

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

FY2023 (Year 3) 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, including those for post COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) response-recover-redesign 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’ 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 just transitions and green recovery in the wake of COVID-19	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.
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The following gives an explanation about each Focal Area and Sub-focal Area:

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

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

The SDGs were adopted more than seven 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 2021, 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 Environmental Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), United Nations Environment and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ), the 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) into planning processes. A new project funded by the Wellcome Trust in the UK will work 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 FY2023 include the following: (1) strategic recommendations on how Japan and other countries can use the follow up and review processes, including voluntary national review (VNR) and voluntary local review (VLR), to strengthen implementation of the SDGs; (2) building the evidence base on synergies and manage the trade-offs from an integrative perspective to policymaking, and contribution to the 4th UN Climate and SDGs Synergy Conference (convened by UNDESA and UNFCCC, in partnership with IGES and others) (Member of the Expert Group, Global Analytical Report, post SDGs discussion) in early summer 2023; (3) continued efforts to strengthen Japanese businesses actions on the SDGs; (4) key messages that help to frame discussions of the SDGs at high-level meetings and contribute to the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO7); and (5) preliminary discussions of the shape and structure of a post-2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

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

Achieving greater societal sustainability and resilience requires new approaches to integrating diverse knowledge around social, cultural, economic and environmental/ecological dimensions. The world is 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. The ambition expressed in the UN2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction underscores 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. The Circulating and Ecological Sphere (CES) is a conceptual framework that promotes integrated approaches to sustainability challenges including environmental, economic and social challenges by simultaneously making progress with decarbonisation, local resource circulation and living in harmony with nature.

The 8th ISRP of IGES has prioritised 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, USA have launched a collaborative initiative, namely “CES-Asia Initiative” for advancing the CES Concept in South and Southeast Asia. IGES, START International and the leading academic and research institutes in South and Southeast Asia, established the CES-Asia Consortium on 14 October 2021 with the aim of advancing the CES concept for enabling resilience of city regions in South and Southeast Asia. In collaboration with CES-Asia Consortium partners, IGES will promote the bottom-up approach through advanced research, co-development process and capacity building that strengthens understanding and promotes the utilisation of the CES concept, in order to address sustainability challenges in Asia.

Major activities for FY2023 include: (1) evidence-based knowledge generation on the application of the CES approach in Asian city regions to achieve important goals and targets including on net zero emissions, food security, water security, optimisation of ecosystem services, and economic revitalisation; (2) co-development of a CES framework with local stakeholders shaped by the context of specific local needs and priorities (in Hachinohe, Nagpur and Udon Thani); (3) workshops on CES to provide a platform of sharing knowledge and expertise; (4) finalisation and launching of a Springer publication on “Circulating and Ecological Sphere: Concept and Applications”.

c. Promoting just transition and green recovery in the wake of COVID-19

While the COVID-19 pandemic has led to enormous suffering and loss, it has also underlined the need to promote inclusive and sustainable transitions in the face of crises. The Ukraine crisis and related impacts on energy and food prices similarly suggest a need to work towards a more sustainable future as tensions escalate. However, it is not always easy for policymakers and other stakeholders to make a transition in the face of external and internal pressures for business-as-usual development. A significant problem facing policymakers and other stakeholders in Asia is how to manage transitions to a more inclusive and sustainable future.

IGES aims to address aspects of this problem by advising governments, businesses and other major stakeholders about opportunities to reshape unsustainable systems in the wake of COVID-19 and other crises. This includes promoting integration of a One Health approach (involving the integration of human, animal and environmental health concerns) at the national level. It also involves supporting the widespread adoption of CES at the local level. Finally, it includes the promotion of more socially just and inclusive decision-making processes at all levels of decision-making in and beyond Asia.

In FY2023, IGES aims to further promote the One Health and CES approaches in relevant fora. IGES will conduct research on redesign policies for a decarbonised, circular and decentralised post-COVID-19 society, and will also release a chapter on COVID-19, cities and climate change for the Urban Climate Change Research Network (UCCRN), two outputs that will strengthen the evidence for adopting long-term perspectives to “build back better”. Working with key partners, IGES will also continue to contribute to the 10 Must Haves project led by the Earth League to make the most out of the next decade as a critical window of opportunity, and launch a new workstream on the post-COVID-19 economy. It will also conduct research on gender equality and just transitions toward a Net Zero Asia via the development of a special issue journal on Just and Sustainable Transitions—an ideal aligned with the vision of the Triple R framework to create a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for all. Finally, IGES will publish a new book tentatively 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 where IGES has played a central role, both in Japan and abroad.

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

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 AR6 (6th Assessment Report) and upcoming AR7 (7th Assessment Report) 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 and expected outcomes in FY2023 include research-based capacity building for Article 6 participation, reporting under the transparency framework, and the participation in the global stocktake, as well as engagement in international negotiations processes such as UNFCCC, G7 and G20. In particular, with regard to the former, based on the outcomes of the G7 Sapporo Ministerial meeting on Climate, Energy and Environment in April 2023, IGES will serve as the secretariat of the 'Paris Agreement Article 6 Implementation Partnership Centre', which promotes the activities of the 'Paris Agreement Article 6 Implementation Partnership', launched under the Japanese Government's initiative to support capacity building with regard to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. As the secretariat, IGES will contribute to the progress of global emission reductions through market mechanisms. 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 will be co-created with stakeholders such as private companies and local governments to ensure its feasibility and broad support.

In FY2023, IGES will focus on the development of a 1.5°C aligned roadmap through a stakeholder consultation process with a view to forming the basis for a wider stakeholder coalition to support 1.5°C aligned actions. At the local level, IGES will contribute to the capacity development of local governments to achieve their net zero emissions goals.

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 Asia and climate-resilient pathways for decarbonisation 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. 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 the Joint Crediting Mechanism (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.

In FY2023, major activities will include: (1) strengthening policy research for promoting net zero strategies in Asia; (2) strengthening technology collaboration among Asian countries using JCM and co-innovation approaches; (3) strengthening engagement with academia, international organisations and industry for clean technology promotion; and (4) strengthening co-benefits research focusing on air pollution and climate co-benefits in Asia.

