

Work Plan for FY 2026

1. Activity Focus and the Overview of Research Projects

The Work Plan for FY 2026 is developed under IRCI's Medium-Term Programme (FY 2022–2026), which was approved at the 10th Meeting of the Governing Board of IRCI (17 November 2021).

A total of four projects are proposed for FY 2026: two projects under Activity Focus I (Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding), and two projects under Activity Focus II (Research on the Safeguarding of ICH for Building Sustainable and Resilient Societies) (Figure 1, Table 1).

Figure 1: Timeline of research projects in Medium-Term Programme 2022–2026

FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Activity Focus I. Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding				
Sustainable Research Data Collection for ICH Safeguarding: Focusing on Central Asia and Small Island Developing States (FY 2022–2025*)				Collection of Research Information for ICH Safeguarding: Focusing on East Asia
Asia-Pacific Research Forum for ICH Safeguarding <div> <div>Online seminars</div> <div> <div>Early Career Researchers Programme</div> <div>International Conference</div> <div>Publication</div> </div> </div>				
Activity Focus II. Research on the Safeguarding of ICH for Building Sustainable and Resilient Societies				
Research on ICH Contributing to SDGs: Intangible Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Cities and Communities			Preliminary Research on ICH and Ecosystems	Research on ICH Contributing to SDGs: Intangible Cultural Heritage and Ecosystems
Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster Risk Management (FY 2020–2023)		Research on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Climate Change in the Asia-Pacific Region		
Research on ICH Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic				

*Initially scheduled for implementation during FY 2022–2024

Table 1: List of research projects in FY 2026

Activity Focus I. Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding	
New Project	Collection of Research Information for ICH Safeguarding: Focusing on East Asia
Asia-Pacific Research Forum for ICH Safeguarding	
Activity Focus II. Research on the Safeguarding of ICH for Building Sustainable and Resilient Societies	
New Project	Research on ICH Contributing to SDGs: Intangible Cultural Heritage and Ecosystems
Research on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Climate Change in the Asia-Pacific Region	

Activity Focus I: Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding

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 actively working in the field of intangible cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific region:

- (i) Instigate research activities through regional/international conferences, workshops, seminars and publications, while strengthening IRCI's function as a hub of research for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific region by forming a consortium of research institutes in the Asia-Pacific region
- (ii) Collect research information in the Asia-Pacific region, paying special attention to developing countries and small island developing states (SIDS) and aiming at enhancing their research capacity, while examining and developing strategies for optimizing the use and sharing of research data
- (iii) In implementing the activities mentioned above, special attention is paid to the following:
 - (a) foster young ICH researchers in the Asia-Pacific region, and
 - (b) actively promote IRCI's activities through various media including social networking systems, in collaboration with academic societies and other stakeholders

(Section III (1), Medium-Term Programme (FY 2022–2026))

Activity Focus I aims to promote research for the safeguarding of ICH in the Asia-Pacific region by facilitating various opportunities for dialogue and exchange, while continuing

the collection and dissemination of existing research through the IRCI Research Database.¹

Following the 'Mapping Studies on the Safeguarding of ICH' project from FY 2013 to FY 2018, IRCI has developed an alternative framework for collecting research information based on inter-institutional cooperation. The projects, implemented since FY 2019, focused on specific geographical areas (Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and SIDS). As the third cycle of this initiative, the 'Collection of Research Information for ICH Safeguarding: Focusing on East Asia' project (FY 2026–2027) is proposed, to update and analyse the development of ICH research in China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (ROK), which play a substantial role in ICH safeguarding and related research in the Asia-Pacific region.

The 'Asia-Pacific Research Forum for ICH Safeguarding' project (FY 2022–2026) will enter the final year of the current five-year phase. Envisioning the continuation and further development of the platform in the subsequent years, plans for the next phase of the Forum will be discussed with the planning committee, while online seminars will continue.

Activity Focus II: Research on the Safeguarding of ICH for Building Sustainable and Resilient Societies

Conduct research for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific region that is in line with and contributing to ongoing international frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which are outlined in UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy (41C/4) and Programme and Budget (41C/5).

(Section III(2), Medium-Term Programme (FY 2022-2026))

Under Activity Focus II, two research projects investigating specific cases of ICH contributing to sustainable and resilient societies are implemented.

The 'Research on ICH contributing to SDGs: Intangible Cultural Heritage and Ecosystems' project (FY 2026–2027) has been developed as a full-scale study following the preparatory project 'Preliminary Research on ICH and Ecosystems' conducted in FY 2025. In FY 2026, case studies will be carried out to explore how ICH supports environmental sustainability. The 'Research on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Climate Change in the Asia-Pacific Region' project (FY 2024–2026) will be completed with a final meeting to summarize the outcomes of the project.

¹ <https://www.irci.jp/rdb/>

2. Individual Project Outlines

Activity Focus I. Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding

Collection of Research Information for ICH Safeguarding: Focusing on East Asia

Period of implementation: FY 2026–2027

Geographic focus: East Asia (China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea)

Background:

Three East Asian countries—China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (ROK)—lead in the number of inscribed elements on the Representative List of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and have advanced in ICH safeguarding efforts and policies, as well as related research in the Asia-Pacific region. While safeguarding measures and related research are actively pursued in each country, many of these activities and findings are presented in respective national languages and have not been shared widely at the international level. A substantial catalogue of recent research in East Asia would therefore provide valuable insights for safeguarding ICH in this sub-region and across the entire Asia-Pacific region.

Research information for safeguarding ICH in the above three countries was gathered and made available through the IRCI Research Database (<https://www.irci.jp/rdb/>) as part of the 'Mapping Studies on the Safeguarding of ICH' project (in FY 2015 for China and ROK and in FY 2015–2016 for Japan). However, as considerable time has elapsed and the implementation of the Convention has progressed since then, the database does not include the latest research outputs from the past decade. Therefore, an additional collection focused on recent research is necessary to ensure the database reflects current developments in ICH research for this sub-region.

Purpose:

The project aims to understand the latest trends and developments in research related to the safeguarding of ICH in East Asia by collecting and reviewing recent research outputs. Through the project, the latest research landscape in East Asia will be revealed.

As a means of assessing the development of research for safeguarding ICH in East Asia, information on key publications such as research articles and books will be compiled in the project. The collected information will be integrated into the IRCI Research Database and made widely accessible to the public. While the database itself will be enriched and updated by integrating the newly collected information from East Asia, it will significantly contribute to the increased visibility of the latest ICH research in this sub-region.

