

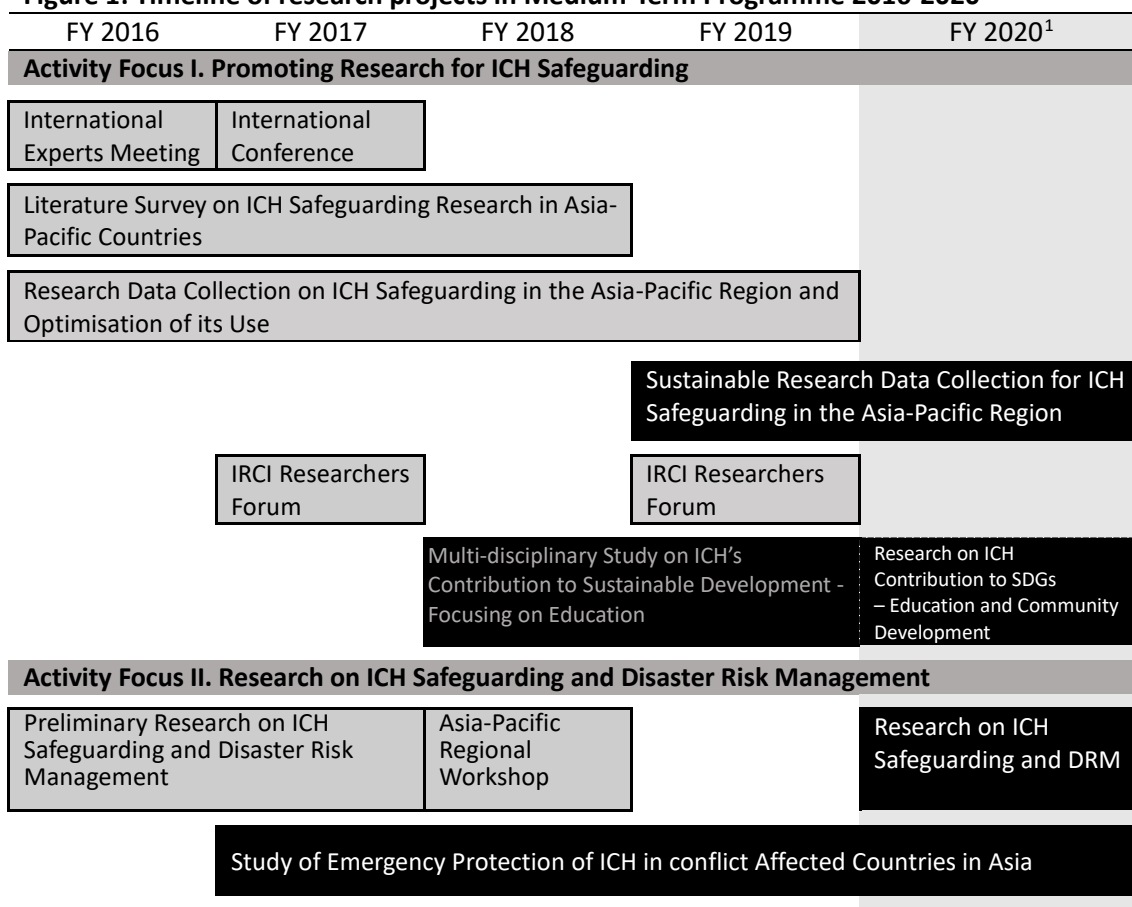
# Work Plan for FY 2020

## 1. Activity Focus and the Overview of Research Projects

The Work Plan for FY 2020 is developed under the scheme of IRCI’s Medium-term Programme (2016-2020)(IRCI/2019/8GB/Ref.4b), which was approved at the 4th Governing Board Meeting of IRCI (25 September 2015). Being at the final year of the current five-year term (Figure 1), some projects are at the final stage of concluding major activities, while some new activities are proposed to envisage the post-2020 direction of IRCI’s research.

