# INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND

## PROGRESS NARRATIVE REPORT

Beneficiary State(s) Party(ies): Mongolia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project title:</th>
<th>Supporting natural and cultural sustainability through the revitalization and transmission of the traditional practices of worshipping the sacred sites in Mongolia</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reporting period:</td>
<td>From: 12/02/2019 to: 31/01/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget:</td>
<td>Total: US$149030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Including:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund: US$98500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State Party contribution: US$13880</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other contributions: US$36650</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementing agency (contracting partner or UNESCO Field Office):</td>
<td>Foundation for the Protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact person:</td>
<td>Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Mr</td>
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<td>Family name: Norov</td>
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<td>Given name: Urtnasan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Institution/position: Foundation for the Protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage/President</td>
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<td>Address: #403, 4F, Peace Building 8/5, Sukhbaatar Street, 4th Khoroo, Chingeltei District, Ulaanbaatar 15160, Mongolia</td>
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<td>E-mail address: <a href="mailto:n.urtnasan@gmail.com">n.urtnasan@gmail.com</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Partner agency (in the case of a service from UNESCO project): 0144300021
| Implementing partners: | 1. Ministry of Education, Culture, Sciences and Sports  
3. Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO  
4. Government Implementing Agency - Department of Culture and Art  
5. Government Organization - National Center for Cultural Heritage  
6. Local Departments of Culture and Art, Governor’s Offices in 21 provinces  
7. NGO - Association for Safeguarding a Kinship Inheritance and Tradition  
8. NGO - Research and Information Center for the Sacred Sites of Mongolia  
9. MNB - Mongolian National Broadcaster  
10. TV9 - National News TV Channel  
11. www.medee.mn - Online News Agency |
Background

Provide a brief description of the situation existing at the time of the request and the need that the assistance aimed to address. For safeguarding of a particular element, provide a description of the element, its viability and why safeguarding measures were required. For preparation of inventories, strengthening of capacities, awareness-raising, visibility or other safeguarding not focussed on a particular element, identify gaps that were to be addressed. For emergency assistance requests, describe the nature and severity of the emergency at the time of the request.

Not fewer than 750 or more than 1000 words

The tradition of worshipping sacred mountains and sources of water is one of the outstanding cultural heritage elements created, developed, and practiced by nomadic Mongolians since ancient times. The tradition was initially developed and thrived during the shamanic period and was later enriched with Buddhist teachings and rituals.

This traditional knowledge system was ignored, or even prohibited in Mongolia for a certain period of time in the world of communist ideology in the 20th century. The number of masters who are knowledgeable enough to properly conduct the traditional worship rituals and ceremonies has decreased dramatically due to aforementioned historical reasons. The traditional procedures of worship rituals and their symbolic meanings and expressions have almost been lost in many local communities.

Since the 1990s, the Government of Mongolia has taken on active policy to revive and promote national culture, customs, and traditions. Despite the efforts of Mongolian communities, worship practitioners, and the government’s active initiatives towards reviving the traditional practices of worshipping sacred sites, several extreme challenges remain. Mongolia’s rapid globalization, urbanization, and the migration of the herdsman population from sacred site areas to the cities have diminished the scope of the traditional cultural space of worshipping practices. Besides, as Mongolia is rich in minerals such as coal, gold, and copper, a considerable number of mining companies have been operating in the country. Therefore, a large area of Mongolian territory is under exploration and mining licenses, which threatens the sacred sites and viability of the traditional practices of worshipping sacred sites and their continued transmission.

The element was registered on the List of ICH in need of Urgent Safeguarding at the 12th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of ICH Convention in 2017.

Bearing in mind the importance of the revitalization of this tradition in such situations, UNESCO accredited NGO in Mongolia - The Foundation for the Protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage (FPNCH) in close cooperation with Governmental Organizations, NGOs and related community-based organizations has initiated and developed a Project on “Supporting natural and cultural sustainability through the revitalization and transmission of the traditional practices of worshipping the sacred sites in Mongolia” and submitted a request for International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund in 2018. This request was approved by the Bureau of the Committee, and the contract for its implementation was executed in February 2019.