The project also aims to foster information exchange and discussions among researchers and experts in ICH by holding a sub-regional meeting. The meeting will provide a foundation to facilitate further research and collaboration and contribute to exploring new research focuses and methodologies and the connection between ICH research and safeguarding.

Specific activities for FY 2026:

The project will be implemented over two years (FY 2026 and 2027) to collect information on research related to the safeguarding of ICH in East Asia and to analyse, based on the collected information, the trend of ICH research in the past 10 years or so.

For this fiscal year, the following activities will be conducted.

- 1) Partnerships will be established with key institutions/researchers in the countries of China, Japan, and ROK to form the collection framework.
 - a) Partners in Japan will be identified through IRCI's domestic network, while partners in China and ROK will be selected with support from CRIHAP and ICHCAP. For Japan, the Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage) is expected to be a partner.
 - b) Given the significant regional variabilities and the anticipated amount of research conducted in each country—particularly in the vast territory of China—, multiple focal points may be designated based on cultural similarities and geographic considerations to ensure balanced collection.
- 2) A framework and guidelines for collecting research information will be developed.
 - a) The collection should prioritize research outputs produced in the past ten years or so and highlight the development of research in the context of the safeguarding of ICH.
 - b) Considering the substantial volume of ICH research in this sub-region, priorities will be established to facilitate effective collection and analysis. The collection could focus on themes aligned with international frameworks on sustainable development, climate change, and disaster risk reduction, as well as research directly relevant to the 2003 Convention. These priorities will be determined in consultation with partners.
 - c) The target amount of research information, submission deadlines, and methods for information sharing and monitoring will also be determined in consultation with partners.
- 3) The collection of research information will be implemented with partners according to the guidelines developed in the project. Partners are expected to submit an

interim report describing the progress in the activities, along with the information collected during FY 2026.

- 4) A sub-regional meeting will be organized online towards the end of the fiscal year, to monitor the progress of collection activities, identify challenges, and discuss potential themes to be added and/or further explored in FY 2027.

Specific outputs:

- 1) The latest research developments and trends in East Asia will be analysed, discussed and published in the project report.
- 2) The IRCI Research Database will be updated and enriched significantly with the latest ICH research information in East Asia.

Project partners/cooperating researchers, and organizations:

- Research institutions/researchers in China, Japan, and ROK as partners
- CRIHAP, ICHCAP, and UNESCO Beijing Office as support organizations

*See attached PDM (IRCI/2025/14GB/8/Annex 2a) for the detailed project design and targets.

**Activity Focus I. Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding
Asia-Pacific Research Forum for ICH Safeguarding**

Period of implementation: FY 2022–2026

Geographic focus: Entire Asia-Pacific region

Background:

Research is considered one of the measures for safeguarding ICH; however, opportunities to share and learn about research findings for safeguarding ICH in the Asia-Pacific region are still limited. IRCI's mission is to instigate and coordinate research into practices and methodologies of safeguarding endangered intangible cultural heritage elements present in the Asia-Pacific region, and thus strengthening its capacity and function as a 'research centre' is crucial for promoting research that contributes to the safeguarding of ICH.

Over the past 10-plus years, IRCI has conducted various research activities in cooperation with researchers and research institutions in the Asia-Pacific region, including universities, museums, government agencies, and NGOs. IRCI has organized a series of expert meetings, researchers' forums, and conferences aiming at promoting research for safeguarding ICH. This project strengthens such efforts by developing and

managing a common platform for active interaction among researchers and research institutions in the Asia-Pacific region.

Purpose:

The project aims to further promote research for safeguarding ICH and strengthen the network of ICH researchers by creating and managing the Asia-Pacific Research Forum for ICH Safeguarding (hereinafter referred to as 'the Forum'), a platform for active interaction among researchers and research institutions in the Asia-Pacific region. Various activities focused on ICH research and safeguarding are programmed and offered through the Forum, including research seminars, international conferences, and workshops for early-career researchers.

Progress:

A planning committee consisting of ICH experts from Australia, Fiji, India, Iran, Japan, and Malaysia is having periodic meetings (three times per fiscal year) to develop various programmes and activities for the Forum. In February 2025, activities in the first three years were reviewed.

Online Seminars for Safeguarding ICH in the Asia-Pacific Region have been offered since FY 2022 (two or three seminars per fiscal year). Over the past two years, the seminar contents have been developed in conjunction with new projects, dealing with themes such as climate change (FY 2024) and ecosystems (FY 2025).

The *Publication Programme for Early Career Researchers* (2024–2025) started in October 2024, using a multi-modal format combining online and on-site workshops. The programme participants developed research papers under the guidance of assigned mentors, and the papers were presented at the international conference in February 2025. Revised papers were submitted to IRCI in June 2025 for final peer review. The participants finalized their manuscripts for publication at the beginning of September 2025. IRCI is collaborating with ICHCAP to publish these papers in the *Living Heritage Series*, by designing a new academic sub-series.

The Forum's first international conference entitled *New Frontiers of Research for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage* was held in Osaka from 13 to 15 February 2025. The conference brought together participants to explore new approaches and methodologies in ICH research and safeguarding, with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region. As part of the FY 2025 activities, the conference papers are being edited to be developed into a scholarly volume, scheduled for publication in March 2026.

The Facebook group,² established as a dynamic platform for researchers to connect, exchange information, and engage in discussions, has continued to grow in

² <https://www.facebook.com/groups/asiapacificresearchforum>

membership. It also functions as a bulletin board for IRCI to share updates and announcements related to Forum events.

Specific activities for FY 2026:

- 1) *Online Seminars* will be continued, and at least three seminars will be held in FY 2026.
 - a) Some seminar contents may be developed in coordination with other research projects by IRCI.
 - b) Seminar recordings will be made available on IRCI's YouTube channel.
- 2) The planning committee meetings will be held three times,
 - a) to decide on the themes for the online seminars to be continued in FY 2026;
 - b) to review the activities conducted during FY 2022–2026 and to develop the next phase of the project (FY 2027–2031); and
 - c) to deliberate on the programmes to be implemented in FY 2027.
- 3) The *Publication Programme for Early Career Researchers* will be concluded with the publication of participants' papers in June 2026.

Specific outputs:

- 1) Audio-visual recordings of online seminars to be published on the YouTube channel.
- 2) A new sub-series within the *Living Heritage Series*, compiling research papers by the participants of the early career researchers' programme, will be published by June 2026.