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 1,100 cities and regions in the world had joined the global campaign “Race to Zero” by September 2022, and more cities are indicating their commitments to be net zero by at least 2050. In Japan, 934 local and regional governments had declared their commitment to zero carbon by 2050 by the end of March 2023. 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 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 cooperation between Japanese cities and EU (European Union) cities on sustainability agenda including climate

change. 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 FY2023, 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 conduct a study to explore roles of intermediate organisations that will 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 lifestyle workshops and citizens' climate assemblies. 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 with a view to contributing to the G7 Roundtable on Subnational Climate Actions agreed at the G7 Sapporo Ministerial Meeting on Climate, Energy and Environment.

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 FY2023 include contents and tools development for a capacity building programme under AP-PLAT such as compound and cascading disaster risk management at the local level; and testing and operationalising risk assessment methodology, application of the guidelines, cross-learning, multi-stakeholder engagement and capacity building under ASEAN DRR-CCA (Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation) Phase 2, promotion of locally led adaptation (LLA) (including traditional and local knowledge system) through GCF readiness project, establishing LLA model case sites in Fiji, Nepal and Viet Nam with APN, 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.

(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

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 prominence of such work has received a recent boost with the adoption, in December 2022, of the “Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and 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 COVID-19 pandemic. Countries around the world, therefore, have only seven years to reach their targets. Developing countries have a particular challenge, as they host most of the world’s biodiversity but 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 focused partly on biodiversity, IGES is becoming increasingly visible and active in international biodiversity processes, especially those involving the CBD and the 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 FY2023 IGES will continue hosting and supporting the technical support unit for the IPBES assessment on invasive alien species. It will support 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 also will support and advise on the contribution of Japanese experts and governments to the IPBES process, particularly the 10th 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 policy-relevant research particularly on socio-ecological scenarios and an integrated assessment model in Japan and Asian countries. IGES aims to continue publishing biodiversity content in top peer-reviewed journals such as Science Advances and BioScience, as it did in FY2022.

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 cultivation 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 an international collaborative research on land abandonment and restoration in Japan, Taiwan, the United States, France and Italy to generate policy recommendations.

IGES will contribute 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 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

In FY2023 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), producing a manual on mainstreaming landscape approaches into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), and contributing to conservation and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems through research activities, as well as supporting the government of Mauritius to recover from the 2020 MV Wakashio oil spill. 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 launch a new 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.

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. 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 Japanese government to develop a guideline for due diligence on timber products under the Clean Wood Act and conducting research on legal frameworks of timber producer countries and due diligence policy in demand-side countries and practices by private companies. Given increasing global attention to promote private companies' actions, such as the EU regulation on deforestation-free products and the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) for zero-carbon transition, IGES will also research production and supply chains of forest risk focusing on the policies and practice on the ground, as well as providing support to the business sector so that businesses can improve their supply chains by conducting supply chain and landscape analysis.

In FY2023, IGES will continue supporting Japan's involvement in key biodiversity-related global business initiatives, particularly the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) and a new ISO (International Organization for Standardization) standard for biodiversity. IGES also will support 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.

(4) Shaping circular economy and sustainable lifestyles ("Make it circular")

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 FY2023, IGES will continue to play a key role to support MOEJ 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. IGES will contribute to the dissemination of the G7's Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency Principles (CEREP) adopted at the G7 Summit in May 2023, having made a major contribution to the drafting process, and to the draft Working Paper on Circular Economy and Plastics of Global Alliance for Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE). 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. To ensure effective implementation of the global plastic agreement to be adopted in 2024, IGES will contribute to capacity development in data-driven policy making and facilitation of city-level actions in ASEAN countries in collaboration with ERIA Regional Knowledge Center on Marine Plastic Debris and other international organisations active in the ASEAN region.

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 greenhouse gas 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. Taking the opportunity of the UNGA agreement to extend the mandate of the SCP 10YFP (One-Planet Network) to 2030, IGES should collaborate with partners to re-activate the Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Programme to support city- and community-level efforts toward enabling sustainable lifestyles and livelihoods globally. It is also necessary to consider linkages with new international cooperation frameworks such as the Lifestyles for the Environment (LiFE) proposed by the Government of India, which holds the G20 Presidency, and the G7 Platform for Net-zero and Wellbeing in Life proposed by Japan, which holds the G7 Presidency. 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 FY2023, 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 Zushi and Hayama, where IGES is located. Additionally, IGES will work with local educators to develop and test educational programmes on decarbonisation and lifestyles in highschools. (2) IGES will launch a new action research project focusing on sustainable food consumption and production in local societies in Japan. 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 shape alternative patterns, and create local visions.(3) IGES will work with partners in Asian countries to pilot the application of behavioural insights approach in tackling single-use plastic in school campuses and cafeterias and develop guidance for local policymakers and practitioners to use behavioural insights in reducing plastic wastes; 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 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, ADB (Asian Development Bank) and others, , will continue supporting national and local governments to develop integrated waste management strategies and policies considering the reduction of SLCP 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, Myanmar, 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 aim to integrate such measures into NDCs and other development plans. As for the plastic waste management, IGES will provide technical support to national 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 FY2023, 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 5th 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			
(Breakdown) Large-scale cases	-	3	8			
(Breakdown) Mid-scale cases	-	7	16			
(Breakdown) Other cases	-	20	16			
Indicator without Target	Baseline (ISRP7)	Indicative Reference	2021 Results	2022 Results	2023 Results	2024 Results

(Breakdown) International processes	-	n/a	17			
(Breakdown) Policy and institutional changes	-	n/a	31			
(Breakdown) Practical solutions	-	n/a	23			
(Breakdown) Media	-	n/a	9			
(Breakdown) Academic	-	n/a	13			

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, IGES had an output target of about 100 publications annually for impact generation. For the 8th Phase, 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 FY2023, emphasis 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 continues. 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. Additionally, output downloads from the IGES website will be monitored to assess the effectiveness of themes and timing of publications.