Preparation for the Project Implementation

i) The project is set to be implemented in accordance with the Work Plan for a duration of 30 months. Activities for the given period as scheduled in the Work Plan were successfully implemented.

ii) In close consultation with the officer of Ministry of Education, Culture, Sciences and Sports (MECSS) and with the consent of related Governmental organizations, NGOs, community-based organizations, and practitioners, the implementing organization has established an Organization Committee consisted of the representatives of sacred site
related NGOs, communities, Governmental and religious organizations.

iii) The Organization Committee has developed an Operational procedure with purposes to coordinate all stakeholders, monitor the activities and evaluate the outcomes. The Committee has also developed a General Guideline on the implementation of the project to ensure the efficiency of its proceedings. The Foundation, as implementing organization, is a responsible body to oversee the implementation of all planned activities, and coordinate all necessary communication with stakeholders including local and religious organizations, and the scientific and media personnel. The Foundation has developed a detailed-plan for preparing and organizing each individual activity and/or ceremony.

iv) With the proposal from the Project Coordinator, the Foundation initiated, within the framework of the UENSCO project, a Call for developing a “Nature and Culture Journey of the Mongols” Nationwide Campaign under the motto “Let’s appreciate and love Sacred Homeland and Our Heritage”. This initiation was supported and encouraged by more than 100 ICH related NGOs of Mongolia, MECSS, and the Government Implementing Agency – Department of Culture and Art. The Organization Committee has also positively supported this initiation and taken the decision to carry out the nationwide campaign.

v) Under the guidance of the Committee, the Foundation has established official and fruitful cooperation with local authorities of aimags (provinces), soums and communities. Letter (No.01/314) of cooperation dated June 18, 2019 addressed from the Department of Culture and Art was sent to every Governor’s Office of 21 aimags. The consecutive letter (No. 01/478) dated October 15, 2019 was sent to Governor’s Offices of every aimag to follow up on collaboration. Letters were aimed to introduce and reinforce the implementation process of the project, to broadly involve local authorities, NGOs and communities in the activities, and to organize a 2-day local workshops in 21 provinces and to carry out nationwide campaign.

vi) The Foundation established an Agreement with the National Center of Cultural Heritage of Mongolia (NCCH) concerning joint action on establishing National inventory-information database for “Traditional practices of worshipping the sacred sites in Mongolia”. To this end, the Foundation established a Contract with a professional working team for establishing and developing the National inventory-information database.

vii) The Foundation established an MOU and Agreement with the “Association for Safeguarding a Kinship Inheritance and Tradition” (ASKIT) to cooperate for greater involvement of local ethnic and kinship communities in implementing the project objectives. The Foundation also appointed the ASKIT NGO’s press agent journalist Ms. S.Dulamsuren as a press specialist to promote the Project objectives and activities through ASKIT NGO’s newspaper called “Urag Udam” (or Inherited land and Descendants) where it’d be dedicated to the dissemination of ideas and activities of the project and its nationwide campaign. The specialist will be responsible to coordinate all activities on press-release and propaganda concerning the nationwide campaign and the project. In June of 2019, the Foundation issued 1,000 pieces of newspaper “Urag Udam” specifically dedicated to the project which were disseminated among stakeholders, local communities and people.

Objectives and results attained

Overall, to what extent did the project attain its objectives? Describe the main results attained, focussing in particular on the perspective of the direct beneficiaries and communities. For each expected result identified in the request, explain whether it was fully or partially attained. Also describe any unexpected results, direct or indirect, whether positive or negative.

Not fewer than 100 or more than 500 words

The objectives of the project were identified on the basis of urgent needs for the revitalization of the element and awareness-raising among local communities, in particular, among younger generations.
Project objectives and results attained in following ways:

- In close cooperation with the local communities, the Foundation has conducted research expeditions in the selected sacred sites of four identified regions through field surveys, documentation and other means as necessary. These expeditions commenced the research activities that will be continued until July 2020. Conducting research expeditions has attained the desired results described in detail in the description.

- Based on the information collected through the field research, the Foundation and NCCH are working to establish an inventory-information database of "Traditional practices of worshipping sacred sites in Mongolia". To this end, a Guideline with the description of the function of the database was developed and distributed to all branches of the inventory-information database of NCCN. Detailed instructions for the creation of this database were given to participants of all national and local seminars. The final evaluation of the function of the database will be made by May 2021.

- A Guidebook (1000 pcs) and audio-visual materials on the sacred site practices were created and distributed to all soums of 21 provinces among local communities to raise knowledge, awareness, and capacities amongst communities, practitioners, and youth;

- Along with the identified community representatives and specialists, a two-day national capacity-building workshop was organized in October 2019. The seminar had completely fulfilled its objectives and attained desired results are described in detail in the description;

- The National Contest for the Best practices of reviving and developing worshipping practices and rituals was announced among communities from October 2019 until June 2021. The National Contest is being received positively and with enthusiasm by the General public, especially by local communities and authorities of soums and bags.