Project partners/cooperating researchers, and organizations:

- The Forum welcomes the participation of anyone interested in research for safeguarding ICH.
- Planning committee: Composed of experts from six Asia-Pacific countries mentioned above.
- ICHCAP: Collaborating partner for the publication of an academic series showcasing the outcomes of the *Publication Programme for Early Career Researchers*.

*See attached PDM (IRCI/2025/14GB/8/Annex 2b) for the detailed project design and targets.

Activity Focus II. Research on the Safeguarding of ICH for Building Sustainable and Resilient Societies

Research on ICH Contributing to SDGs: Intangible Cultural Heritage and Ecosystems

Period of implementation: FY 2026–2027

Geographic focus: Asia-Pacific region

Background:

Preliminary research conducted in FY 2025 on ICH and Ecosystems indicated a complex relationship between ICH and sustainability and highlighted the need for more inclusive, community-based safeguarding approaches. It also brought several key challenges to light. Despite its close connection with local environments and communities, ICH remains underrecognized and underutilized, particularly in relation to environmental sustainability goals such as SDGs 14 (Life below water) and 15 (Life on land), which focus on the protection and conservation of ecosystems. Traditional practices, ecological knowledge, and cultural expressions often represent sustainable relationships with nature, yet they are rarely integrated into environmental protection and conservation planning.

While SDG target 11.4 calls for strengthening heritage safeguarding, current efforts typically prioritize the preservation of tangible aspects, such as monuments and historical sites, with limited attention to ICH. This imbalance poses a risk of gradual loss of living traditions that are vital for cultural continuity and community resilience. Furthermore, in many local development contexts, ICH is often commodified and treated superficially, primarily as a tool for tourism or economic gain. These approaches not only reduce its cultural significance but also limit the transmission of its essence to future generations and hinder effective safeguarding within communities and in the context of environmental sustainability.

Purpose:

This project aims to investigate the profound relationship between the natural environment and ICH, emphasizing the role that ICH can play in ecosystem conservation and community well-being. By conducting case studies in communities with natural heritage sites, including UNESCO-designated sites or other environmental conservation areas, the project will examine how ICH interacts with nature, supports biodiversity, and promotes sustainable use of resources, and how ICH could be fully acknowledged and incorporated into environmental sustainability actions.

This project will also explore practical approaches and models for holistic heritage safeguarding that are more inclusive, respectful and sustainable, by fostering deeper engagement of local communities in research. This will in turn provide an opportunity

for the communities to recognize/rediscover ICH elements in relation to the environment and ecosystems, which will contribute to strengthening their capacities to safeguard such ICH as an integral part of community resilience and sustainability.

Specific activities for FY 2026:

- 1) Case studies will be carried out in communities in the Asia-Pacific region that have natural heritage sites such as World Heritage properties, Biosphere Reserves, Geoparks, or other environmental conservation areas to identify associated ICH and examine its roles in safeguarding natural heritage.
 - a) Case study areas and collaborators are expected to be selected in FY 2025, utilizing UNESCO's call for case studies on the tangible-intangible synergies. If necessary, an additional call may be made with the role of ICH specifically highlighted. Cases should be selected in consideration of geographic balance and diversity of environments and ecosystems. At least two case studies will be supported in the project.
 - b) The research process should take inclusive and participatory approaches, actively engaging local communities and stakeholders of ICH in discussions and the co-development of community-based methodologies to identify, safeguard, and transmit their heritage in a holistic and sustainable manner.
 - c) Online working sessions will be held between July and September to monitor the progress of each case study and discuss matters related to field research. Attended by researchers working on case studies and resource persons, this will be an opportunity to revise/improve their research methods.
 - d) Case studies will be carried out in two years; however, research activities for FY 2026 should be completed by January 2027, with the submission of interim case study reports.
- 2) A workshop will be organized towards the end of FY 2026 to share the findings of case studies and discuss the scope of follow-up research to be conducted in FY 2027.
 - a) The modality of the workshop may depend on the availability of funding; however, the possibility of hosting an in-person meeting will be considered for interactive discussions.
 - b) Online broadcasting will be considered for people who cannot physically participate in the conference.

Specific outputs (by the end of FY 2027):

Online publication of the project report compiling case study reports and findings of the project

Project partners/cooperating researchers, and organizations:

- Researchers of ICH and environmental studies working with the communities of the Asia-Pacific region as focal points for case studies and facilitators for community-based research
- Researchers familiar with ICH, ecology, and/or environmental studies as resource persons who can provide technical guidance for integrating ICH into sustainability and ecological frameworks.
- UNESCO Regional Office for East Asia (UNESCO Beijing) and other Category 2 Centres in the fields of ICH or World Heritage in the Asia-Pacific region as resources and collaborators, through linking the project with the ongoing initiative exploring the synergies between tangible and intangible heritage in the Asia-Pacific region.³

*See attached PDM (IRCI/2025/14GB/8/Annex 2c) for the detailed project design and targets.

Activity Focus II. Research on the Safeguarding of ICH for Building Sustainable and Resilient Societies

Research on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Climate Change in the Asia-Pacific Region

Period of implementation: FY 2024–2026

Geographic focus: Asia-Pacific region (with special attention to coastal and small island communities)

Background:

Climate change poses significant threats to humanity, often manifesting as extreme hazards and disasters. It disrupts ecosystems and threatens the transmission of many ICH elements deeply rooted in the local environment. Rising sea levels particularly affect small island and coastal communities, potentially forcing them to abandon culturally significant areas. While there are global efforts to address climate change, local communities must take the lead in adapting to such changes.

Recent efforts have highlighted the role of ICH in disaster risk reduction (DRR) including IRCI's project on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster Risk Management (FY 2021–2024); however, it is necessary to review traditional knowledge and practices to

³ <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/call-cases-promoting-tangible-intangible-synergies-unesco-designated-sites>

determine if they are still effective in the context of climate change. In addition, in line with UNESCO's guidance note on climate action for living heritage released in December 2024, collaborative research, notably involving local communities, is needed to better address the climate change dimensions of ICH.

Purpose:

This project aims to understand how ICH practices are affected by climate change and how they are transformed and adapted in response to associated environmental changes. To achieve this, case studies will be conducted in selected communities in the Asia-Pacific region that are affected by or vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The case studies will also highlight the active roles of ICH in climate actions and foster the development of community-based methodologies and action plans to effectively safeguard ICH and support local communities in responding to changing environments and ecosystems.

This project will also contribute to enhancing dialogue between ICH, climate change, and DRR by organizing seminars, meetings, and symposia and inviting researchers and experts in the respective fields.