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			

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 FY2023. Six IGES researchers are contributing to UNEP's Global Environment Outlook (GEO7), two as Coordinating Lead Authors (CLA) and four 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. Three IGES researchers are contributing authors to UNEP's Global Waste Management Outlook, and 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 (7.196, 2021) has been made 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 2023, 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 and the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework. Topics of special features expected to be completed in 2023 include promises of bioeconomic change as a strategy for avoiding socio-ecological transformation, globally-consistent national pathways towards sustainable food and land-use systems, just and sustainable transitions in net-zero Asia, accelerating actions for leveraging a climate-neutral, and sustainable society 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			
Of which first-authored academic publications	-	20	45			
Indicator without Target	ISRP7 Target	Indicative Reference	2021 Results	2022 Results	2023 Results	2024 Results
IGES flagship and priority publications	2	4 (FY2020)	5			
Number of peer reviewed articles with Impact Factor over 3	-	28 (Feb. 2020-Feb. 2021)	66 (CY2021, Scopus)			
Number of citations received in a calendar year by academic articles published in the past 5 years	-	714 (CY2020)	1,433 (CY2021)			
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)			

[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, IGES will maintain and strengthen existing partnerships and networks with international organisations and their units, global and regional initiatives and programmes for impact generation. IGES will also maintain and strengthen its strategic communications, aiming to reach target audiences in a timely and effective manner. The target audience reaction may manifest in different forms; however, the number of visitors to the IGES website and the amount of media coverage roughly reflects trends in target audience interests and responses. Table 5 (below) summarises key performance indicators for strategic networking and communications, including annual targets and expected achievements. In FY2022, the number of visits to the website is declining for the first time in several years. It is not that only specific pages or specific times of the year are declining, but a declining trend started to be seen from around May-June last year and has been consistently declining throughout the entire website since then. In addition, until the previous year, the website was evaluated as having worked well in attracting light interest groups searching for relevant keywords due to the high inflow from natural searches, but this year, the inflow from such natural searches has decreased. These facts suggest that public interest in the topics and keywords which IGES is focusing on may be waning. Furthermore, the decline in access from almost all regions outside the US, including Japan, suggests that this may not be a domestic-only trend. These and other factors, such as the Ukrainian conflict, may be behind the shift in international interest from environmental issues to security issues. On the other hand, the number of views on COP27- and G7/G20-related content has increased over the previous year. Furthermore, while Article 6-related content attracted more views in the previous year, amount of contents itself has decreased in the current year, which in turn has led to a decrease in the number of views. These facts suggest that, domestically, there is a pinpointed interest in specific topics. On the other hand, in contrast to the decrease in the number of website views, media coverage has increased compared to the previous year. The main reasons for this were an increase in articles distributed by news agencies, such as Kyodo News, and an increase in exposure related to the UNFCCC COP compared to the previous year; for COP 27, a special page was published in September, which enabled the page to function as a media reference source. This meant that many COP-related articles, other than those reporting on IGES, followed the tone of our special page; it can be said that IGES took a thought leadership role, which is a more significant achievement than the number of exposures. The above trends in IGES website views and media coverage show that the interest of interested groups has grown stronger and their need for

information has increased, while the interest of the less interested groups has waned. As a result, the inflow of light interest groups has decreased and IGES has not been able to attract alternative groups. As contents that can certainly attract visitors has become apparent, it will be necessary to strengthen these contents in the future and ensure that they are prominent, while at the same time developing information needs that are different from those of the past, such as information related to biodiversity and circular economy. In addition, IGES actively uses a variety of distribution methods as a means of communicating information, such as blogs via “note”, audio content via podcasts and videos via YouTube, and will focus on attracting new domestic and overseas users by further strengthening these tools. Furthermore, in order to strengthen the linkage between the website and these various distribution tools, the marketing tool 'Shannon', which was newly introduced this year, will be used more effectively.

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	862,672 (As of 31 March 2023)		
Media Coverage	250	300 (2021 target) and annual increase by 10	205	275 (As of 31 March 2023)		

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 FY2023, under the gradual recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, 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 FY2023 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.

An overview of the FY2023 annual plan budget is presented in Table 6.

Table 6. Overview of FY2023 Budget

(JPY million)

	FY2022 (Budget)	FY2023 (Budget)	2023-2022 Difference
【Revenue】			
MOEJ and other Contribution	500	500	0
Subsidies from Local Government	132	132	0
External fund for Projects	2,063	2,175	112
Deposit	75	95	20
Others	33	35	2
Total	2,803	2,937	134
Support for office rent by Local Government	215	243	28
Grand Total	3,018	3,180	162
【Expenditure】			
Operation Costs for Externally Funded Project	855	940	85
Operation Costs for Own Initiatives	130	120	-10
Personnel Costs	1,534	1,563	29
Administrative Costs	284	314	30
Total	2,803	2,937	134
Office rent supported by Local Government	215	243	28
Grand Total	3,018	3,180	162
Balance	0	0	0

(Reference)

Project FVA Ratio (overall average)

63%

62%

Admin & Facilities Costs per total expenditures

9.7%

10.2%

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.

2.1.1. Fundraising (Revenues)

The core fund from MOEJ has been secured for FY2023 to the amount of JPY500 million,³ and support from patron local governments and others are expected to be maintained at a similar level as FY2022. The total volume of project funds raised from funding agencies and other organisations (external funds) is aimed at JPY 2.1 billion (as budget-base), increasing from the FY2021 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 FY2023.

Indicating significant progress, IGES has started serving as secretariat to the Paris Agreement Article 6 Implementation Partnership Center, from May 2023 under the MOEJ. The establishing of this centre was agreed on at the G7 Ministers' Meeting on Climate, Energy and Environment in Sapporo. It should be also noted that some mid-large multi-year projects have just started/will start. They include Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme on climate adaptation, a project funded by Wellcome Trust (a global charitable foundation) on co-benefit, JAIF (Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund) project on DRR and others. In addition, mid-large multi-year several projects such as MOEJ's research fund projects namely *Suishin-hi* (Environment Research and Technology Development Fund) on topics such as zero-carbon, SDGs and bio-diversity, JAIF projects on localising SDGs, wastewater management, marine plastics, and transboundary haze pollution. will be fully operationalised for their second year.

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

In FY2023, 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) 2023 (combination of on-site and virtual, December 2023)
- Internal systems supporting strategic activities and operations, capacity building, etc.

The Deposit will be used for SRF, SPF, SOF, ISAP, Networking and others, as well as for investment to strengthen internal systems and provision of training opportunities for staff members.

³ For the period of April 2023- March 2024.

Table 7. Breakdown of IGES Own Initiatives

(JPY million)

Major Items	FY2022	FY2023	Sourced by Deposit
Strategic Research Fund (SRF)	23	20	20
Strategic Publication Fund (SPF)	5	5	5
Strategic Operation Fund (SOF)	10	15	15
ISAP	11	11	11
Outreach	14	14	1
Networking	9	9	9
Publication Support (incl. e-Library, database, etc.)	20	20	
Sustainability Science Secretariat*	4	2	2
Technology Solutions	6	6	
Other operation	6	6	
Investment (Internal Systems, Capacity Building, etc.)	22	12	12
Total	130	120	75

*The budgeted amount for FY2023 is the amount deducted by JPY 2 million which is the income for the operation of the Sustainable Science secretariat, in advance.

