

Living Landscapes  
Rooted in  
Local Culture

System and Measures for  
**Cultural Landscape  
Management**







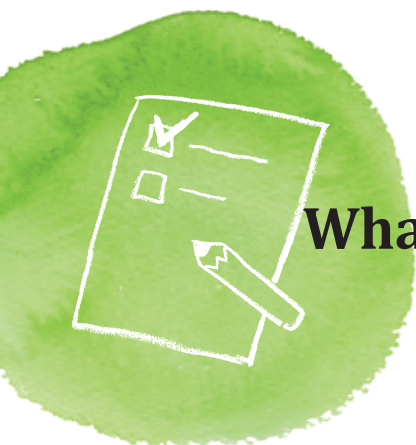
## What are Cultural Landscapes?

Under diverse climate and environmental conditions, Japanese people have engaged in livelihood activities and lived their lives in harmony with local nature and have created characteristic landscapes unique to individual regions over a long period of time. Living landscapes rooted in history and local culture are very important for understanding Japanese culture, but they are being lost as they are too familiar and people fail to notice their value.

The Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties defines land with such characteristics as cultural landscapes and positions them as part of cultural properties to be protected.

**Landscapes that have evolved in association with the modes of life or livelihoods of the people and the geo-cultural features of the region, which are indispensable for the understanding of our people's modes of life and livelihoods**

Definition of cultural landscapes  
in Article 2 of the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties



## What are Important Cultural Landscapes?

Among familiar landscapes, there are many that give an impression of being cultural landscapes. The national government selects and designates landscapes showing regional characteristics representative, exceptional or unique as important cultural landscapes.

Selections are made based on requests of local governments (prefectural or municipal governments) in light of the Criteria for the Selection of Important Cultural Landscapes. For making a request, the significance of the relevant landscape as a cultural landscape must be evident and the relevant local government needs to have taken the following measures necessary for preservation.

- ✓ *The landscape is located in a Landscape Planning Area or a Landscape District under the Landscape Act.*
- ✓ *The local government has formulated a Cultural Landscape Management Plan.*
- ✓ *The local government has established regulations necessary for the preservation of the landscape by an ordinance based on the Landscape Act or other Acts.*
- ✓ *The local government has ascertained the names and addresses of owners or possessors based on titles of the cultural landscape.*



# Selection Process

## Cultural Landscape Management Plan

It is a plan that provides the location and the extent of the cultural landscape, as well as the basic policy for preservation and utilization, and other matters related to land use, maintenance, and management systems. It must be submitted when applying for selection as an Important Cultural Landscape.

## Landscape Plan/ Landscape Planning Area

A Landscape Plan is a plan that a Landscape Administration Body formulates based on the Landscape Act in order to form a good landscape. A Landscape Planning Area is an area covered by a Landscape Plan.

## Landscape District

A Landscape District is a district designated by a municipality in its city planning in order to form a good landscape as prescribed in the Landscape Act. A Landscape District is set in a City Planning Area or a Quasi-City Planning Area and necessary regulations are established for the shapes and designs, heights, positions of the wall alignment, etc. for buildings within the district.

## Landscape Act

The Landscape Act aims to promote the formation of good landscapes in cities and rural areas and is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