Progress:

Preparatory activities in FY 2024 included reviewing existing literature on ICH and climate change and participating in relevant meetings and events, such as those organized by Category 2 Centres and side events at the 19th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (December 2024). Two online seminars were organized as part of the activities of the Asia-Pacific Research Forum for ICH Safeguarding.

To identify case studies to be conducted in the project and collaborating researchers/organizations, IRCI launched an open call for case study proposals from 22 January to 20 February 2025, and three proposals were selected from Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Pakistan. To add a case study from the Pacific region, IRCI directly contacted researchers working in Solomon Islands.

An online kick-off meeting was held in April 2025 to flesh out the case study plans submitted by collaborators, and case studies were initiated in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, and Solomon Islands. A report compiling the preliminary results of the case studies will be submitted to IRCI by the end of FY 2025.

In parallel, IRCI continued its collaboration with UNESCO, IRDR, and other Category 2 Centres on the 'Call for Case Studies on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage and Climate Actions from Asia-Pacific Region'⁴ and associated events in the Asia-Pacific

⁴ <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/call-case-studies-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-and-climate-actions-asia-pacific-region>

region, and contributed to the editing process of the publication *Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding and Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific*.⁵

Specific activities for FY 2026:

- 1) Case studies will be continued in the selected countries in the Asia-Pacific region to gain deeper insights, building on the previous year's work. Specifically, this phase will be an opportunity for collaborating researchers to discuss with the communities concrete ideas and actions for safeguarding ICH in a changing climate and leveraging ICH for adaptation.
- 2) In the latter half of the fiscal year, a final meeting will be organized to discuss, based on the results of case studies, how ICH can be effectively incorporated into the climate change discourse and community strategies for adaptation.
 - a) Collaborating researchers will be invited to present the results of the case studies and share their insights on further actions. Experts in the field of ICH and climate change will also be invited to contribute their perspectives gained from other cases in the Asia-Pacific region.
 - b) The meeting will be planned to be held on-site (most likely in Japan); however, the format may be adjusted depending on the availability of the project budget.
 - c) Based on the findings of case studies, the discussion will focus on elaborating ideas and approaches for safeguarding ICH in climate emergencies, including adaptive strategies to be presented as guidelines/tools.
- 3) A project report compiling the results of the case studies and the results of the final meeting will be published.

Specific outputs (by the end of FY 2026):

- 1) A project report will be published, compiling the results of the case studies carried out in FY 2025 and FY 2026, and discussions made at the final meeting.
- 2) Guidelines/tools that could be used for community-based efforts for safeguarding ICH in climate emergencies, which may be included as part of the project report

Project partners/cooperating researchers, and organizations:

- Researchers and research organizations in the Asia-Pacific region
- Experts familiar with ICH, climate change issues, and disaster risk management in the Asia-Pacific region, including UNESCO

*See attached PDM (IRCI/2025/14GB/8/Annex 2d) for the detailed project design and targets.

⁵ <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000394981?posInSet=4&queryId=3d03e60c-dc42-4fd5-9ef5-11f726ef33b8>

3. Cooperation with Sakai City

In accordance with the Medium-Term Programme (FY 2022–2026) 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 2026, IRCI plans to collaborate with Sakai City on the following activities:

1) Seminar for Understanding Intangible Cultural Heritage programmed by Sakai City

IRCI has collaborated on this event since 2021, by coordinating one seminar. This cooperation will be continued in FY 2026, and IRCI will send a lecturer to speak on ICH-related topics.

2) Panel exhibition featuring IRCI's activities

The content of the exhibition is updated annually in accordance with IRCI's latest activities.

3) Distribution of IRCI brochures and other promotional materials

The Sakai City Museum cooperates in distributing IRCI brochures and other materials promoting ICH to its visitors.

Through these activities, IRCI aims to raise awareness among the general public of the importance of ICH, while enhancing the visibility of IRCI itself.

Collection of Research Information for ICH Safeguarding: Focusing on East Asia		
Period: FY 2026–2027	IRCI's function (Agreement Article 5.2): (a),(b),(c),(d),(f)	
Expected results	Research for ICH safeguarding is enhanced through sharing related research information and facilitating international discourse	
Relevance of the project in relation to UNESCO's Strategic Objectives and Outcomes *This section will be revised after the 43C/5 documents are approved.	Draft 43C/5 SO3 Building just, inclusive and peaceful societies Outcome 4 A world where culture in all its forms is protected and promoted OUTPUT 4.2.CLT Capacities of Member States and communities strengthened to protect, safeguard, and promote natural and cultural heritage, including tangible, intangible, and underwater heritage.	Related paragraphs: 05013, 05014, 05017, 05018
Current issues: 1. Three East Asian countries, namely China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (ROK), are advanced in ICH safeguarding efforts and policies, and related research. However, many of these activities and findings are presented in local languages and have not been widely shared at the international level. 2. Current international discourse on ICH research in East Asia remains limited, hindering effective knowledge-sharing and collaborative efforts.		Specific project goals (How can the issues be resolved or improved?): 1. Collection of information on the recent research for safeguarding ICH in East Asia enhances the international visibility of key research outcomes, and a thorough review of such research clarifies the latest research landscape in East Asia. 2. Exchange and discussion on ICH research trends in East Asia will help identify new research topics and priorities for the sub-region, while contributing to the advancement of research at the global level.
Details of specific activities: The project is implemented for two years (FY 2026 and 2027). FY 2026 1. Partnerships are established with key institutions/researchers in the countries of China, Japan, and ROK to form the collection framework. 2. A framework and guidelines for collecting research information are developed in consultation with partners. a) Priorities are established to facilitate effective collection and analysis. The collection could focus on themes aligned with international frameworks on sustainable development, climate change, and disaster risk reduction, as well as research directly relevant to the 2003 Convention. b) The collection should prioritize research outputs produced in the past ten years or so and highlight the development of research in the context of the safeguarding of ICH. The details for implementing this priority will be decided with partners. c) The target amount of research information, submission deadlines, and methods for information sharing and monitoring are also determined in consultation with partners. 3. The collection of research information is implemented with partners according to the guidelines developed in the project. Partners are expected to submit an interim report describing the progress in the activities, along with the information collected during FY 2026. 4. A sub-regional meeting is organized online towards the end of the fiscal year to monitor the progress of collection activities and identify challenges. *Details of activities in FY 2027 will be determined in the following year and may include the following: 1. Collecting research information with partners in China, Japan, and ROK continues and is completed during the fiscal year. 2. Collected information is summarized and analysed according to the themes prioritized in the project. 3. A sub-regional meeting is organized to discuss the achievements, challenges, and the future of ICH research in East Asia. 4. Analytical papers produced in the project are compiled and published.		