(3) Personnel costs

A certain level of increase in personnel expenses is expected due to the uniform salary increase by JPY 100,000 for all full-time staff members considering the impact of continuous price hikes on daily life, and new recruitment of personnel for the implementation of new projects.

(4) Administration costs

IGES continues to make efforts to maintain daily administration costs, the ratio targeted in the FY2023 budget is set around 10%.⁴ IGES Bangkok Regional Centre office is scheduled to be relocated in the autumn of 2023, and additional expenses related to this will be incurred.

2.1.3. Uncertainties in Financial Management

IGES will monitor carefully the possible changes from the previous year such as an increase in travel cost due to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, an increase in other expenses due to global inflation, an increase in energy costs, and an uncertain trend in exchange rates, and will implement activities/operations planned in the FY2023 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, securing additional funds, and further reducing administrative costs should be considered.

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

- If there is an increase in external funds, priorities will be given to promote IGES own initiatives and respond to emerging issues.

2.2. HR Management

In FY2023, HR management will focus on the following points in an effort to make IGES more SDG-compatible and raise the capacity of staff members.

- Operate telework more efficiently to contribute to strengthening both productivity and work-life balance by updating Guidelines.
- Promote IGES's diversity, inclusion and work-life balance issues in the context of SDGs by setting an institutional initiative to identify issues/challenges and possible measures for improvement.
- Maintain childcare support certification (so-called Kurumin⁵) and women's participation promotion certification (so-called L-boshi⁶) by further improving/introducing necessary measures.
- Explore capacity development opportunities for staff members including training opportunities at other organisations.
- Introduce a mentorship programme to support communication and professional development of staff members who have newly joined or have been newly promoted, etc. aiming to increase retention of staff members.

The number of full-time staff members planned for FY2023 is presented in Table 8.

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

(Positions)

Categories	FY2022 (As of April 2023)		FY2023 (Plan, as of April 2023)
		Ratio of Female	
Professional Staff	159	52%	168
Principal staff	29	24%	29
Senior staff	57	50%	63
Associate staff	43	60%	46
Administration Specialist	23	87%	23
Dispatched from other organisations	7	0%	7
Assistant Staff	6	83%	5
Total: IGES Full-time Staff members	165	53%	173
Number of Administrative Staff [1] (Ratio of administrative staff to total full-time staff)	14.8 (9%)	59%	15.8 (9%)

Notes:

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

⁵ 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

⁶ 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 FY2023, 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 improve efficiency for internal administrative procedures in discussion with SMO sections and strengthen governance in consultation with in-house and external experts. PM plans to continue upgrading accounting and HR systems with new functions. SMO-RP and PM will strengthen research ethics education with the introduction of revised IGES Regulations on the Prevention of Academic/Financial Misconduct in Research Activities of April 2023 in response to the requirements by the guidelines of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT). PM plans to revise internal rules on contract procedures by IGES and subsidiary business by staff members.
- 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). IGES facility management team will also continue maintaining and upgrading IT systems/environment through upgrading IT systems equipment and internet connection.
- 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 travel⁷ and (2) reduction of paper use by promoting online and paperless meetings. IGES is scheduled to undergo a renewal audit for the environmental management certification (so called Eco-Action 21 program⁸) 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)⁹ and other cross-unit thematic meetings not only to share information but also to support their implementation from the goal setting (milestones) to monitoring/evaluation on impact generation, outputs and financial management. SMO plans to conduct a staff satisfaction survey, which has been conducted every four years.

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.

⁷ 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.

⁸ Certified by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan

⁹ 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			
Support from the three local governments (subsidies, etc.) [1]	Around JPY 135 million	Around JPY 135 million	JPY 132 million			
Volume of external funds (other than contribution and subsidies)	USD 20-25 million	USD 22-27 million	JPY 1,856 million			
Ratio of international external funds [2]	over 25%	as much as 40%	26%			
Ratio of project financial value-added (FVA) (proposed budget-based) [3]	52% (FY2020 target)	55%	64%			
Ratio of general administrative cost in the total expenditure [4]	9% (FY2020 target)	9%	10.1%			
Ratio of administrative staff in total (Number)	11% (FY2020)	9%	8.5%			
Ratio of taken annual leave	57% (FY2019)	80%	59%			
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			
Ratio of Tenure/Tenure-track staff in total	14% (FY2020)	50% [5]	48%			
Ratio of female staff in management positions (Principal staff)	19% (FY2020)	30% [5]	24%			
Rate of teleworking [6]	40% (FY2020)	40%	40%			
Overtime [7]	10.5 hrs (Monthly overtime hours per person in FY2019)	Continue to be reduced	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)			
Number of web-based systems introduced, replacing paper-based systems	-	No further paper-based systems [9]	4			
Staff Satisfaction Survey [10]	Conducted in 2019	To be conducted in 2023 (tbc)				

Note for indicators:

- [1] Excludes support for HQ office rent from Kanagawa Prefecture and for KRC office rent from Hyogo Prefecture.
- [2] 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. The ratio will be reviewed when IGES's operation becomes stable and effective, and no-barrier in communications with satellite offices are realised. The level of teleworking in offices in Japan was set at 70% in July-October (declaration of a state of emergency, etc.) and then it has been 50% until today in accordance with the general guidance from the government. The level of teleworking rates for staff with special family or health needs were set in a flexible manner.
- [7] Overtime by staff members who are not under the discretionary labour system was applied. A flexible work hours system was introduced for staff members who are not under the discretionary labour system in FY2021.
- [8] COVID-19 pandemic made large impacts on CO2 emissions both from office energy use and overseas missions. The target will be developed for the post COVID-19 period. 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 FY2023