## Other Acts

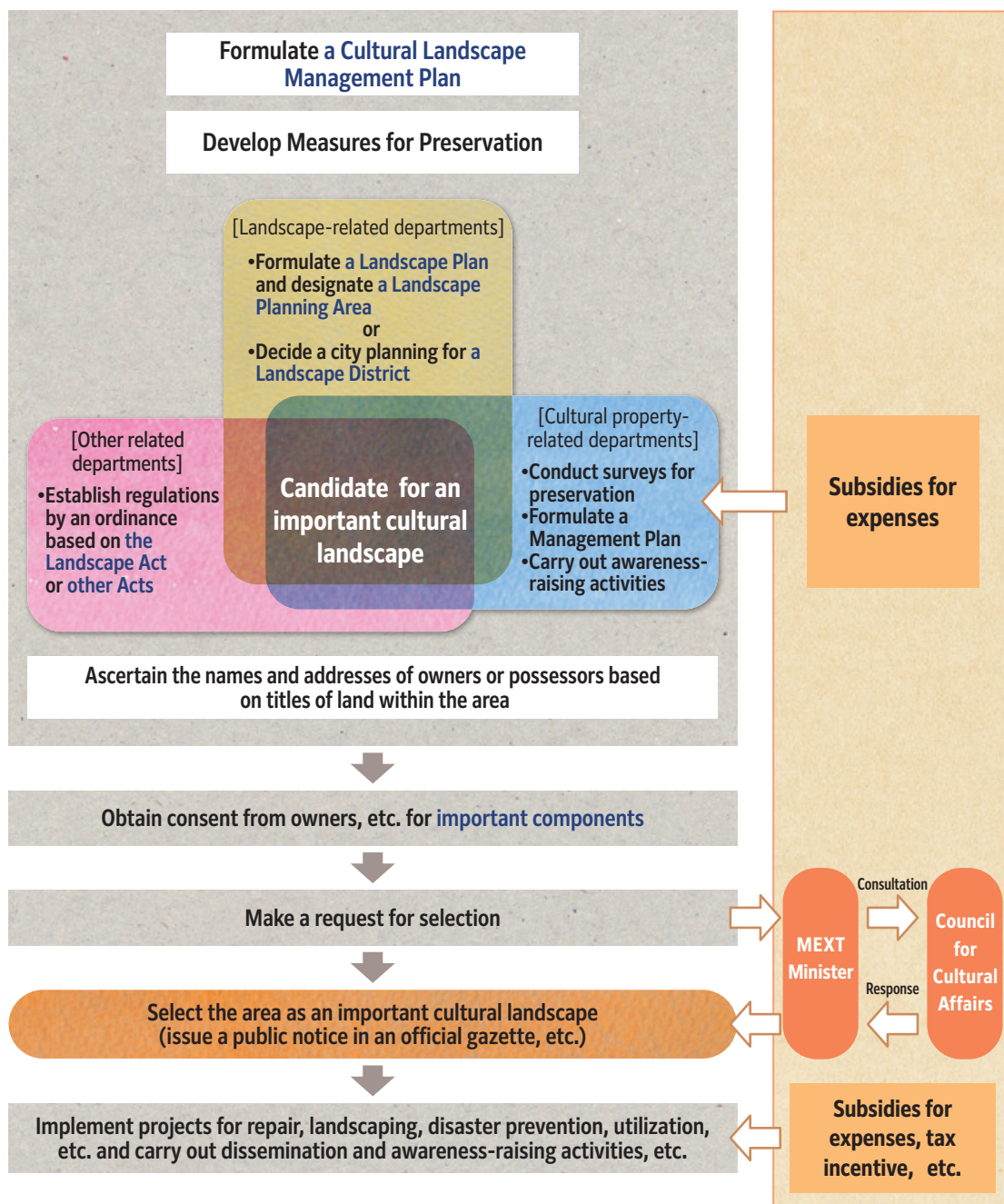
Acts that allow the establishment of appropriate restrictions regarding the preservation of cultural landscapes, such as the City Planning Act, the Natural Parks Act, and the Urban Green Space Conservation Act.

## Important components

Important components refer to components that possess the intrinsic value of a cultural landscape and are indispensable as subjects for management and that are specified in a Management Plan by obtaining consent from owners, etc. Components with unique or typical shapes and designs that apparently have special characteristics also in terms of technologies and raw materials fall under important components. Buildings, structures, terraced rice paddies, tea plantations, afforestation areas and other land associated with people's livelihood are specified as important components.