A total of four projects are proposed for FY 2020 (Table 1): two projects under Activity Focus I (Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding), and two projects for Activity Focus II (Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster-Risk Management).

**Figure 1: Timeline of research projects in Medium-Term Programme 2016-2020**



<sup>1</sup> Projects that start in FY2020 require approval from the Governing Board.

**Table 1: List of FY 2020 research projects**

<b>Activity Focus I. Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding</b>	
Sustainable Research Data Collection for ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region (2019-2021)	
New project	Research on ICH Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals – Education and Community Development (2020-2021)
<b>Activity Focus II. Research on ICH and Disaster Risk Management</b>	
Study of Emergency Protection of ICH in Conflict-Affected Countries in Asia (2017-2020)	
New project	Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster Risk Management (2020-2022)

### **Activity Focus I: Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding**

#### **Specific Contents of Activities**

*Promote research for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, through conducting the following activities regarding the practices and methodologies of safeguarding, in cooperation with research institutions and researchers working in the Asia-Pacific region:*

*(i) Instigate research activities and develop the researchers' community through international conferences, experts meetings, and publications;*

*(ii) Examine and develop strategies for optimizing the use of research data, while collecting research information.*

(Section III(1), Medium-term Programme 2016-2020)

IRCI has implemented since FY 2013 a research project based on the mapping of research information pertaining to the safeguarding of ICH in the Asia-Pacific region. This 'Mapping Project', aiming at instigating research for ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region through analysing current trends and challenges, constitutes one of the most important research projects undertaken by IRCI. Since FY 2016, this project has been carried out in the form of three inter-related sub-projects: international conferences/experts meetings, systematic literature survey, and optimisation of the use of research information with the database. After six years of implementation, current setup of the Mapping Project was reviewed and new projects were proposed in FY2019 to develop an alternative framework for collecting research data and to prospect the future direction of the IRCI research as a whole.

Specifically, the newly launched project in FY2019, 'Sustainable Research Data Collection for ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region' will continue to seek an innovative methodology to collect information relating to research for ICH safeguarding and to keep IRCI's research database updated in a sustainable manner.

'Multi-disciplinary Study on ICH's Contribution to Sustainable Development – Focusing on Education' is to be concluded in FY 2019 and building on the experience, a new project 'Research on ICH Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals – Education and Community Development' will begin in FY2020 in order to explore the contribution

of ICH to SDG 4 and 11 through a series of case studies in the region.

## **Activity focus II: Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster Risk Management**

### **Specific Contents of Activities**

*Conduct research on the current status and the cases of the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific region that are endangered by disasters such as natural hazards, as well as research on the role of ICH for disaster preparedness and in the post-disaster recovery process, in consideration of UNESCO's focus in the Medium-Term Strategy (37C/4) on the response to post-conflict and post-disaster situations (PCPD).*

(Section III(2), Medium-term Programme 2016-2020)

This Activity Focus was devised in consideration of UNESCO's concern on post-conflict and post-disaster (PCPD) situations, as described in its Medium-term Strategy 2014-2021 (37C/4). The emphasis on this issue has been further strengthened in the latest Programme and Budget (39C/5 and Draft 40C/5), with a cross-cutting ER 5 stating 'Culture protected and cultural pluralism promoted in emergencies through better preparedness and response'. This Activity Focus also reflects growing national and international interests in the heritage management in the context of disasters, in which importance of ICH has been increasingly recognised. Against this backdrop, IRCI has undertaken two projects during the current medium-term: one focusing on natural hazards and disasters, and the other related to conflict. Although research on ICH in disasters and conflict situations is still an emerging field, the importance of these projects by IRCI has been acknowledged by various researchers and organisations in the world, including the latest sessions of the Intergovernmental Committee in 2017 and 2018, and the experts meeting in 2019 which highlighted the agenda on the safeguarding of ICH under emergencies. IRCI's initiatives with Japan's abundant experiences and knowledge are expected to open a new research horizon that contributes significantly to the safeguarding of ICH in disaster-prone/conflict-affected countries in Asia and the Pacific.