<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), **SWITCH-Asia:** programme supporting the transition of Asian Countries to a low-carbon, resource-efficient and circular economy while promoting sustainable production and consumption patterns within Asia and greener supply chains between Asia and Europe, supported by the European Union in Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, Mongolia and China (hosted by BRC), **TSF:** Tokyo Sustainability Forum, **IPBES-TSU-AIS:** IPBES Technical Support Unit for the Assessment of Invasive Alien Species (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 FY2023
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"> 4th UN Climate and SDGs Synergy Conference (convened by UNDESA and UNFCCC, in partnership with IGES and others) (Member of the Expert Group, Global Analytical Report, post SDGs discussion) in early summer 2023 and follow up activities at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2023, SDGs Summit, UNFCCC/COP28, UNEA, APFSD2024, Summit of the Future, CBD/COP16 and beyond [ISC, BDF] Contribution to outcome documents and SDG Roundtables at APFSD based on IGES SDG Key Messages [ISC] Contribution to HLPF based on UNEP VNR project, SDGs Synergies Conference, SDG interlinkages tool, and VLR lab [ISC, CTY] IGES side event at HLPF 2023 together with Stockholm School of Economics and UNDESA to launch UNDESA’s book on SDG interlinkages [ISC] ISAP 2023 in December (Yokohama, Japan) [SMO with all IGES Units] <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"> Use VNR process to strengthen implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs in Asia (funded by UNEP) [ISC] Strengthen the integration of the SDGs into Japanese business planning and operations [ISC, CE, SCP, BDF]

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen integration between air pollution and climate change in Thailand [ISC] [(2)c] • Sixth ASEAN State of the Environment Report (funded by JAIF) [SMO, BRC, ISC, CE, SCP, CCET, BDF, AW, CTY] • 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] • Rapid baseline policy survey and assessment of plastics reduction/resilience initiatives by participating ASEAN cities (about 12 cities) in parallel with the development of Project Action Plans to implement innovative bottom-up projects to address land-based marine plastics and urban resilience [BRC] • 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 Japanese and other G7 cities [ISC, CE, SMO] <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 2023 Report targeted at HLPF 2023 [CTY] • Disseminate Japan's experience and discussions on policy development on sustainable finance including the guidelines on green finance [FIN] • <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> • <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> <p>[Academic impacts]</p> <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, SCP/CCET, ISC, BRC] • Contribution to the UNDESA's book on the interlinkages among the SDGs [ISC] • Launch new ASEAN Clean Air Solutions Report [ISC] • Publication on SDG indicators and data gaps, solutions and implications for post-2030 Agenda [ISC] <p>[Media impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve VLR and SDGs webpages [SMO] • Produce podcast episodes aimed at general audiences [BDF, SMO, ISC, SCP]
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<p>b. Localising SDGs and shaping Regional Circulating and Ecological Sphere (CES)</p>	<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"> • Regional workshop of the CES-Asia Initiative: Advancing Circulating and Ecological Sphere Approach for Localization Global Goals and Targets <i>(tbc)</i> [ISC, CTY, AW] • National workshop of the Regional CES in Indonesia: Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkage to Achieve SDGs through Urban and Regional Planning Intervention [KRC, ISC] • Develop knowledge materials on application of CES approach for achieving nation and global sustainable development goals through integrated local actions [ISC, CTY, AW] • Strengthen integration between air pollution and climate change in city plans and policies in ASEAN [ISC] <i>[(2)c]</i> • <i>Research on sustainable land use management to achieve global biodiversity conservation and reduction of GHG emission from the land sector [BDF] [(3)b]</i> • Contribution as a member of the Steering Committee to the OECD's SDGs localization programme, "A Territorial Approach to the SDGs". [KUC] <p>[Practical solution impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with the city region level stakeholders to develop city specific framework for application of the CES approach in Nagpur (India) and Udon Thani (Thailand) [ISC, CTY] • Collaborate with Hachinohe City for application of CES approach toward Net Zero City Region [ISC, CTY?] • 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 SDGs Certificate Program in a 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 develop the Hokusetsu Regional CES concept [KRC] • Collaborate with Hyogo Prefecture to promote Regional CES concept 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, SDGs education in high schools) [ISC] • Conduct SDGs training programme to disseminate SDGs-related activities in Kitakyushu City and Kyushu area [KUC] • Providing supports to the VLR process of West Java Province, Indonesia with partner organisations [CTY] • Support capacity building for Japan's regional banks on ESG (Environment, Social, and Governance) finance including sustainability linked loan [FIN] • <i>Viet Nam: Launching 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>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cambodia: Developing National Plastic Action Plan through JAIF Project [CCET] [(4)c]</i> • <i>Myanmar: Developing National Plastic Action Plan through JAIF Project [CCET] [(4)c]</i> • <i>Sri Lanka: Implementation of follow-up project for the National Plastic Waste Management Action Plan in collaboration with Basel Convention Regional Center [CCET] [(4)c]</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> <p>[Academic impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launching of a book on the Circulating and Ecological Sphere [ISC, CTY] • <i>World Economic Forum: Developing an assessment report on National Plastic Action Partnership (NPAP) activities in Indonesia, Viet Nam and Ghana for Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) [SCP, AW] [(4)a]</i> <p>[Media impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch the IGES special webpage on CES [SMO] • Produce podcast episodes aimed at general audiences [BDF, SMO, ISC, SCP]
c. Promoting just transitions and green recovery in the wake of COVID-19	<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] • Launching a new work-stream on Post-COVID-19 Economy and Single-use Plastics for ERIA Technical Expert Working Group on Marine Plastic Debris and prepare a technical report by the middle of 2023 [SCP] • Contribution to Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)’s green economy assessment work [ISC] • <i>Integrate health co-benefits into climate planning in Japanese and other G7 cities [ISC, CE, SMO]</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"> • 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 podcast episodes aimed at general audiences [BDF, SMO, ISC, SCP]

(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 FY2023
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 research-based capacity building for Article 6 participation, reporting under the transparency framework, and the participation in the global stocktake [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)] T7/G7 Policy Brief: IGES leading the preparation on a policy brief on the topic of Critical Minerals [CE/ISC] T7/G7 Policy Brief: Publication and dissemination of a policy brief on the topic of integrating societal well-being into climate strategies in G7 and beyond [ISC] T20/G20: IGES team taking part in the preparation of policy brief on the topic of Critical Minerals, led by IISD [CE/ISC] Support the Japan’s delegation to the second replenishment meetings of Green Climate Fund (GCF) [KUC] <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] <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] <p>[Academic impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution to the UCCRN report, a chapter on infrastructure [ISC]