## Prefectural and Municipal Government

## National Government



## Notification

Regarding an important cultural landscape, a notification on the matters shown in the table on the right must be submitted to the Commissioner of the Agency for Cultural Affairs. Matters that affect the status of important components are subject to the notification. For details, contact the local municipal government where the important cultural landscape is located.

Matters to be notified	Notifier	Timing
Loss or damage	Owner, etc.	Within 10 days from the day on which the owner, etc. came to know of the fact
Alteration of the current status or any act that affects the preservation of the landscape	Person intending to commit the relevant act	By 30 days prior to the day on which the person intends to commit the relevant act





# Selection Criteria

Important Cultural Landscapes are selected based on the following criteria.

## Criteria for the Selection of Important Cultural Landscapes

Important Cultural Landscapes consist of

1 . One of the following cultural landscapes which have developed in association with the modes of life or livelihoods of the people and the geo-cultural features of the region, and as such represent the typical or unique characteristics of the basic modes of life or livelihoods of our people:

- (1) **Cultural landscapes associated with agriculture** such as rice paddies, farmland, etc.
- (2) **Cultural landscapes associated with manmade grassland or livestock ranching** such as hayfields, pastureland, etc.
- (3) **Cultural landscapes associated with forest uses** such as timber forests, disaster prevention forests, etc.
- (4) **Cultural landscapes associated with fisheries** such as fish cultivation rafts, Nori seaweed cultivation fields, etc.
- (5) **Cultural landscapes associated with water uses** such as reservoirs, waterways, harbors, etc.
- (6) **Cultural landscapes associated with mining or industrial manufacture** such as mines, quarries, groups of workshops, etc.
- (7) **Cultural landscapes associated with transportation and communication** such as roads, plazas, etc.
- (8) **Cultural landscapes associated with residences and settlements** such as stonewalls, hedges, coppices attached to premises, etc.

2 . **A combination of two or more cultural landscapes** listed in the above, representing the typical or unique characteristics of the basic modes of life or livelihoods of our people.

1

Cultural landscapes associated with

## Agriculture



Yusu-Mizugaura terraced field  
(Uwajima City, Ehime)



Warabino rice terraces (Karatsu City, Saga)

5

Cultural landscapes associated with

## Water uses



Omi-Hachiman wetland landscape  
(Omi-hachiman City, Shiga)



Iba-Naiko rural landscape  
(Higashi-omi City, Shiga)



2

Cultural landscapes associated with  
**Manmade grassland  
or livestock ranching**



Aso cultural landscape  
(Aso City, Kumamoto)



Arakawakogen farm, Tsuchibuchi-  
Yamaguchi village (Tono City, Iwate)

3

Cultural landscapes associated with  
**Forest uses**



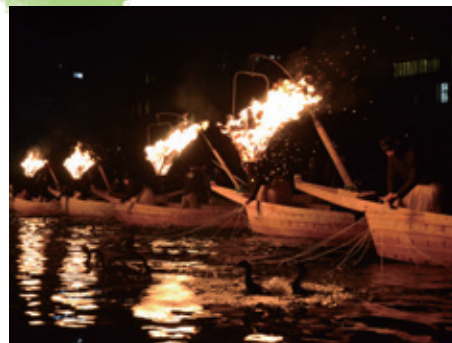
Chizu forestry landscape  
(Chizu Town, Tottori)



Ainu tradition and modern settlement  
landscape of Sarugawa river  
(Biratori Town, Hokkaido)

4

Cultural landscapes associated with  
**Fisheries**



Nagara river and Gifu cultural landscape  
(Gifu City, Gifu)



Miyazu-Amanohashidate cultural landscape  
(Miyazu City, Kyoto)

6

Cultural landscapes associated with  
**Mining or industrial  
manufacture**



Kitadaito phosphorus ore mine and its  
cultural landscape  
(Kita-Daito Village, Okinawa)