The project 'Study of Emergency Protection of ICH in Conflict-Affected Countries in Asia' has been investigating ICH and its safeguarding in conflict-affected situations since FY2017 and will be concluded in FY 2020.

Based on the preliminary research (FY2016-2017), and reflecting the lessons learnt and challenges identified in 'Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on ICH and Natural Disasters' (FY 2018), IRCI will launch a 3-year-research project 'Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster Risk Management' on ICH safeguarding in the context of DRM.

## 2. Individual Project Outlines

Activity Focus I. Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding

### **Sustainable Research Data Collection for ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region**

**Period of implementation:** FY 2019-2021

**Geographic focus:** Entire Asia-Pacific region (FY2019: Southeast Asia, FY2020: South Asia, FY2021: TBD)

**Background:** With regard to the Mapping Project, its Literature Survey which was implemented in cooperation with researchers in each country in the Asia-Pacific region ended in FY2018. While the project was effective, it also identified some challenges associated with limited resources and capacities in certain countries. For example, a majority of the countries in Asia-Pacific region ratified the 2003 convention (43 countries as of October 2019), nonetheless, a basic understanding such as the definition of ICH has not been popularised thoroughly among the research institutions and government officials and the legal system is yet to be streamlined. Also, there is a limited number of experts in the related academic fields such as anthropology at the local level, given that from a global perspective, research data and resource are distributed unevenly, and thus research of a high standard in some cases were not possible. Furthermore, other issues include variation in the quality of collections due to different ways of understanding ICH, limited information sharing among the research institutions and a high risk of loss of archived research data due to poor storage conditions and limited access.

**Purpose:** In order to overcome the challenges and lessons learnt from the Mapping Project (FY2013-2018), IRCI will establish a new mechanism for data collection in cooperation with research institutions (such as universities, museums and research centres). This not only ensures the collection of research data, but also promotes a better understanding of the Convention and research as one of the safeguarding measures and will further promote ICH research. Designated institutions will become the National Counterparts and take responsibilities for carrying out research activities. Data is collected in a sustainable manner. By reaffirming the necessity of research data for a holistic safeguarding of ICH, a mechanism in which each National Counterpart proactively operates as the focal point in their own country is built.

**Progress/preparatory activities** (during/before FY2019): In the first year of the project, Southeast Asia was chosen as the focused region and 7 organisations from 6 countries (Malaysia, Myanmar, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam) were designated. Priorities were given to the organisations that are already in cooperation

with IRCI through various projects, though at the same time, institutions with which IRCI's contact is new were also chosen in the hope of building new relationships. 7 participants from the selected organisations were invited to the Working Group Meeting on 26-27 June and the new data collection scheme and cooperating mechanism were proposed and discussed among the participants. The Guide for National Counterparts was developed as a result of the discussion. The guide is now available in 7 languages. Agreements will be signed between each institutions and data will be submitted to IRCI.

**Specific activities for FY 2020:** Through preliminary studies, working group meetings, as well as monitoring and facilitating, IRCI will cooperate with research institutions in target countries in South Asia (FY2020) and begin the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the project (collect data from their own institution) while the first group of partner institutions (6 institutions from Southeast Asian countries) from FY2019 will move on to the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the project and each will develop its own mechanism for a sustainable data collection in cooperation with other institutions in the country to expand the cooperating system. Data is collected systematically in both regions, while a network of cooperating institutions continues to grow. By the end of FY2020:

- 1) At least 10 research organisations have established partnerships as National Counterparts (NCs) with IRCI and submit information collected in FY2020 and/or contribute to the research activities.
- 2) First group of NCs have expanded the data collection scheme to other relevant institutions in their respective countries while the second group of NCs begin data collection.
- 3) While analysing the collected data, IRCI will facilitate research initiatives to develop a mechanism for promoting research on ICH by encouraging young researchers' participation.
- 4) Collected data will be added to IRCI Online Database continuously.