- With assistance and guidance of trainers who participated in the national workshop, the Governor’s offices of Provinces organized the local seminar in each of the twenty-one provinces in Mongolia from October to December 2019. As a result of these seminars, we have now more than 400 trained practitioners of communities and cultural workers of local cultural centers for implementing objectives of the UNESCO project and reviving and promoting traditional practices of worshipping sacred sites.

- Further to the completion of the project activities, will organize an evaluation meeting and an ICH Festival to highlight the importance of sacred sites in promoting sustainable development of communities.

Description of project implementation

Provide a description of the activities undertaken and the outputs they generated (e.g. trainings, consultation process, technical assistance, awareness raising, publications, toolkits, etc.). Also describe any problems encountered in project delivery and corrective actions taken. Describe the role of the implementing agency and of the partner agency (in the case of a service from UNESCO project) and the role of other implementing partners in carrying out activities and generating outputs.

Not fewer than 1000 or more than 1500 words

During this reporting period, the following activities were implemented.

1. Orientation Meeting to the UNESCO Project

To introduce Project objectives and activities and concrete the measures of organizing Nationwide Campaign, the Foundation in cooperation with the Department of Culture and Art organized an Orientation Meeting on May 10, 2019, in Ulaanbaatar.

Over 50 individuals participated in the Orientation Meeting including representatives from MECSS, MNC for UNESCO, Department of Culture and Art and provincial Governor’s offices, and representatives of concerned communities and NGOs, and the members of Organizing Committee. Mr. G.Erdenebat - Head of the Department of Culture and Art,
S.Uyanga - Secretary-General of MNC for UNESCO, N.Urtnasan - National Coordinator of the Project delivered welcoming remarks.

Dr. N. Urtnasan and D. Davaatseren, a senior specialist at the MECSS, have led the Meeting with keynote speeches and addressed on key issues to the implementation of the UNESCO project, organization of a Nationwide Campaign, and current policy and legal environment for reviving and supporting sacred sites and worship practices in Mongolia”. Thirteen prominent scholars and experienced practitioners shared their presentations on subjects of worshipping practices. Researchers have given instructions and recommendations for implementing the project and organizing Nationwide Campaign and conducting field expeditions. Fruitful discussions took place during the Meeting has proven further commitment and active involvement by all parties in all Project activities.

2. Research expeditions in 4 regions

Subsequent to the Orientation Meeting, the Foundation conducted research expeditions in four regions from June to October of 2019. Local authorities and representatives of ASKIT NGO have closely cooperated with the teams and concerned communities and practitioners were actively involved.

National Coordinator has developed and approved a “Guideline for conducting research expeditions in the selected sacred sites”. Guideline includes sacred sites to be covered, and the itinerary of each expedition.

Each team consisted of competent individuals including team leader, main researcher, assistant researcher, cameraman, and driver.

Research expedition objectives
- To commence research activities;
- To clarify and understand the current state and viability of worshipping practices;
- To identify local practitioners and specialists of worshipping practices;
- To commence the establishment of an inventory-information database in provinces
- To create a region-specific book and organize
- To organize the National Symposium based on the results of the research materials
- To conduct documentation for creation of awareness raising documentary film

Prior commencing field expeditions, team leaders and National Coordinator have developed a “Form for Registration of Sacred Sites, Worship Practices and Communities” to be used in surveying.

Research teams traveled 15,774 km in 64 days and covered 86 soums of 21 provinces, met with 176 officials of Governor’s offices who are responsible to carry out project activities in their respective provinces and soums.

Team members visited 118 sacred sites for exploration and documentation and met with 167 community members who were practitioners, religious representatives of local monasteries, or local herdsmen – members of various indigenous communities who have inherited the traditions from their kinship ancestors and practice the element at their respective sacred sites.

Research teams took account of 430 sacred sites, documented 118 sacred sites, and interviewed and recorded discussions of 86 individuals. They shot about 5,000 photographs and made audio-visual recordings of over 300 hours. Locations of sacred sites and the scope of worship practice were identified and illustrated on a map.

As a result, a large amount of material has been accumulated which will be reviewed, analyzed and classified with respect to characteristics of the element and communities. Final results will be integrated into online database system, to be used as reference for
creation of region-specific reference books, and organizing a scientific and practical Symposium which will be carried out until June, 2021.

3. Development of a Guidebook and Audio-visual material

Under the coordination of the National Coordinator, the working group was established and created a Guidebook for Project implementation which contains the following basic materials.

- General Guideline for the implementation of the Project
- Call for developing the Nationwide “Nature and Culture Journey Campaign”
- Activities and implementation of a Nationwide Campaign
- Guideline for conducting Research expeditions
- Creation of National inventory-information database
- Form for Registration of Sacred Sites, Worship Practices and Communities
- Prospects of the National Contest for the Best practices
- Case examples of sacred sites, and efforts for promoting worship practices

A Guidebook and Project introduction video material were published and distributed to all soums, local communities and practitioners.