Ontayaki pottery village (Hita City, Oita)

7

Cultural landscapes associated with  
**Transportation and  
communication**



Cultural landscape of the Shimantogawa  
River basin; (Shimanto Town, Kochi)



Cultural landscape in Katsushika-  
Shibamata (Katsushika City, Tokyo)

8

Cultural landscapes associated with  
**Residences and  
settlements**



Bamboo fence landscape of Ozawa and  
Kami-Ozawa (Wajima City, Ishikawa)



Ichinoseki-Hondera rural landscape  
(Ichinoseki City, Iwate)





# Assistance for Management

For important cultural landscapes, the following assistance is provided for promoting their preservation and utilization.

## Subsidies

before selection

Eligible projects are those implemented by local governments by themselves.

### Surveys for preservation

A local government conducts surveys and analyses for evaluating the intrinsic value of the relevant cultural landscape and for examining appropriate measures for preserving it. The results of the surveys and analyses will be compiled into a report.

### Formulation of a Management Plan

Based on the results of the surveys for preservation, a local government develop a management plan which indicates: Location and boundary of cultural landscapes; Basic policy for the management of cultural landscapes; Matters concerning land use considering the preservation of cultural landscapes; Matters concerning preservation, management, utilization and promotion of cultural landscapes; Matters concerning capacity buildings for the preservation of cultural landscapes; and Candidates for the important elements etc.

### Dissemination and awareness-raising activities

In association with the aforementioned projects, a local government holds study sessions, open lectures, and workshops for local residents, and prepares records on the progress of the projects, with the aim of expanding interest in and deepening understanding of the relevant cultural landscape among people and handing down relevant technologies and skills.

## Subsidies

after selection

Eligible projects are those implemented by local governments by themselves or those in which local governments assist efforts by owners, etc.

### Preliminary surveys and planning of a project plan

A local government formulates a medium- to long-term project plan for the relevant important cultural landscape or a project plan required for the restoration and repair of important components and for disaster prevention work, and also conducts preliminary surveys as necessary.

### Installation of information signs, etc.

A local government installs information signs and explanatory boards for the relevant important cultural landscape and its important components in harmony with the landscape.

### Disaster prevention work, and installation of service facilities

A local government conducts disaster prevention work, such as the protection of slopes and the improvement of fire prevention facilities, or installs guidance facilities, rest facilities, or other related service facilities, while giving due consideration to the landscape.

*An unoccupied house is used as a guidance facility operated by local people.*



Cultural Landscape of Hirado Island (Hirado City, Nagasaki)

### Restoration, repair, and landscaping

A local government restores parts damaged due to a disaster and repairs ruined parts in order to recover and maintain the characteristics of important components. Additionally, a local government also conducts landscaping work to form and secure scenery and views with the aim of increasing understanding of the relevant important cultural landscape.

*Local people also participated in masonry repair work.*

Before repair work



During repair work



After repair work



Mt. Kosuge and Kosuge village cultural landscape (Iiyama City, Nagano)

*An unoccupied house was repaired and a family raising children moved in.*

Before repair work



After repair work



Aragijima rice terraces and Mita, Shimizu rural landscapes (Aridagawa Town, Wakayama)

### Dissemination and awareness-raising activities

In association with the aforementioned projects, a local government organizes study sessions, open lectures, and workshops for local residents, and prepares records on the progress of the projects, with the aim of expanding interest in and deepening understanding of the relevant cultural landscape among people and handing down relevant technologies and skills.

## Tax incentive

With regard to houses composing part of important cultural landscapes and land used as the premises of those houses, standard taxable values for fixed property taxes are set as half of the standard taxable values to be ordinarily imposed for the relevant fixed assets (Article 349-3 of the Local Tax Act).

## Financial support for local government finances

The following measures to support local government finances are taken for their expenses for preserving and utilizing important cultural landscapes.