**Specific outputs:** Information collected in FY 2019 will be fed into IRCI's Online Research Database.

**Project partners/cooperating researchers and organisations:**

Research organisations in selected countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including universities, museums, and other relevant organisations.

\*See attached PDM (IRCI/2019/8GB/8/Annex 2a) for the detailed project design and benchmarks.

Activity Focus I. Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding

## **Research on ICH's Contribution to Sustainable Development –Education and Community Development (New Project)**

**Period of implementation:** FY 2020-2021

**Geographic focus:** Entire Asia-Pacific region

**Background:** On 25 September 2015, the 70th General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the resolution “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The Agenda sets the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which consist of 17 goals and 169 targets. The SDGs are the common goals shared by the international community to realise the sustainable world in order to leave no one behind. UNESCO emphasises the contribution of culture to the sustainable development. In the Major Programme IV of the 39C/5, UNESCO outlines the contribution of culture to the SDGs, where potential contribution of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) is expected in SDGs 2, 4, 5, 11 and 17. At the twelfth session of the Intergovernmental Committee, a decision was made to dedicate its second funding priority to the safeguarding of ICH in formal and non-formal education, testifying a growing need for its contribution to the goal 4, which stipulates “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”.

**Purpose:** The analysis of the role of ICH knowledge as the foundation that improves the quality of education, and makes sustainable development of the community possible, by conducting research on the role of ICH into non-formal education and community development, in cooperation with local institutions in the Asia-Pacific region, such as academic institutions, NGOs, museums, and other relevant organisations.

Contribution of ICH to SDG 4 and 11 is explored in the project. Through this project, recommendations for the utilisation of ICH in the field of non-formal education to nurture people to become proactively aware of their role in achieving sustainable development of their community are drafted.

**Progress/preparatory activities** (during/before FY2019): The present project on ICH's contribution to Sustainable Development, focusing on education has shown the importance of combining education and community development to more clearly analyse the role of ICH. At the International Workshop in November 2019, not only the outcomes of the undergoing project but also the ICH's contribution to education and community development will be discussed. On the other hand, the outcomes from “International Researchers Forum: Perspectives of Research for Intangible Cultural Heritage towards a Sustainable Society” planned to be held in FY2019 shall provide an adequate insight for choosing the appropriate cases. Additionally, following UNESCO's 40C/5 Major

Programme IV, attention will be also paid to the importance of traditional knowledge.

**Specific activities for FY 2020:** From FY2020 for two years, IRCI will conduct a series of case studies that combines ICH and SDGs, notably goals on Quality Education (4.7) and Community Development (11.4). The research will be proceeded in order to analyse ICH's contribution to Sustainable Development. Through a series of in-depth case studies, IRCI will examine good practices from the regions which adopt ICH as an important means for learning in a non-formal learning setting. The topic of how ICH can cultivate and nurture people who contribute to community or local development will be studied. The project will focus on cases in at least 2 countries initiated by national or local institutions –such as local museums (ecomuseums), community learning centres (CLC) and NGOs. The selected cases should highlight how local initiatives help the inhabitants to grow fondness and take pride in their community through ICH and contribute to the community development based upon this. For example, ideally these cases should encourage entrepreneurship among the members of the community in order to become more aware of their responsibilities and equipped for developing sustainable communities and regions.

Through these cases, it is hoped that light will be shed on the connection between ICH and SDGs (4.7/11.4). This will also open a dialogue on how an appreciation of cultural diversity and mutual respect can be nurtured through education by learning to respect and understand one's own culture as emphasised in the Article 14 of the 2003 Convention. At the end of the FY2020, IRCI will organise a Regional Symposium to analyse the lessons learnt from these case studies. The outcomes of the symposium will be published and shared with diverse stakeholders including UNESCO and national commissions for UNESCO.