Targets and partners for the activities: <u>Geographical Focus:</u> - East Asia (China, Japan, and ROK) <u>Targets:</u> - ICH researchers and research institutions, administrative organizations, NGO, universities, museums, archives, etc. <u>Partners (specify their roles):</u> - ICH research institutions and researchers in China, Japan, and ROK as partners undertaking collection and analysis of research information - Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (focal point for collecting research information in Japan) - ICHCAP, CRIHAP, and UNESCO as resource organizations who help identify partners in the three target countries Preconditions, assumptions, or external factors affecting the project implementation:	
Expected outcomes: 1. The research landscape of ICH in East Asia is reviewed and clarified to foster future safeguarding efforts and provide insights for other regions. 2. The IRCI Research Database provides access to up-to-date research information on ICH and its safeguarding in East Asia to facilitate knowledge exchange.	
Performance Indicators: 1. Establishment of partnerships with research institutions/researchers in China, Japan, and ROK 2. Development of a framework and guidelines for collecting and analysing research information 3. Amount of research information collected from China, Japan, and ROK 4. Number of thematic reports analysing the current research developments and trends in China, Japan, and ROK 5. Organization of sub-regional meetings	Targets (FY 2026): 1. Partnership is established with at least 2 research institution/researchers in each country. 2. A basic framework and guidelines for collecting and analysing research information are developed in consultation with project partners 3. At least 30 pieces of research information are collected from each country and made accessible through the IRCI Research Database. 5. A sub-regional meeting is organized to monitor the progress of activities.
Targets (FY 2027): TBD	
Specific deliverables (if applicable): 1. A project report including analysis of the latest research developments and trends in East Asia 2. The IRCI Research Database is updated and enriched significantly with the latest ICH research information in East Asia.	Distribution and beneficiaries of the deliverables, how benefits are provided: 1. The project report is distributed to UNESCO, research institutions, and other ICH-related organizations. 2. The collected research information is added to the IRCI Research Database and become widely accessible.
Notes: Estimated budget for FY 2026: 5,000,000 JPY	

Asia-Pacific Research Forum for ICH Safeguarding		
Period: FY 2022–2026	IRCI's function (Agreement Article 5.2): (a),(b),(c),(d),(f)	
Expected results	Enhancing research for safeguarding ICH in the Asia-Pacific region Expanding and strengthening the ICH researcher network within the region Fostering young researchers working in the field of ICH in the region	
Relevance of the project in relation to UNESCO's Strategic Objectives and Outcomes *This section will be revised after the 43C/5 documents are approved.	Draft 43C/5 SO3 Building just, inclusive and peaceful societies Outcome 4 A world where culture in all its forms is protected and promoted Output 4.2.CLT Capacities of Member States and communities strengthened to protect, safeguard, and promote natural and cultural heritage, including tangible, intangible, and underwater heritage	Related paragraphs: 05013, 05014, 05017, 05018,
Current issues: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Research is considered one of the measures for safeguarding ICH; however, opportunities to share/learn about the research for safeguarding ICH in the Asia-Pacific region are still limited. As ICH is a new heritage concept promoted through the 2003 Convention, the number of researchers working in this field is still limited. This situation needs to be improved by encouraging young researchers (including students). IRCI has collaborated with various research institutions, including museums, universities, NGOs, and government organizations in the Asia-Pacific region. Cooperative ties with such institutions and researchers should be strengthened to further promote research for safeguarding ICH in the region. 		Specific project goals (How can the issues be resolved or improved?): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A series of activities programmed in the project provides various opportunities for discussions on ICH safeguarding and its research. Conferences, forums, and seminars programmed in the project enhance the understanding of ICH and its safeguarding, and some programmes contribute to nurturing young researchers. Network of researchers working in the field of ICH safeguarding and IRCI's capacity as a hub of research for the safeguarding of ICH are strengthened, to instigate various research activities to be initiated in the Asia-Pacific region.
Details of specific activities: <u>FY 2022</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish collaborative relationships with selected research organizations and/or researchers in the Asia-Pacific region to form a committee to plan various programmes (planning committee). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The planning committee holds constant liaison meetings to plan and discuss specific contents of activities to be implemented within the fiscal year and in the following years. The members of the committee should be selected to cover various countries within the Asia-Pacific region so that regional needs and interests can be incorporated into the activity planning. Launch online research seminars on ICH, inviting researchers leading the field of ICH as speakers. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Specific themes and speakers are decided in cooperation with the collaborators mentioned above. Expected participants are ICH researchers, including museum staff, government officials, and students in the Asia-Pacific region. Information on seminars is widely distributed through the networks of IRCI and collaborators. Using SNS is also considered to call for participation widely. Online broadcasting of the content is also considered. As part of the liaison meetings mentioned above 1.a), start planning an international/regional conference or symposium to be held in FY 2024 and programmes for young researchers to start in FY 2023. <u>FY 2023</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Online seminars on ICH are continued. At least two seminars are planned, one of which may be linked to mark the 20th anniversary of the 2003 Convention. Planning Committee meetings are held three times to discuss: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> an international conference/symposium to be held in FY 2024 a workshop targeting young researchers to be held in FY 2024; and 		

- c) online seminars to be continued in FY 2024.

FY 2024

1. Online research seminars are continued.
2. An international conference is held in Japan for 2-3 consecutive days around the middle of the fiscal year to discuss the latest trends in ICH research in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.
 - a) The event is organized as an academic and interdisciplinary conference. Leading experts working in the ICH field will be invited to have in-depth discussions from various standpoints. Specific contents and themes are discussed by the planning committee while reflecting local needs and interests.
 - b) Open calls for session topics or presentations may be sought to expand the network of ICH researchers. An online live-streaming option may be considered.
3. A face-to-face workshop targeting young researchers is held to encourage their active involvement in the research for safeguarding ICH.
 - a) The workshop will consist of presentations, discussions, and paper writing sessions to help young researchers develop professional skills. Liaising the workshop with the international conference will be explored.
 - b) Expected participants are not limited to literal 'young' but include graduate students, early-career scholars, and individuals engaged in ICH research. Five to six participants are selected from applicants who have submitted research topics and presentation abstracts, in consideration of geographical balance.
4. Planning Committee meetings are held three times, which discuss the following:
 - a) Planning and organization of an international conference and young researchers' workshops
 - b) Online seminars to be continued in FY 2025
 - c) Review and revision of the project, having in mind the development of programmes in the remaining project years.

