International Collaboration

Memoranda of Understanding and Research Cooperation Agreements [As of April 1st, 2025]

AUSTRIA

> International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

CAMEROON

> Green Development Advocates

CHINA

- > East China Normal University
- > Hainan Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention / Hainan Provincial Preventive Medicine Association

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- > Center for Intercultural and Interdisciplinary Research for Sustainable Development in Southern and Central Africa
- > Forgotten Parks

INDIA

> Indian Institute of technology - Delhi

INDONESIA

- > Forestry Faculty of Universitas Hasanuddin
- Universitas Riau > Wakatobi Regency
- > Institut Teknokigi Dan Bisnis Muhammadiyah Wakatobi
- > Halu Oleo University

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

> Institution for Marine and Island Cultures, Mokpo National University

LAOS

- > Lao Tropical and Public Health Institute, Ministry of Health, Lao PDR
- > The Faculty of Forest Science, National University of Laos

MALAYSIA

- > Universiti Malaysia Sarawak > PACOS Trust
- > Universiti Malayia Sabah (LoI)

NETHERLANDS

> Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University

SWEDEN

> Stockholm Resilience Centre at Stockholm University

UNITED KINGDOM

> University of Gloucestershire

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

> University of California, Berkeley

Republic of Zambia

> University of Zambia

Republic of Uganda

> Kyambogo University

Oman

> Sultan Qaboos University

Publications

Many individual publications for general and specialist audiences, RIHN has partnered with Springer Nature and established the Global Environmental Studies book series. Titles in the series reflect the full breadth of RIHN scholarship.



Message from the **Director-General**

The modern era is known as the 'Anthropocene', when human influence has begun to be noticeably left behind in the strata. Global warming, ocean pollution and other changes in the global environment are becoming major threats to humans. If we continue down the current civilizational path, however, weather and water-related natural disasters will intensify, ecosystem degradation and loss of biodiversity will increase, and human livelihood, health, and safety will be at ever-greater risk. Modern civilizations have incessantly expanded the scale of production and consumption, but at nature's expense, and humans are both the perpetrators and victims of this path of development. The Covid-19 pandemic clearly shows the result, as it was caused by ever-expanding global human activities.

New technological fixes will not offer fundamental solutions to such complex problems, unless human lifestyles also change to achieve harmonious relationships with nature on Earth. For the last 20 years RIHN has conducted research with the awareness that the roots of global environmental problems are found in human culture. Based on the results of our past projects, it is time for us to promote new practical research.

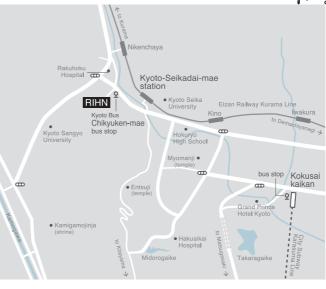
Cultural diversity is based on the diversity of nature. However, nature forms ecosystems in which regions are connected through the circulation of materials and energy, while cultures insist on their uniqueness and are sometimes in conflict. Solutions to global environmental problems therefore depend on connecting cultures through common environmental ethics. Great traditions of Eastern environmental wisdom and experience still exist, as do those of other regions; their valuable insights can help to break the deadlock in modern science and capitalism. It is for this reason that RIHN undertakes interdisciplinary research spanning the natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences, and in recent years, has evolved towards transdisciplinary research seeking to expand the kinds of knowledge that are considered valid in scientific inquiry.

RIHN has established three Research Programs to promote such research.

We have enhanced collaboration within the institute, across the diverse research community linked to RIHN research projects, and with society in general. RIHN also collaborates with the international research platform Future Earth, which aims to integrate global environmental change research and contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. As part of this effort, RIHN hosts the Japan Hub of the Future Earth Global Secretariat to strengthen research collaboration and capacity building across the region.

We will strive to expand these activities in the coming years, and implement new research initiatives in the search for solutions to the many environmental challenges of our planet.