**Specific outputs:** Project report with a collection of case studies.

**Project partners/cooperating researchers and organisations:** Research institutions, CLCs, local museums, and NGOs

\*See attached PDM (IRCI/2019/8GB/8/Annex 2b) for the detailed project design and benchmarks.

Activity Focus II. Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster Risk Management  
**Study of Emergency Protection of ICH in Conflict-Affected Countries in Asia**

**Period of implementation:** FY 2017-2020

**Geographic focus:** Afghanistan, Sri Lanka (Northern and Eastern Provinces<sup>2</sup>), and Timor-Leste

**Background:** ICH faces the danger of extinction in conflict-affected situations, due to factors such as the loss of life and forced displacement. While the role played by ICH in recovering the community's solidarity in emergencies has received a greater attention, the detailed situation of ICH remains in need of investigation. In recent years, UNESCO has been emphasising the importance of dealing with ICH in post-conflict situations. The latest sessions of the Intergovernmental Committee in 2017 and 2018 included the agenda 'ICH in emergencies', and the experts meeting was also held in 2019 to facilitate the discussion on the safeguarding of ICH under emergencies.

IRCI has previously implemented a research project in Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. Building on this experience, IRCI launched this project in FY 2017 as a new initiative to identify possible safeguarding measures for ICH in conflict-affected countries.

**Purpose:** This project aims to examine ICH under conflict-affected situations and specify risk factors that threaten the viability of ICH. Through the implementation of case studies in the selected areas of the above three countries, it also discusses possible safeguarding measures and methodologies for mapping community's ICH in conflict-affected situations. The project is expected to contribute to the enhancement of research and discussions on ICH in conflict-affected situations, and also the development of possible measures for ICH revitalisation.

**Progress/preparatory activities** (during/before FY2019): The relationships with local institutions such as Bamiyan University (Afghanistan), Balkh University (Afghanistan), University of Jaffna (Northern Sri Lanka), National Craft Council (Sri Lanka) and Ministry of Higher Education Science and Culture of Timor-Leste have been built. Research activities including desk survey continue step by step by maintaining close communication with the counterparts and government officials despite the continuing unstable situation in these countries. Hurdles of the research activities lie in the deterioration of security (Afghanistan), the system of government mechanisms that change with national election (Timor-Leste and Afghanistan) and insufficient internet access (Timor-Leste and Afghanistan).

---

<sup>2</sup> Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka were severely affected by the civil war (1983-2009).



As of August 2019 six elements of ICH under the threat of disappearing were identified in two provinces (Bamiyan and Balkh Provinces) of Afghanistan. Due to the unstable condition in these countries, travels to the communities are limited so desk study with small scale survey in the selected areas nearest to the universities has been conducted. It is expected, however, under the condition that safety is secured, an intensive survey in the areas where the communities hold the target ICH elements, to be conducted. As for other target countries, MoU will be concluded and research on two elements in Jaffna District in Northern Sri Lanka will begin. Research on few elements in Covalima province, Timor-Leste will be conducted in November.

**Specific activities for FY 2020:** In FY2020, IRCI will organise an international workshop to share the outcomes and challenges from the three-year project in 5 districts in the target countries where endangered elements were identified and small scale researches were conducted. This project is also expected to contribute to the fostering of young researchers in the target regions by encouraging their research activities. In the workshop observers from countries of post-conflict situation will be invited to participate in the discussion and to deepen the future recommendation. By the end of FY 2020:

- 1) The surveys, including desk survey are continued.
- 2) Networks between IRCI and research institutes in three countries are strengthened.
- 3) An international workshop is held to share the outcomes and challenges of 3-year project, in which the experts from Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, and Northern Sri Lanka and the observers from the post-conflict countries participate.
- 4) A report is published as an output of the 3-year project.