FY 2025

1. Online research seminars are continued.
2. A collection of papers presented at the international conference and further developed by the authors is published as an edited volume, not just as proceedings.
3. A collection of papers written and developed as part of the Publication Programme for Early Career Researchers is published.
4. The Planning Committee meetings are held three times,
 - a) to discuss topics of online seminars to be continued in FY 2025;
 - b) to discuss the publication process; and
 - c) to review the activities carried out in FY 2025 and to develop the programmes for the final year of the project (FY 2026).

FY 2026

1. Online research seminars are continued.
2. A collection of papers written and developed as part of the Publication Programme for Early Career Researchers is published by collaborating with ICHCAP.
3. The Planning Committee meetings are held three times,
 - a) to decide on the topics of online seminars to be continued in FY 2026;
 - b) to review the activities conducted during FY 2022–2026 and develop the next phase of the project (FY 2027–2031); and
 - c) to deliberate on the programme to be implemented in FY 2027.

Targets and partners for the activities:

Geographical Focus:

- Entire Asia-Pacific region

Targets:

- ICH researchers including young researchers and university students in related fields
- Government officers on ICH

Partners (specify their roles):

- Selected ICH researchers/institutions in the Asia-Pacific region(as planning committee)

Preconditions, assumptions, or external factors affecting the project implementation:

Expected outcomes:

1. A strengthened network of ICH researchers in the Asia-Pacific region accommodates further research activities targeting the region/sub-region, as well as multi-national collaboration.
2. IRCI's collaborative ties within the Asia-Pacific region are strengthened by introducing an online-based platform for discussion.
3. Research for safeguarding ICH is further promoted through the active participation of young researchers.

<p>Performance Indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a) IRCI establishes a planning committee, which includes researchers and/or research institutions in the Asia-Pacific region, and b) Hold liaison meetings constantly for planning various activities. 2. Total number of researchers involved in at least one of the programmed activities, and the regional coverage of researchers 3. Successfully planning and convening each activity, and the number of participants: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) online seminars; b) conference/forum/symposium; c) activities for young researchers 	<p>Targets (FY 2022):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a) IRCI establishes a planning committee, with at least 5 researchers and/or research institutions in the Asia-Pacific region, and b) At least 3 liaison meetings are held. 2. The total number of researchers involved in at least one of the activities reaches 40, covering at least 8 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. 3. a) At least 3 seminars are held online, each having at least 20 participants. b) The overall concept and outline of the conference/forum/symposium is developed. c) At least 1 activity for young researchers is programmed to be implemented in FY 2023.
<p>Targets (FY 2023):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IRCI holds at least 3 committee meetings for planning project activities. 2. Total number of researchers involved in at least one of the activities reaches 60, covering at least 12 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. 3. a) At least 2 seminars are held online, each having at least 20 participants. b) The concept and specific contents of the conference/ symposium to be held in FY 2024 are elaborated. c) Specific contents of a workshop targeting young researchers are developed through planning committee meetings. 	<p>Targets (FY 2024):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. b) IRCI holds at least 3 committee meetings for planning project activities and reviewing the implementation for the development of the project in the remaining years. 2. The total number of researchers involved in at least one of the activities reaches 80, covering at least 15 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. 3. a) At least 2 seminars are held online, each having at least 30 participants. b) At least 30 people participate in the international conference. c) At least 5 young researchers participate in the workshop.
<p>Targets (FY 2025):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IRCI holds at least 3 committee meetings to plan project activities and review the activities implemented in FY 2025. 2. The total number of researchers involved in at least one of the activities reaches 85, covering at least 18 countries in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. 3. a) At least 2 online seminars are held, each with at least 30 participants. b) A collection of papers from the international conference is published as an edited volume with an ISBN and/or DOI. c) A collection of papers written by early-career researchers participating in the Publication Programme for Early Career Researchers is published with an ISBN and/or DOI. 	<p>Targets (FY 2026):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IRCI holds at least 3 committee meetings to plan project activities and review the activities implemented from FY 2022 to 2026. 2. The total number of researchers involved in at least one of the activities reaches 90, covering at least 20 countries in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. 3. a) At least 3 online seminars are held, each with at least 30 participants. c) A collection of papers written by early-career researchers participating in the Publication Programme for Early Career Researchers is published with an ISBN and/or DOI.
<p>Specific deliverables (if applicable):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seminar recordings as audiovisual resources - An edited volume of papers presented at the international conference - A collection of papers by early-career researchers 	<p>Distribution and beneficiaries of the deliverables, how benefits are provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Audiovisual materials are made available through IRCI's website. - Reports/proceedings are also made available online, and widely distributed to researchers, research institutions, and UNESCO offices, as well as culture sectors of the government in the Asia-Pacific region, utilizing IRCI's network.
<p>Notes: Estimated budget for FY 2026: 1,800,000JPY</p>	

Research on Intangible Cultural Heritage Contributing SDGs: ICH and Ecosystems		
Period: FY 2026-2027	IRCI's function (Agreement Article 5.2): (a),(b),(c),(d)	
Expected results	Increased recognition of ICH and its role in ecological sustainability among communities and related actors, encouraging further initiatives. Strengthened community-based initiatives for safeguarding ICH and ecosystems, contributing to sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.	
Relevance of the project in relation to UNESCO's Strategic Objectives and Outcomes *This section will be revised after the 43C/5 documents are approved.	Draft 43C/5 SO2 Reconciling humanity with nature Outcome 2 A world where biodiversity, water and the ocean are valued and sustainably managed, in order to face the challenges posed by climate change and contribute to climate action OUTPUT 2.1.SC Policy advice, science and indigenous knowledge leveraged to equip Member States and custodians in advancing biodiversity, ecosystems, and geodiversity conservation in UNESCO designated sites for sustainable management and landscape connectivity.	Related paragraphs: 02016, 02017, 02018, 02019, 02023,
	SO 3 Building just, inclusive and peaceful societies Outcome 4 A world where culture in all its forms is protected and promoted Output 4.2.CLT Capacities of Member States and communities strengthened to protect, safeguard, and promote natural and cultural heritage, including tangible, intangible, and underwater heritage. Intersectoral Output 4.7.CLT Member States capacities and awareness raised to protect, safeguard and promote Indigenous knowledge, cultures, and languages through inclusive policies and targeted action.	05013, 05014, 05015, 05017, 05018, 05019, 05036, 05040, 05041
Current issues:	Specific project goals (How can the issues be resolved or improved?):	
1. ICH remains underrecognized and underutilized, particularly in the context of the SDG 14 and 15, despite its close connection with local environment. 2. While SDG target 11.4 calls for strengthening heritage safeguarding, such efforts focus mainly on the preservation of tangible aspects, with limited attention to intangible cultural heritage. 3. In local development contexts, ICH is often perceived and treated superficially and commodified, which limits the transmission of its essence to future generations and hinders effective safeguarding within communities.	1. Methodologies are explored and implemented through case studies to deepen local understanding of ICH and promote its integration into ecological and sustainability efforts aligned with SDG 14 and 15 in the Asia-Pacific communities. 2. Research and initiatives that enhance the recognition and integration of ICH in the community's heritage safeguarding efforts are promoted, aiming to foster a more balanced approach toward achieving SDG target 11.4. 3. Research-based insights that shift practical approaches toward deeper community engagement with ICH are promoted, fostering more effective and respectful ICH safeguarding in local development context.	
Details of specific activities: FY 2026		
1. Case studies are carried out in communities in the Asia-Pacific region that have natural heritage sites such as World Heritage properties, Biosphere Reserves, Geoparks, and other environmental conservation areas. a) Case studies and collaborators are selected in FY 2025, utilizing the opportunities such as UNESCO's call for case studies on the tangible-intangible synergies. b) Inclusive and participatory approaches are taken to develop community-based methodologies for the holistic heritage safeguarding. c) Online working sessions are held to monitor the progress of each case study and consult with		