Access

By City Subway

From Kyoto Station, take the Karasuma Line to Kokusaikaikan Station (the last station), and transfer to Kyoto Bus.

By Eizan Railway

From Demachiyanaqi Station in Kyoto City, take the Kurama Line. Get off at Kvoto-Seikadai-mae Station. RIHN is a 10-minute walk from the station.

From Kokusaikaikan Station, take bus No.40 · 特40, 50 or 52 to Chikyuken-mae. RIHN is at the base of the hill on your left.

457-4 Motoyama, Kamigamo, Kita-ku, Kyoto 603-8047, JAPAN TEL, +81-75-707-2100 FAX, +81-75-707-2106 https://www.chikyu.ac.jp









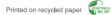


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RIHN is a national research institute established by the Government of Japan in 2001. Based on the idea that global environmental problems are ultimately rooted in human societies, cultures and values, RIHN research seeks concepts, theories and mechanisms capable of describing and enabling transformation of human-environment interactions.

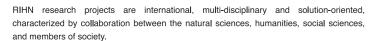
RIHN Research Programs and Projects

RIHN research programs identify priority areas guiding RIHN research. Each research project belongs to one of the three research programs, addressing specific issues within it.

Global Environmental Culture Program

Combining Knowledge for a Fundamental Innovation of Land Use Program

Co-creation of the Earth-human System Program



RIHN Research Formation

The project formation process involves internal and external reviews designed to refinine and deepen the research project. Research proposals submitted and selected through an international open-call first go through a preparatory phase of Incubation Study (IS) or Feasibility Study (FS). Proposals deemed feasible are then selected as research projects and proceed to Full Research (FR) phase for from three to five years. Forty-five research projects have been completed to date, and seven research projects are currently ongoing.



Global Environmental Culture Program

Program Director: MATSUDA Motoji

Towards solving global environmental crises, this program strives to change our behaviors and values not only by advanced science and technology but also by combining science and culture.

2024-2028 [FR2

Building up organic material circulation system among urban and rural area: Toward the integration of local perception and scientific knowledge

Project Leader: OYAMA Shuichi

Organic Material Circulation Project

Based on the principle of returning to nature what is obtained from nature, we are creating organic material circulation system that contributes to environmental restoration and agricultural production improvement. We return urban organic waste to degraded land in sub- Saharan Africa and Asia including Japan. In the Sahel region of Republic of

Niger, we have been working with local residents, municipalities, and central government for 25 years to green the degraded land using organic waste. We aim to contribute to the lives of local residents and prevention of ethnic conflicts among farmers and herders.



2024-2028 [FR2]

environmen

High-resolution reconstruction of resilient indigenous lifestyle in environmental changes to future collective knowledge deduced from the fusion of science and arts

Project Leader: WATANABE Tsuyoshi

SceNE Project

How can we make global environmental issues our own? By using high-resolution environmental reconstruction using coral annual bands, this project will discover local indigenous knowledge born from the relationship between humans and nature, and local issues buried in global-scale changes. Using art as a medium, we will discuss

toward spontaneous solutions to global environmental problems, and create future collective knowledge to obtain an image of local communities that can easily be empathized with.

how local communities can work



2025-2029 [FR1]

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Fair and Sustainable Hunting Management through Dialogues between Local Knowledge and Science

Project Leader: HONGO Shun

Fashloks Project

While international concern grows over the overhunting of wildlife in rainforests, there is also a threat to people' s livelihoods and cultures, which have long been based on hunting. This "wild meat crisis" must be addressed through mutual understanding between local people and conservation organisations, which can only be achieved

through dialogue between local knowledge and science. We aim to build locally-based, sustainable hunting management systems by driving "coproduction research," where both actors work together on an equal footing.



