural Government that hosts the Secretariat and provides continuous support, APN will organise and provide assistance to international seminars to increase the awareness of citizens on environmental matters. In addition, a lecture on climate change and disaster preparedness will be imparted to students of Hyogo University, and an International Forum on SDGs will be organised.

(4) Strategic Development

APN plans to strengthen its network in FY2024 by developing business portfolios for each of its member countries, an APN business portfolio for the subregions as well as discuss and undertake joint activities with institutions where APN has established MOUs, not least of which is AIT, USP and PICES. APN also plans to establish MOUs with other global change organisations in the region.

(5) Stakeholder Engagement

APN will participate in UNFCCC NWP, SBSTA and COP meetings, as well as activities of IPBES, WCRP, AP-PLAT and other regional and international partners.

(6) Others

i. Steering Committee Meeting and Other Meetings

APN will convene meetings of the Steering Committee, the Scientific Planning Group (SPG) Sub-Committee and the Capacity Development Committee in FY 2024.

ii. Subregional Committee Activities

APN will conduct necessary activities in Temperate East Asia, Southeast Asia and South Asia to discuss common challenges and research needs at the subregional level that address policy needs of member countries. In FY2024, an additional PDTW for Temperate East Asia is expected to be scheduled.

In addition to the above, APN will organise a scoping workshop to discuss specific activities of the subregional committee for the Pacific by inviting subregional stakeholders.

3. Japanese Center for International Studies in Ecology (JISE)

Towards the restoration of ecosystems and realisation of a sustainable society, the Japanese Center for International Studies in Ecology (JISE) will conduct practical research works in collaborative ways, ranging from the conservation and restoration of local ecosystems, to the revitalisation and creation of the global environment. JISE will provide training related to ecology and nature restoration, as well as collect and provide information on the natural environment. JISE promotes further collaboration in research activities with Biodiversity and Forests Area of IGES and others.

In FY2024, the following projects will be carried out.

(1) Research Projects

For international research, JISE develops international joint research to establish restoration technology in response to the decline in tropical forests and Satoyama forests so as to contribute to achieving the 30by30 target. Specifically, JISE will promote practical projects on growth studies and restoration of tropical forests in Malaysia, Kenya and Taiwan. JISE will also proceed with related international research activities in Lao PDR and other countries in collaboration with the Biodiversity and Forests Area of IGES.

For domestic research, focusing on environmental protection forests planted from the 1970s using the Miyawaki-method, JISE will proceed to evaluate their structure and functions for disasters prevention. JISE works with local governments, private companies, NPOs, citizens, and others to promote community reforestation, natural regeneration, monitoring of regenerated forests, and adaptive management at the Natural Symbiosis Sites¹⁴ (OECM¹⁵ sites). Research is also conducted on biodiversity evaluation and environmental education for rural Satoyama. JISE continues to study vegetation in various areas to determine potential natural vegetation as a basis for reforestation. In addition, JISE supports the preservation of biodiversity in Kanagawa Prefecture and contributes to the Prefecture's initiatives in the field. JISE will strive to enhance collaborative education and research activities with other institutes in terms of biodiversity conservation and forest creation, aiming to contribute to Kanagawa Prefecture and local benefits.

(2) Capacity Building

To educate leaders who can offer technical support to activities such as forest creation and nature restoration, JISE will provide vegetation training based on vegetation ecology and related topics. JISE holds "Ecological training" sessions to enhance basic capacity of ecological nature cognition and understanding of environmental conservation targeting a wide audience including local citizens.

(3) Interaction

JISE will hold outreach events targeting the general public such as the IGES-JISE Environmental Forum and organises lectures and debates between researchers and other experts. JISE also promotes capacity building and dissemination activities through collaboration with Kanagawa Institute of Industrial Science and Technology (KISTEC).

(4) Dissemination and Public Awareness

JISE will post its activities such as research projects, and capacity building and exchange projects on its website or in the IGES-JISE Newsletter (three times a year). JISE also publishes a bulletin "Eco-Habitat: JISE research" as a research magazine, and publishes full texts of the published bulletin papers on Japan Science and Technology Information Aggregator, Electronic (J-STAGE) which is a scientific dissertation retrieval and publication system available on-line. In addition, JISE will publish research reports prepared by researchers in a timely manner.

¹⁴ Areas where biodiversity is being conserved through private sector efforts, etc. The Ministry of the Environment launched a system to certify those sites as "Nature Symbiosis Sites" in FY2023.

¹⁵ Other effective area-based conservation measures. The areas certified as "nature symbiosis sites," excluding those designated as protected areas, will be registered in the international database as OECMs.