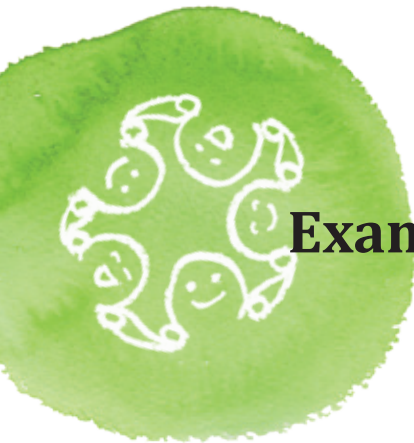
### Projects from a hardware perspective

Local governments' shares in national-assistance projects for the management of important cultural landscapes (projects from a hardware perspective) are eligible for local allocation tax grants to local governments.

### Projects from a software perspective

Tax incentives are given in initiatives for the presentation and utilization of cultural landscapes based on Cultural Landscape Management Plans.





## Examples of Local Activities



### Volunteer activities

Volunteers participated in repair work of hedges made of thin bamboo.

● Bamboo fence landscape of Ozawa and Kami-Ozawa (Wajima City, Ishikawa)



### Exchange with urban residents

Through introducing a paddy field owner system, local people have exchange with urban residents.

● Tashibunsho-Osaki rural landscape (Bungotakada City, Oita)



### Outdoor childcare

Children are taken care of in nature by using rice terraces as a kindergarten yard.

● Obasute rice terraces (Chikuma City, Nagano)



### Internship

Students get work experience by receiving instructions from farmers or fishermen.

● Yusu-Mizugaura terraced fields (Uwajima City, Ehime)



### Nature observation meeting

Participants observe creatures in a waterway developed in an eco-friendly manner.

● Tsujun irrigation canal and rice terraces of Shiraito plateau (Yamato Town, Kumamoto)



### Experience of rural life

Families enjoy the wisdom of daily life through an event to experience harvesting of vegetables covered with snow.

● Higashikusano rural landscape (Maibara City, Shiga)



### Information provision

Participants go around with a camera and learn on site, and broadly communicate local attractions they have found.

● Echizen coast daffodil fields landscape (Fukui City, Fukui)

## National Cultural Landscape Area Liaison Council

The Council, which consists of municipalities, etc. endeavoring to protect cultural landscapes, aims to form desirable cultural landscapes while sharing challenges and exchanging information among members and cooperating with local residents. The Council provides information, carries out dissemination and awareness-raising activities, and holds training sessions.



Bunkeikyo

Search

## Emblems of important cultural landscapes

Individual municipalities have created emblems that show the characteristics of their important cultural landscapes by using a common frame and are using them for their dissemination and awareness-raising activities.



Front cover: [Large photo] Danbata (terraced fields) and farming and fishing village landscape in Uwakaikarihama (Seiyo City, Ehime); [Small photo (upper)] Cultural landscape along the Sarugawa River resulting from Ainu traditions and modern settlement (Biratori Town, Hokkaido); [Small photo (middle)] Ontayaki Village (Hita City, Oita); [Small photo (lower)] Lakefront village landscape of Sugaura (Nagahama City, Shiga)

Photos were provided by: [Front cover] MIYAMOTO Haruki, Biratori Town, and Nagahama City; [p.4-p.5] Karatsu City, Aso City, Tono City Board of Education, Chizu Town Board of Education, Biratori City, Gifu City, KAWAGISHI Haruki, Kita-Daito Village Board of Education, Katsushika City Board of Education, Wajima City Board of Education, and Ichinoseki City Board of Education; [p.6-p.7] Hirado City, Iiyama City Board of Education, and Aridagawa Town Board of Education; [Back cover] Wajima City Board of Education, Bungotakada City Board of Education, KITAZAWA Mika (Sarashina no Sato Shizen Hoiku Bokko), Maibara City Board of Education, and HORIKOSHI Kazutaka

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