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 podcast episodes aimed at general audiences [BDF, SMO, ISC, SCP]
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"> Develop a blueprint for 1.5°C aligned 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> <p>[Practical solution impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support MOEJ to explore best models of “Zero carbon district model project towards 2030 (脱炭素先行地域)” [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 practice and reflection on corporate strategy [BIZ] 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, ZEVs (Zero Emission Vehicles), decarbonization of heat and chemical reactions, 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] <p>[Media impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise media exposure opportunities by proactively proposing op-ed and interviews, launch the special

		<p>webpage on Net Zero [SMO]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce podcast episodes aimed at general audiences [BDF, SMO, ISC, SCP]
c. Promoting Net zero Asia	<p>Led by: CE</p> <p>Joined by: BDF, CTY, FIN, ISC, SMO</p>	<p>[Policy/institutional change impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 (possibility of IGES-wide teams)] Kick-starting dialogue with Indian industry in pursuing JCM [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] <i>Strengthen integration between air pollution and climate change in Thailand [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 (tbc) [CTY, ISC] Conduct feasibility studies in Hai Phong City, Viet Nam to promote Eco-Industrial Parks under the city-to-city collaboration between Kitakyushu City and Hai Phong City (tbc) [KUC] Conduct feasibility studies in West Java Province, Indonesia to promote decarbonisation of cement industry under the city-to-city collaboration between Kitakyushu City and West Java Province (tbc) [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] Support the transition to the decarbonised society in the Asian region by expanding the results of the co-benefit air pollution control model projects implemented in China to the Asian region and promoting JCM [BJG] Jointly implement the Foreign Expert Base Project (to be funded by the Chinese Ministry of Science and

		<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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] <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] <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 podcast episodes at general audiences [BDF, SMO, ISC, SCP]
d. Promoting Net Zero Cities	<p>Led by: CTY and KUC</p> <p>Joined by: ISC, KRC, SCP, SMO</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] • 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] • <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] • Exploring policy needs of and necessary support for the Japanese local and regional governments to develop their plan for decarbonisation [CTY, KRC, KUC] • 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"> • Conduct a study on the roles of intermediary support organisations supporting climate policy planning and implementation of local governments [CTY, KRC, KUC, SMO] • <i>Contribution to local decarbonisation plan in Odate City through ESG for sustainable lifestyle project and others [SCP, 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] • Policy recommendations on “Leveraging Opportunities through Local Initiatives to Achieve Net Zero Emissions by 2050: A Case Study of Da Nang City, Vietnam” [FIN, AW] • Documentation of findings from the city-to-city collaboration of Japanese and EU cities on climate actions [CTY] • 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 Zero Carbon City International Forum 2024, support to the G7 Roundtable on Subnational Climate Actions) [CTY, KUC] • 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] • <i>Develop the 1.5°C Lifestyle Project as a joint project with Hyogo Prefecture New Lifestyle Committee [KRC] [(4)b]</i> • <i>Expansion and development of the 1.5 °C lifestyle project through the living lab in Yokohama City and Kyoto City, multi-stakeholder dialogue in Kawasaki City, workshops in Kagoshima and Kitakyushu [SCP, CTY, KUC] [(4)b]</i> • Support local SMEs to take a transition path for net zero by organizing a GX executive business school in Kitakyushu (tbc) [KUC] <p>[Media impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise media exposure opportunities by proactively proposing op-ed, enhance the special webpage on Zero Carbon Cities [SMO] • Produce podcast episodes aimed at general audiences [BDF, SMO, ISC, SCP]
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<p>e. Mainstreaming and promoting implementation of climate adaptation</p>	<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. Then, contribute to the international negotiations on adaptation and provide strategic policy recommendations [AW] <p>[Policy/institutional change impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under AP-PLAT, collaborate with partner institutions to operationalize 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, and capacity building for developing projects on compound and cascading disaster at the local level in Nepal and Bangladesh. Develop dedicated web contents and a database for AP-PLAT [BRC, AW] • 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)] • ISAP 2023 in November, TT3 (Yokohama, Japan) [BRC] <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" (two pilot countries: Cambodia and Viet Nam/hybrid seminar) (<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] <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
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		<p>like numerical simulation, quantitative and qualitative approach [AW]</p> <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 podcast episodes aimed at general audiences [BDF, SMO, ISC, SCP]
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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 FY2023
a. Strengthening global biodiversity policy processes	<p>Led by: BDF</p> <p>Joined by: AW, IPBES-TSU-AIS, TSF 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] • Support Japanese Government as part of delegation to meetings of CBD subsidiary bodies [BDF] • Socio-ecological scenarios and modelling in <i>Suishin-hi</i> and e-Asia projects [BDF] <p>[Academic impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate the production of the IPBES assessment report on invasive alien species [IPBES-TSU-AIS] • Support and advice to the IPBES-TSU-AIS on invasive alien species [BDF] • Contribute to IPBES nexus assessment as experts [BDF, AW] [(2)e] • <i>Contribute to IPBES transformative change assessment as expert [BDF]</i> • Various publications to add to the body of literature on global biodiversity policy [BDF and others] • Editorial duties for the peer-reviewed journal (“Sustainability Science”) [SMO/ISC/BDF] <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 CBD-COP and IPBES [SMO] • Maximise media exposure opportunities by proactively proposing op-ed [SMO] • Produce explanatory contents, such as webinars and podcasts, aimed at general audiences [BDF, SMO, ISC, SCP]
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] • Produce a CBD manual to promote 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] • IGES secondment to Indonesia for JICA peatland research [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] [(2)b] • Implement the JICA's Verification Survey with the Private Sector (Shabondama Soap Co., Ltd.) for Disseminating Japanese Technologies to Extinguish Forest and Peatland Fire Using Environmentally Friendly Soap-based Fire Fighting Foam in Indonesia [KUC, BDF, CTY] <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 (Minamisanriku 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] <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 podcasts, aimed at general audiences [BDF, SMO, ISC, SCP]
c. Facilitating non-state actors' involvement in conservation	<p>Led by: BDF</p> <p>Joined by: FIN, IPBES-TSU-AIS, 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 review process of the Japanese Clean Wood Act [BDF] • Research on production and supply chains of forest risk commodities (e.g., oil palm, coffee and cocoa) 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] • Support the provision of inputs in an elaborating process of international standards on biodiversity under the ISO/TC331 [IPBES-TSU-AIS, BDF, TSF] • Collaborate with the Keidanren Nature Conservation Committee, e.g. questionnaire survey of Keidanren