<p>resource persons on related matters.</p> <p>d) Interim case study reports are submitted.</p> <p>2. A workshop is organized to share the findings of case studies and discuss the scope of follow-up research to be conducted in FY 2027.</p> <p><u>FY 2027</u></p> <p>1. Follow up on case studies conducted in the Asia-Pacific region during FY 2026.</p> <p>2. Organize an international symposium to stimulate broader academic and practical dialogue on ICH in community contributing to SDGs.</p> <p>3. Publish the project report.</p>	
<p>Targets and partners for the activities:</p> <p><u>Geographical Focus:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asia-Pacific region <p><u>Targets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indigenous/local communities and ICH practitioners - Researchers in ICH, ecology, and environmental studies, governmental and non-governmental institutions - Managers and other stakeholders of natural heritage sites <p><u>Partners (specify their roles):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Researchers of ICH and environmental studies working in the communities, serving as focal point for case studies and facilitator for community-based research - Experts familiar with ICH, ecology, and/or environmental studies as resource persons providing technical guidance for integrating ICH into sustainability and ecological frameworks - UNESCO Regional Office for East Asia (UNESCO Beijing) and Category 2 Centres in the Asia-Pacific region as a resource and collaborator through its initiative to collect cases demonstrating synergies between tangible and intangible heritage in the Asia-Pacific region <p>Preconditions, assumptions, or external factors affecting the project implementation:</p> <p>Efforts will be made to include a wide range of ecosystems and ICH cases; however, the selection of countries and locations studied in the project may be affected and limited by various factors such as the availability and capacity of potential partner organizations.</p>	
<p>Expected outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Case study results will underscore the significance of ICH in managing ecosystems/environment. These stimulate capacity building among local communities to safeguard both ICH and ecosystems, fostering inclusive and sustainable local development. 2. Enhanced dialogue between researchers and communities on the safeguarding of ICH and ecosystems will deepen understanding of local and indigenous knowledge systems as ICH, resulting in the development of models for ecological/environmental practices that integrate ICH perspectives. 3. The initiative will contribute to raising awareness among the communities, governmental bodies, and environmental experts and advocates regarding the critical role of ICH in sustainable environmental management. 4. Building on the findings and insights in the report, broader discussions, expanded research, and diverse practical initiatives related to ICH and ecosystems will be promoted across various sectors and communities. 	
<p>Performance Indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementation of selected community-centred case studies 2. Number of interdisciplinary meetings, forums, or symposia held, and number of participants 3. Percentage of project participants reporting increased awareness of the relationship between ICH and environment, and the role of ICH in ecosystems 4. Publication of project results 	<p>Targets (FY 2026):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least 2 case studies are initiated in various communities with natural heritage sites in the Asia-Pacific region. 2. At least 1 meeting is held for case sharing, with a minimum of 15 participants, covering at least 5 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.
<p>Targets (FY 2027):</p> <p>TBD</p>	
<p>Specific deliverables (if applicable):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online publication of the project report 	<p>Distribution and beneficiaries of the deliverables, how benefits are provided:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A project report will be distributed online via the IRCI website. Printed copies will be distributed to project partners and related institutions in the Asia-Pacific Region, UNESCO, and C2Cs. - The outcomes of case studies will be shared with target communities for further discussion and development.
Notes: Estimated budget for FY 2026: 4,000,000 JPY	

APPROVED

Research on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Climate Change in the Asia-Pacific Region		
Period: FY 2024-2026	IRCI's function (Agreement Article 5.2): (a),(b),(c),(d)	
Expected results	Enhance communities' capacity for safeguarding ICH against climate change, while adapting to global climate change. Enhance communities' sustainability by mobilizing ICH for climate actions.	
Relevance of the project in relation to UNESCO's Strategic Objectives and Outcomes *This section will be revised after the 43C/5 documents are approved.	Draft 43C/5 S02 Reconciling humanity with nature Outcome 2 A world where biodiversity, water and the ocean are valued and sustainably managed, in order to face the challenges posed by climate change and contribute to climate action Output 2.2.SHS Social and Human Sciences leveraged to support Member States in addressing the interconnected challenges posed by climate disruption, including its social, environmental, and economic impacts. Intersectoral Output 2.5.SC Capacity, risk awareness, prevention, and preparedness of Member States and communities strengthened for inclusive climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and resilient societies in line with the Sendai framework. Intersectoral Output 2.7 (SC & IOC) Holistic and strategic support provided to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to address their priorities and vulnerabilities, aligned with the UNESCO SIDS Operational Strategy and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda S03 Building just, inclusive and peaceful societies Outcome 4 A world where culture in all its forms is protected and promoted Output 4.2.CLT Capacities of Member States and communities strengthened to protect, safeguard, and promote natural and cultural heritage, including tangible, intangible, and underwater heritage Intersectoral Output 4.7.CLT Member States capacities and awareness raised to protect, safeguard and promote Indigenous knowledge, cultures, and languages through inclusive policies and targeted action	Related paragraphs: 04011, 04012 02035, 02036, 02038 02046, 03031 05013, 05014, 05017, 05018 05036, 05039, 05040, 05041
Current issues: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change is affecting humanity. It is often experienced as extreme hazards causing disasters, and the transformation of the local environment and ecosystem is increasingly affecting the viability of ICH. There are various efforts to address climate change at the international and national levels; however, as specific impacts of climate change are experienced locally, developing communities' capacity to deal with climate emergencies is important. While local/indigenous knowledge is considered important for climate change adaptation, the complexity of such knowledge is not fully understood among climate scientists. The ICH sector's active involvement in climate actions is necessary. 	Specific project goals (How can the issues be resolved or improved?): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The nature of the impact of climate change on ICH is examined and clarified through a series of case studies. The community's capacity for adapting to climate change is strengthened by its participation in the case study. The roles of ICH in climate change adaptation are exemplified through case studies, and opportunities for dialogue between the ICH and climate change sectors contribute to the promotion of culture-sensitive approaches to climate change adaptation. 	