**Specific outputs:** As an output of this 3-year project, a report that introduces the challenges on ICH study in the conflict-affected countries together with research outcomes will be published by March 2020 and its digital version will be released through IRCI website.

The outcomes are analysed in view of the implementation of UNESCO's strategy on ICH in emergencies.

**Project partners/cooperating researchers and organisations:** Ministry of Higher Education Science and Culture of Timor-Leste, Ministry of Culture and Information of Afghanistan, National Crafts Council of Sri Lanka (Project Partners); Craft Revival Trust, experts in ICH safeguarding (Resource Persons); UNESCO Offices, including Kabul Office.

\*See attached PDM (IRCI/2019/8GB/8/Annex 2c) for the detailed project design and benchmarks.

Activity Focus II. Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster Risk Management  
**Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster Risk Management (New Project)**

**Period of implementation:** FY 2020-2022

**Geographic focus:** Entire Asia-Pacific region (Particular focus will be given to the countries which participated in the “Preliminary Research on ICH Safeguarding and the Disaster-Risk Management in the Asia-Pacific Region”)

**Background:** The importance of ICH in the context of natural disasters has recently been recognised, but the situation still requires active involvement of ICH sector. At the “Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on ICH and Natural Disasters” held in 2018, roles of ICH in disaster preparedness, disaster mitigation and disaster resilience were discussed. Such various aspects of ICH should be reflected in the DRM activities.

**Purpose:** The project aims to undertake research in order to understand how issues of natural disaster and ICH within the community will shape the research on DRR/DRM and ICH safeguarding.

Some of the challenges to be addressed include; a critical need to bring ICH and DRM fields together as well as a need to raise awareness on the impact of ICH safeguarding for DRM among the communities including their members and the local governments. In connection to these, on the basis of the “Sendai Recommendation” adopted in 2018, research will take a preparatory step to build a foundation for solving these challenges.

This project is expected to contribute to the development of further research focusing on ICH in the context of DRM, not only in the Asia-Pacific but also in other parts of the world, and to promote active involvement of ICH researchers in DRM.

**Specific activities for FY 2020:** 1) As a preparatory step, and in order to fill in the gap between the preliminary studies terminated in 2018, current state of research on ICH and DRM since 2018 will be studied.

2) IRCI will identify ICH/DRM experts and will conduct field research in the target area in the light of “Sendai Recommendation” adopted in 2018.

3) Researchers of ICH and DRM, IRCI and the implementing institutes will discuss the effective implementation of “Sendai Recommendation” and draft action plans for DRM through ICH.

Ultimately, the result of the research can be obtained such as by categorising types of disasters and provide practical recommendations through models of DRM and ICH safeguarding measures for each category.

The findings of this project will be shared with UNESCO and various stakeholders in order to contribute to the strengthening of the linkage between ICH and DRM.

**Specific outputs:** Project report (other deliverables are to be determined depending on the progress of the project).

**Project partners/cooperating researchers and organisations:**

- Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties
- ICH/DRM researchers in the research institutions in the Asia-Pacific Region and optionally those in the other regions

\*See attached PDM (IRCI/2019/8GB/8/Annex 2d) for the detailed project design and benchmarks.

### **3. Cooperation with Sakai City**

In accordance with its Medium-term Programme (2016-2020), and within the framework of its mandate as specified in the Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Japan, IRCI has been contributing to the projects carried out by Sakai City for promoting ICH to the general public.

In FY 2020, following its activities in the previous year, IRCI will collaborate in organising symposiums or seminars with Sakai City as well as display panels introducing IRCI's research activities and disseminate brochures and leaflets at the Sakai City Museum. In light of the inscription of "Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Groups: Mounded Tombs of Ancient Japan" as UNESCO's World Heritage Site, IRCI's promotional activity will not only raise the public awareness on importance of ICH but also increase the visibility of IRCI to the wider public.