4. Organization of National Seminar

On the basis of findings of research expeditions, and with aims to reinforce the Project implementation process and officially launch the Nationwide Campaign, the Foundation with its partner organizations organized a two-day National Seminar in Ulaanbaatar on October 23-24, 2019.

In total 70 people participated in the National Seminar including representatives from MECSS, MNET, MNC for UNESCO, Department of Culture and Art, and provincial Governor’s offices and representatives of concerned communities, NGOs, specialists and members of Organizing Committee. During the Seminar, Organizing Committee presented materials for implementing the project activities and launching Campaign. Participants of the Seminar were appointed as trainers of local training workshops to be organized in 21 provinces. National Seminar became an important step forward to broaden the scope of the project and intensifying its process and encouraging local communities and practitioners. Informative, methodological and introductory materials to all aspects of the Project and its activities such as Guidebook, Seminar presentations, recommendations, and audio-visual materials were presented and distributed.

5. Nationwide Campaign Launching Ceremony

With purpose to promote UNESCO project and bring its ideas closer to the public and local communities, the Foundation initiated a Nationwide “Nature and Culture Journey Campaign” under the Motto “Let’s Appreciate and Love Sacred Homeland and Our Heritage”. The Campaign was officially launched at the end of the National Seminar (October 24, 2019) at National University of Culture and Art in Ulaanbaatar city.

Over 300 people attended the Launching Ceremony, including participants of the National Seminar and representatives of educational, cultural and religious organizations, concerned NGOs and communities. Prominent scholars and famous bearers of ICH were invited and delivered welcoming remarks and dedicated their ICH performances.

National Coordinator Dr. N.Urtnasan delivered a welcoming speech and officially announced the Launch of the Campaign. Honorable dignitaries have given congratulatory speeches to support the Campaign, and wished success in reviving and promoting the Traditional practices of worshipping the sacred sites.
The Launching Ceremony of the Campaign inspired and stimulated the project process and increased awareness and understanding towards significance of sacred sites among public, especially younger generations.

6. Announcement of a National Contest for Best Practices

The Foundation and ASKIT NGO developed a Guideline for organizing the National Contest for Best practices for revitalization and promotion of worship practices among all communities, with eligibility and entry requirements, criteria of selection of the best entries, duration, awards and etc. The National Contest was announced at Launching Ceremony of the Nationwide Campaign. The Contest will be finalized in June 2021 and representatives of 20 selected communities will be invited to the National Evaluation Meeting of the project and the National Festival to be awarded with Certificates of Honor and cash rewards. National Contest attracts interests of many communities.

7. Organization of Local Seminars

With active involvement of the Department of Culture and Art in provincial Governor’s offices, the trainer-organizers who were trained in National Seminar have conducted local Seminars in their respective provinces in November and December of 2019. Local Seminars were conducted pursuant to the guidelines, instructions and recommendations provided in the Guidebook and materials and contents obtained during National Seminar. Provincial organizers have duly considered the specific cultural spaces and situations with respect to characteristics of their localities and communities.

As a result, around 400 leader-practitioners or cultural workers of local cultural centers received and obtained greater knowledge and experience in conducting worship practices. These individuals will be actively engaged in Project implementation activities and carry out the Nationwide Campaign at local levels among indigenous communities.

8. Establishment of National Inventory-information Database

The Foundation and NCCH are jointly working to establish National Inventory-information Database which will be finalized in May 2021. An online based database system is created within a website www.tahilga.mongoluv.mn. The working group has developed a Guideline to the functions of database system operation, regulations to creating account and registration procedures which was developed in exact format as the “Form for Registration of Sacred Sites, Worship Practices and Communities”. The system is created with principles of free and open information access and sharing. Detailed instructions to utilize the system are developed and introduced to participants of all National and local Seminars and to all branches of the inventory-information database of NCCH. Establishment of a Database and the website is highly attracted initiation among all stakeholders and communities which will have continued operation and impact beyond the project and serve as a main toolkit to circulate the best practices thus promoting the viability and awareness on both sacred sites and worship practices. The evaluation of the integrated database will be finalized in May 2021.

**Community involvement**

Provide a description of the mechanisms used for fully involving the community(ies) concerned. Describe not only the participation of the communities as beneficiaries of the project, but also their active participation in the planning and implementation of all activities.