		<p>member companies and global outreach [BDF, FIN]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support the tourism sector in Mauritius to contribute to sustainable tourism [BDF]• Produce explanatory content, such as webinars and podcasts, aimed at general audiences [BDF, SMO, ISC, SCP]
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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 FY2023
a. Mainstreaming circular economy	<p>Led by: SCP</p> <p>Joined by: AW, BRC, FIN, KUC, BRC(SWITCH-Asia)</p>	<p>[International process impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> G7: Support Japanese government to develop and adopt G7’s Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency Principles at G7 Summit and support its dissemination [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, FIN] [(1)a] Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Plastics (GACERE): Draft GACERE Working Paper on Circular Economy and Plastics [SCP] <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] 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] WCEF: Contribute to Global Circular Economy Roadmap initiative led by Chatham House (tbc) [KUC] <p>[Practical solution impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viet Nam: Launching 2nd Phase Activities to support Da Nang City, Viet Nam to promote 3R activities and policies in collaboration with Yokohama City through JICA Project [SCP, AW] [(1)b] ERIA: Finalising the data framework for monitoring actions against plastic pollution [SCP, BRC] <p>[Academic impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Economic Forum: Finalising and publication of an assessment report on National Plastic Action

		<p>Partnership (NPAP) activities in Indonesia, Viet Nam and Ghana for Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) [SCP, AW] [(1)b]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERIA: Conducting and finalizing the comparative analysis of packaging and food consumption pattern change in ASEAN cities during COVID-19 pandemic and after COVID-19 pandemic. <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 podcast episodes aimed at general audiences [BDF, SMO, ISC, SCP]
b. Mainstreaming sustainable lifestyles	<p>Led by: SCP</p> <p>Joined by: CCET, BRC, KUC, AW, BRC(SWITCH-Asia)</p>	<p>[International process impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Resources Forum: Contribution as scientific committee member to the World Resources Economy Forum to be held in Switzerland in September 2023 [SCP]. • Contribution to the establishment of an international consortium to support SMEs and social entrepreneurs for sustainable lifestyles in collaboration with other research institutions [SCP]. <p>[Policy/institutional change impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zushi city and Hayama Town: Contribution to the development of the Zushi City and Hayama Town Global Warming Action Plan by organising citizens' meetings using the 1.5° C lifestyle approach [SCP] • Hyogo prefecture: Contribution to New Lifestyle Commission of Hyogo Prefecture to organise citizens' workshops using the 1.5°C lifestyle approach [KRC] <p>[Practical solution impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and implement a programme on decarbonisation lifestyle in school education [SCP]. • Develop pilot projects and guidelines on reducing single-use plastics through the application of behavioural science [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 podcast episodes aimed at general audiences [BDF, SMO, ISC, SCP]
c. Ending pollution and improving environmental quality	<p>Led by: CCET and SCP</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] • G20: Playing a central function to compile a progress report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter by G20

	<p>Joined by: AW, BDF, BRC, CE, CTY, FIN, ISC, KUC, SCP, CCET, SMO</p>	<p>[SCP, CCET]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of city-level best practices from Asia for the Global Plastic Treaty Recommendations. [BRC] <p>[Policy/institutional change impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sixth ASEAN State of the Environment Report (funded by JAIF)</i> [SMO, BRC, ISC, CE, SCP, CCET, BDF, AW, CTY] [(1)a] • ASEAN: Organising technical expert working group of ERIA Regional Knowledge Centre on Marine Plastic Debris [SCP, CCET, BRC] • Cambodia: Developing National Plastic Action Plan through JAIF Project [CCET] [(1)b] • Myanmar: Developing National Plastic Action Plan through JAIF Project [CCET] [(1)b] • Sri Lanka: Implementation of follow-up project for the National Plastic Waste Management Action Plan in collaboration with Basel Convention Regional Center [CCET] [(1)b] • Assist Cambodia to develop a National Methane Reduction Roadmap with CCAC [CCET] • 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] [(1)b] • <i>Support the transition to the decarbonized society in the Asian region by expanding the results of the co-benefit air pollution control model projects implemented in China to the Asian region and promoting JCM</i> [BJG] [(2)c] • 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 Thailand</i> [ISC] [(1)a] • <i>Strengthen integration between air pollution and climate change in city plans and policies in ASEAN</i> [ISC] [(1)b] • AECEN will take 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. [BRC] <p>[Practical solution impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASEAN, Cambodia, Myanmar: Development of a series of training programmes on monitoring plastic waste generation and leakages for national and local government officials [CCET] • Developing and maintaining supporting tools for decision-makers such as GHG estimation tools and plastic leakage estimation tools [CCET] • ASEAN: Publication of scoping paper on data availability and gaps across the plastic value chain in the ASEAN Member States [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
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		<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalising the CCET-IGES Plastic Leakage Tracker and developing case studies on its application to two Asian cities [CCET, ISC] • Strengthening collaboration with CCAC and UNEP/IETC for capacity building activities for GHG estimation as well as prevention of open-burning in waste sectors [CCET] • Developing a project framework of Zero-plastic Waste Island in Koh Samet, Thailand under AEPW project [KUC] • Continue to play a secretariat role to manage the “Green finance portal” established by the Japanese government [FIN] • 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] • Thailand: Supporting the City Government and local stakeholders to achieve Zero Plastic Waste Island in Rayong, Thailand. [BRC, KUC] • Thailand: Supporting the City Government and local stakeholders to achieve Zero Plastic Waste Island in Rayong, Thailand. [BRC, KUC] • <i>Support developing a waste management system for municipal solid waste in Davao, the Philippines [KUC]</i> <p>[Academic impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Launch new ASEAN Clean Air Solutions Report [ISC] [(1)a]</i> <p>[Media impacts]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise media exposure opportunities by proactively proposing op-ed [SMO] • Produce explanatory contents, such as webinars and podcasts, aimed at general audiences [SMO] • Produce podcast episodes aimed at general audiences [BDF, SMO, ISC, SCP] • Launch AECEN newsletters and a series of webinars on environmental compliance and enforcement. [BRC]
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Appendix

