

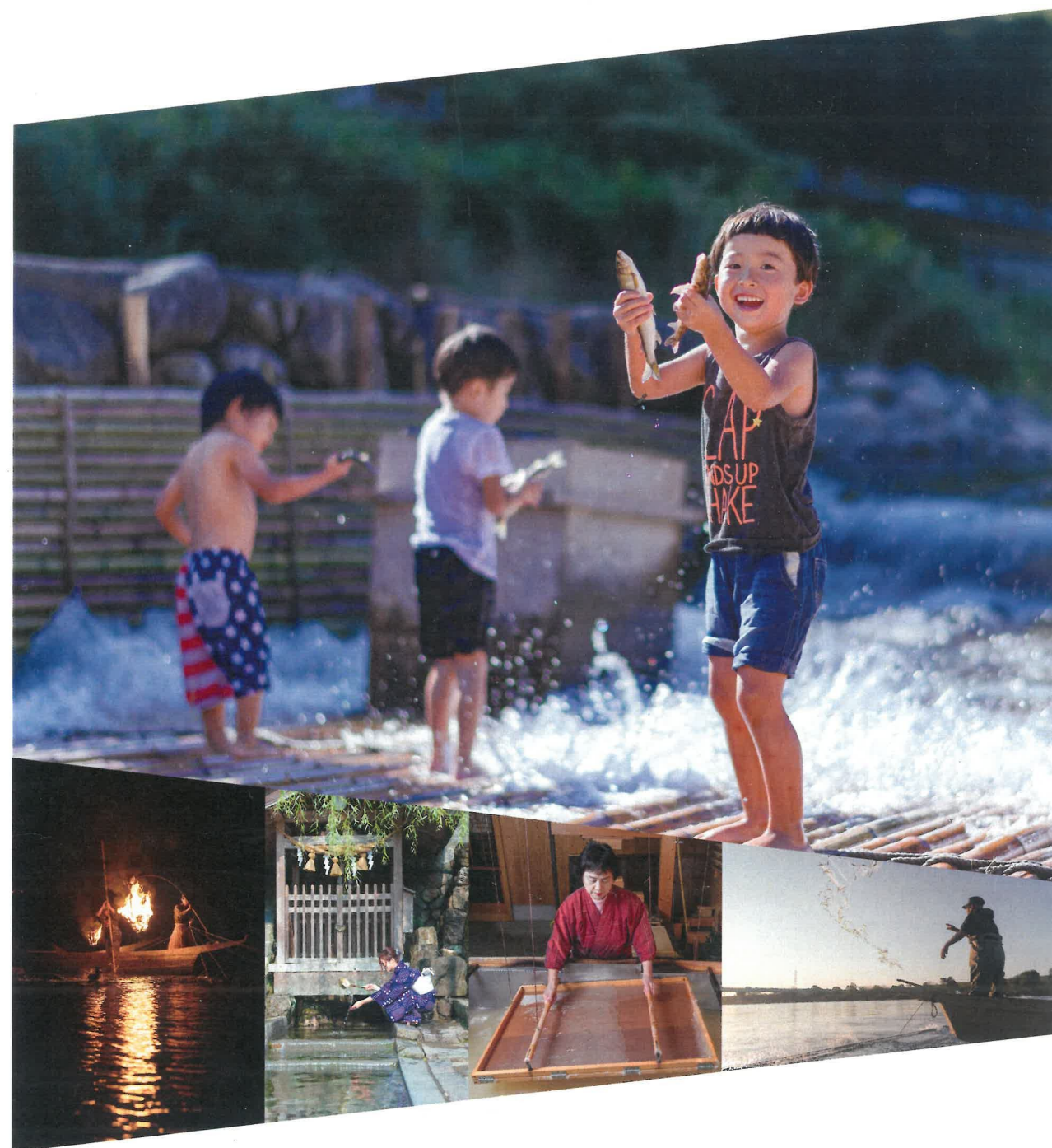
**Globally Important  
Agricultural  
Heritage System  
(GIAHS)  
and Ayu**

The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) initiative was established by the FAO in 2002, with the aim of ensuring the passing on of globally important regions where the environment and land are leveraged in the practice of traditional agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and in which all of these factors come together with a farming culture and landscapes to form a comprehensive system.

Ayu (or sweetfish) is a migratory fish that moves between rivers and the sea over the course of its one-year life span. Gifu boasts the largest yield of ayu in the country and it is designated as the prefectural fish. Ayu has been a valuable source of protein and enhances the economy and culture along the basin of the Nagara River.



世界農業遺産  
清流長良川の鮎



**Logo of Ayu of the Nagara River System**

This logo shows a Nagara River ayu swimming in clear blue water which streams forth from the lush green mountains.



**Contact**

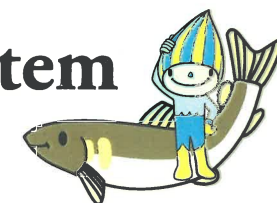
**GIAHS "Ayu of the Nagara River System" Promotion Association**

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Ayu of the Nagara River System [Web](#)

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System

**Ayu of the Nagara River System**





The pristine waters of the Nagara River are preserved on a basin that is home to 860,000 people. Ayu are raised and nurtured in these waters, both of which are deeply tied to the economy, history and culture of the region.

### **Culinary Culture and Industries Related to Ayu**

On the Nagara River, inland fishing, mainly of ayu, is thriving. Many people work in the various industries related to ayu such as cormorant fishing tourism and a culinary culture including ayu sushi and ayu shaped confectionery.

### **Rich Bio-diversity**

The Nagara River basin provides precious habitats for a diverse variety of flora and fauna such as ayu, red spotted masu trout and other migratory fish, as well as the protected species, the Japanese giant salamander and *nekogigi* catfish.

### **Traditional Fishing and Resource Security**

A variety of traditional fishing techniques are still being passed down from generation to generation along the Nagara River Basin. Among them, cormorant fishing sports about 1300 years of history.

### **Preservation of Traditional Craft Techniques**

Traditional craft techniques closely related to water have been preserved through the ages, such as *“Hon-minoshi”* Japanese handmade paper, the skills of making which were registered a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage and also Gujo *“Honzome”* dyeing, which leverages the clear water of the Nagara River.

### **Conservation and Use of the “Satokawa”**

The *“Satokawa”* is conserved through sustainable use and wise management by the local people. *“Mizubune”*, a system for using water effectively with minimum pollution, is introduced into the river cycle to deliver clean water downstream from the upper basin.