Combining Knowledge for a Fundamental Innovation of Land Use Program A A

Program Director: SHOBAYASHI Mikitaro

This program, with interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches, strives to fundamentally change land use in order to mitigate and adapt to the impacts on the global environment caused by socio-economic activities and changes in land use.

2022-2025 [FR4]

Fair for Whom? Politics, Power and Precarity in Transformations of Tropical Forest-agriculture Frontiers

Project Leader: WONG, Grace

FairFrontiers Project

Deforestation and land use intensification in the tropical frontiers of Central Africa and Southeast Asia are rapidly transforming landscapes, livelihoods, and local well-being. This is both a global environmental problem and a local social-ecological crisis. This project carries out critical policy analyses and case

study research to identify the conditions for how development and transformation of forest-agriculture frontiers can enable more equitable and sustainable development.



2025-2028 [FR1]

Satoyama Reconnections: Engaging Communities in Resilient, Natureand Climate-positive Land Use Futures

Project Leader: DWYER, Janet

SATOCONN Project

SATOCONN will apply integrated, transdisciplinary methods to pursue strengthened, nature- and climate-positive inter-relationships between people and nature in European and Japanese Satoyama. These longstanding cultural landscapes of high nature value are threatened by poor understanding and appreciation of their special characteristics and the role of indigenous knowledge in sustaining them. Mobilising living labs, partnering with local communities and

in contrasting market, policy and governance contexts, we will identify and test new routes to enhanced resilience, building the case for multifunctional land use as an essential element in achieving global targets for biodiversity and climate.



2025 [PR]

Pluriversal Land Use: Exploring Institutions, Values and Worldviews (TAMURA Norie)



Co-creation of the Earth-human System Program

Program Director: TANIGUCHI Makoto

This program strives to understand the various thresholds and linkages in the earth-human system, and to transform the relationship between humanity and nature for the sustainable future.

2022-2026 [FR4]

Adaptive Governance of Multiple Resources Based on Land-Sea Linkages of the Water Cycle: Application to Coral Reef Island Systems

Project Leader: YASUMOTO Jun

LINKAGE Project

Focusing on coral reef island systems located in the Ryukyu Arc as well as in the tropical and subtropical western Pacific, we are elucidating the connections between land and sea through the water cycle, the biocultural diversity and community capability, and the evolution and structure of organizations and institutions that

govern the use and management of multiple resources. By integrating and visualizing the above interconnected components, we aim to shed light on adaptive governance of multiple resources based on the water cycle.



2023-2027 FR3

Towards Sustainable Nitrogen Use Connecting Human Society and Nature

Project Leader: HAYASHI Kentaro

Sustai-N-able Project

Nitrogen provides great benefits to humankind as a fertilizer, industrial material and fuel. However, our use of nitrogen unintentionally causes nitrogen pollution and threatens the health of humans and nature. In this project, we will elucidate the dynamics of nitrogen, of which much remains unknown; quantify the environmental burden and impact of

nitrogen use; evaluate its benefits and threats and the effects of countermeasures and behavior change; and design the future to realize sustainable nitrogen use.



2025 [FS]

- •Rituals and Positive/Negative relational values: The nexus and co-creation of humans, culture, and nature (NAKADAI Ryosuke)
- ·Towards an Ethical Economy: Addressing the Impacts of Commodity Trade and Consumption on Indigenous Land and Survival (NGUYEN Tien Hoang)
- Water and Nutrient Footprint Analysis from Land to Ocean and Its Adaptation Strategies for Tipping Points: Towards Healthy Coastal Areas in Asia (ZHANG Jing)
- · Disasters and Development in East Asian Regionalism in the Anthropocene (ITO Takeshi)
- Social-Ecological Accelerations (SEA) as the key to understand the 20th-c. Great Acceleration and its possible futures: learning from case studies in European and Japanese Environmental History (IZDEBSKI, Adam)
- Examining Attitude and Behaviour Change towards Climate Change by Utilizing Citizen Knowledge (BABA Kenshi)