A1. About ISPR8 (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

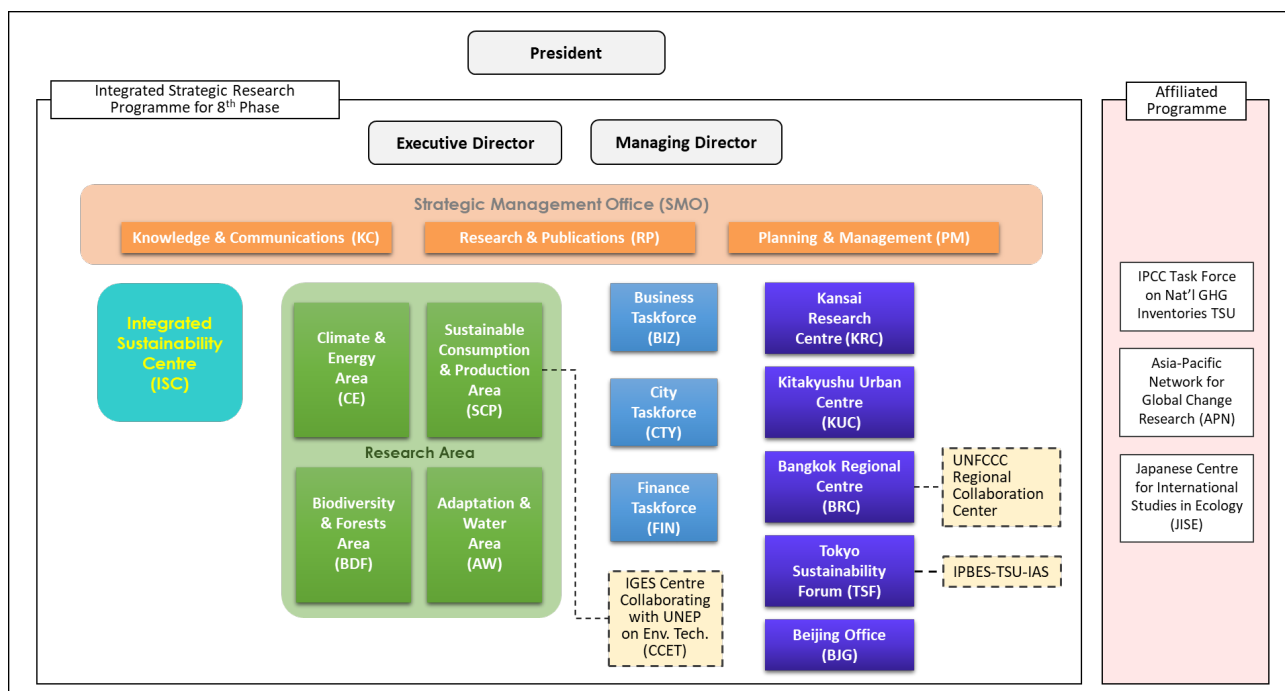


Figure A1: Organisational Structure for ISRP8

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 RE100¹⁰/RE Action¹¹ 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.

¹⁰ International business initiative committed to 100% renewable power, working to massively increase corporate demand for and delivery of renewable energy

¹¹ 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)¹²

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 two 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 FY2023 are explained in (1) to (5) below.

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

The IPCC Inventory Software helps inventory compilers to estimate emissions and removals of GHGs according to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (2006 IPCC Guidelines). The on-going work for the interoperability with the UNFCCC reporting tool to be used under the Paris Agreement will continue in FY2023. Other planned relevant work on the software for FY2023 is the preparation of guidebooks (one per each sector) to help users in preparing their national GHG inventories by utilising the IPCC Inventory Software. 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>). In addition, the TSU will continue providing technical support to users.

(2) 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. In FY2023, the TSU will continue to enhance the EFDB by improving its user-friendliness, collecting data, organising relevant expert meetings and supporting the EFDB Editorial Board as well as implementing other activities to improve the database through updating the EFDB website and its content as published in the TFI website (<https://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/EFDB/main.php>). TSU will also continue promoting the EFDB at various meetings and workshops.

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

Based on the decision IPCC/XLIX-7 adopted at the 49th Session of IPCC in May 2019, the TFI will produce a Methodology Report on estimation of emissions of Short-lived Climate Forcers (SLCFs) during the IPCC AR7 cycle. In FY2023, the TSU will organise a scoping meeting to prepare a draft outline of the Methodology Report which will be submitted to the IPCC for consideration and approval at its plenary session.

(4) Inventory Internship Programme

An intern(s) may be accepted if and when it is deemed helpful to TSU in carrying out some work during FY2023. This programme may not be implemented if such a need does not arise.

(5) Collaboration with Other Organisations

In FY2023, the TSU will continue cooperation with other organisations on inventory-related matters. For example, the TSU will contribute to inventory-related capacity building programmes implemented by the UNFCCC

¹² This business plan for FY2023 may be subjected to substantial change depending on a decision taken by the IPCC at its 59th Session on 24-27 July 2023. Details will be reported to the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees at their meetings in September 2023.

secretariat, the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), the Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI), 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 FY2023, APN is planning to conduct the following activities in anticipation of normalisation from the COVID-19 pandemic and 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 FY2023 call for proposals on international collaborative research projects.

(2) Scientific Capacity Building and Enhancement for Sustainable Development in Developing Countries (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.

Proposal Development Training Workshop (PDTW)

To enhance the capacity of early-career scientists 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 FY2023, the PDTW will be held in the Pacific.

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 for international seminars to increase the awareness of citizens on environmental matters.

(4) Others

i. Steering Committee Meeting and Other Meetings

APN will organise meetings for the Intergovernmental Meeting, the Steering Committee, the Scientific Planning Group (SPG), the SPG Sub-Committee and the Capacity Development Committee in FY 2023.

ii. Subregional Committee Activities

APN will conduct necessary activities in the subregion of 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 addition to the above activities, in FY2023, APN will organise a scoping meeting to discuss specific contents of activities of the subregional committee for the Pacific.

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. Taking the opportunity of the office relocation to the Hayama Headquarters (scheduled for October 2023), JISE promotes further collaboration in research activities with Biodiversity and Forests Area of IGES and others.

In FY2023, 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, Taiwan and Cambodia. 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 Sites¹³ (OECM¹⁴ 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

¹³ Areas where biodiversity is being conserved through private sector efforts, etc. The Ministry of the Environment will launch a system to certify those sites as "Nature Symbiosis Sites" in FY2023, aiming to certify more than 100 sites by the end of 2023.

¹⁴ 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.

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.