Details of specific activities:**FY 2024**

The project is conducted for three years from FY 2024 to 2026, and the first year is a preliminary phase to set up cooperative partnerships and explore the potential of the project activities.

1. Preliminary research is undertaken in cooperation with potential collaborators to understand the impact of climate change on ICH, including the identification of ICH elements (knowledge and practices) that are closely linked to the environment and climate.
 - a) Collaborators, partners, and resources are explored through a desk study of existing case studies, including the materials produced by the UNESCO Living Heritage Entity, LINKS programme, etc.
 - b) Online hearings and consultations are carried out with potential collaborators and partners to understand the current situation of ICH in relation to climate change.
 - c) As part of the above 1.b), opportunities to hear from the experts could be organized as 'online seminars' that are open to any interested individuals and organizations working in related fields.
2. Specific cases that are targeted for further field research in the following years are selected from the Asia-Pacific region (three to four cases).
 - a) Small island and coastal communities as well as remote and marginalized communities are prioritized as the scope of the case study under the project.
 - b) The case study to be conducted in the following years aims to enhance the capacity of the community to adapt to climate change while safeguarding their ICH in the context of changing environmental settings.
 - c) Depending on the availability of the budget, IRCI may visit a few target countries to discuss and prepare better for the field research in the next fiscal year.
3. An inception workshop/symposium is organized to explore the potential of the project, through sharing information concerning ICH in the context of climate change.
 - a) Some climate change specialists are invited to create an opportunity for dialogue with ICH researchers/specialists.
 - b) The format of the event will depend on the availability of the project budget, but a hybrid format combining online and on-site participation is considered feasible.

FY 2025

1. Case studies are initiated in selected two or three countries in the Asia-Pacific region, in cooperation with researchers in the target countries and experts active in the research on ICH and climate change.
 - a) Particular attention is paid to communities in remote areas including small islands and low-lying, coastal areas as well as arid areas that are affected by the effects of ongoing climate change.
 - b) The research plan is developed by the cooperating researchers and IRCI with the assistance of experts if necessary.
 - c) IRCI staff may join the fieldwork with the cooperating researchers to monitor the implementation of the case studies.
2. Towards the end of the fiscal year, an online meeting is held to share the findings of the case studies in each country among cooperating researchers and discuss further activities in FY 2026.

FY 2026

1. Case studies are continued in the selected countries in the Asia-Pacific region.
2. In the second half of the fiscal year, a final meeting is organized to review and consolidate the results of the case studies.
 - a) Collaborating researchers are invited to present the results of their respective case studies.
 - b) Experts in the field of ICH and climate change are invited to share their insights and contribute to the discussions.
 - c) The meeting is expected to be held on-site; however, the format may be adjusted depending on the availability of the project budget.
3. A project report compiling the findings and analyses of the case studies is published.

Targets and partners for the activities:**Geographical Focus:**

- Asia-Pacific region

Targets:

- Researchers in ICH, climate change, and DRM fields, governmental and non-governmental institutions
- Indigenous communities and communities in remote areas, with special attention to coastal and small island communities
- ICH practitioners and communities whose ICH is affected by climate change

Partners (specify their roles):

- Researchers and research organizations in the Asia-Pacific region
- Experts familiar with ICH, climate change issues, and disaster risk management in the Asia-Pacific region, including UNESCO

Preconditions, assumptions, or external factors affecting the project implementation:

Efforts will be made to include a wide range of case studies in consideration of different environmental settings and climate change situations; however, the selection of countries targeted in the project may be affected and limited by the availability and capacity of potential counterpart organizations.

Expected outcomes:

1. The community's capacity for safeguarding ICH in climate emergencies is enhanced through the project, which may also encourage policies at the local and national levels to acknowledge the significance of community-based actions.
2. Awareness is raised among the communities, governments, and climate change scientists/activists on the importance of ICH in climate change adaptation.
3. Enhanced dialogue between ICH and climate change leads to a better understanding of local/indigenous knowledge as ICH and the development of models for climate actions that incorporate the roles of ICH.
4. Further research and activities focusing on ICH and climate change are promoted.

Performance Indicators:

1. Number and the range of case studies carried out under the project
2. Monitoring of the implementation of activities as programmed in the annual work plan
3. Involvement of climate change and DRM specialists in the project activities
4. Publication of project results

Targets (FY 2024):

1. At least 3 countries are selected for case studies in the following years, and counterparts are identified for each country.
2. a) At least 2 online public seminars that address ICH and climate change are planned and held.
b) An inception workshop/symposium is held, inviting at least 5 presenters addressing aspects of ICH in climate emergencies in the Asia-Pacific region.
3. At least 2 climate change/DRM specialists participate in one of the project activities.

Targets (FY 2025):

1. Case studies are initiated in at least 2 selected countries.
2. a) IRCI members join the field research when possible.
b) An online meeting is held to share the progress of research activities implemented in FY 2025.
3. At least 1 climate change specialist joins the project to provide guidance on the case studies.

Targets (FY 2026):

1. Case studies are completed in 4 selected countries.
2. A final meeting is held to share the overall results of the case studies.
3. At least 1 expert in the field of climate change joins the project to provide the overall reflection.
4. A project report is published towards the end of the fiscal year.

Specific deliverables (if applicable):

- A project report, including a collection of case studies
- Guidelines or tools for safeguarding ICH in climate emergencies

Distribution and beneficiaries of the deliverables, how benefits are provided:

- A project report is made available online.
- Printed copies are distributed to ICH institutions in the Asia-Pacific region, UNESCO, and C2Cs.

Notes:

Estimated budget for FY 2026: 7,000,000 JPY