Not fewer than 300 or more than 500 words

Project’s main purpose is to work closely with really faithful communities, providing guidance, networking, and advice, but most importantly to ensuring and encouraging these communities and ethnic groups to shape their own spiritual identity and develop their own unique traditional rituals of worshipping sacred sites as independent practitioners. To this end, the community members and practitioners are involved through following ways and
mechanisms.
- Main representatives of various ethnic and local communities bound together by sharing one sacred land and water and tradition were invited and directly involved in National and local Seminars/workshops.
- Local seminars were organized in 21 provinces which involved representatives of local communities and their leader-practitioners from each soum. These trained leader-practitioners are working in their respective soums and bags (smallest administrative unit in Mongolia) among local communities.
- Project organizers have launched the Nationwide Campaign “Nature and Culture Journey” which has a prime purpose to bring the project goal and ideas to those communities who worship their own sacred site inherited from their ancestors.
- Activities of research expeditions were carried out in selected sacred sites in four regions worshipped by local communities. During the expeditions, research teams have met with representatives of those local communities and collaborated with their direct involvement in conducting the field research activities. Community representatives were involved in variety of forms and played important roles during such as a guide to sacred sites, interviewee on worship practices and traditions, and some of them being the main leaders who conduct the worship practices and rituals. Community representatives played crucial roles in developing a dialogue, discussions, monitoring activities, evaluation meetings, and video documentation processes. During expeditions, the introductory Guidebook, “Urag Udam” Newspaper and other audio-visual materials were broadly disseminated among community leaders, practitioners, and local Government officials and NGOs.
- One of key activities of the project is to establish and develop the Nationwide inventory-information database of sacred sites in Mongolia. Description and explanation of the sacred site for inclusion in a database will be made by leaders-practitioners of communities with assistance of specialists and practitioners who participated in local Seminars. Therefore, to submit their entry of sacred site registration, the community members-leaders and specialists from Cultural Centers of local administrative unit (soum or bag) should work together and create the database at soum level and submit the Form for Registration through online registration procedure and integrate into the National Inventory-Information Database.
- In our case, the most effective and influential mechanism for involving the communities is an organization of a National Contest launched among local communities for their best practices of reviving and promoting the worshipping traditions and rituals. Communities are to freely participate in the National Contest submitting their experiences and best practices of worshipping sacred homeland.
- In general, all activities of the project are aimed to widely involve local communities because a sacred site itself is worshipped by community or group of communities.
Sustainability and exit/transition strategy

Describe how the benefits of the project will continue after the project has been completed. Where appropriate, describe the steps undertaken to ensure the following:

- Sustainability of activities, outputs and results, including with reference to how capacity has been built under the project. Also describe any planned follow-up measures to ensure sustainability.
- Additional funding secured as a result of this project, if any. Indicate by whom, how much and for what purpose the contributions are granted.

Describe how the ownership (of activities, outputs, results) by stakeholders and the community(ies) in particular has been promoted.

Describe, if relevant, how tools, processes, outputs, etc. have been adopted, adapted, replicated and/or extended for future use (e.g. in other regions, communities, elements, or fields of intangible cultural heritage).

Not fewer than 100 or more than 500 words

- As a result of a two-day National Seminar, 21 individuals were trained in 21 provinces who are leaders and organizers of further activities of the project and Nationwide Campaign to support and promote practices of worshipping the sacred sites. These 21 trained leaders conducted local workshops in their respective provinces and further will continue to carry out the research work at the local level and advise practitioners and community leaders, including those who were trained during local workshops, on how to document sacred sites and create a database.

- The practitioners-leaders from each soum in 21 provinces who were participants in local workshops (around 400 persons) will be continuously engaged in implementing the project objectives to reviving and conducting traditional worshipping practices in their respective localities among indigenous ethnic groups or among one land and water communities.

- The research activity that has started by conducting field expeditions, is considered as the most important and prerequisite activity followed by such other measures as:

  i) To review and analyze the gathered research materials during field expeditions and integrate them to a newly established inventory-information database.

  ii) To continue to receive entry materials of the registration of sacred sites, worship practices and communities through newly established inventory-information database of “Traditional practices of worshipping sacred sites in Mongolia” and make evaluations for gaining desired results of research work and expeditions.

  iii) To organize a scientific and practical Symposium on the basis of research materials and findings from field expeditions, and the entry materials received through registration on inventory-information database, and best practices selected as a result of a nationwide contest.

  iv) To create and distribute a 2 volume region-specific reference books based on the research materials gathered from field expeditions.

- Within the framework of the Project, the Organization Committee plans to develop a recommendation for further policy-making to take practical measures for reviving and developing traditional practices of worshipping sacred sites. Consequently, the entire report of field research expeditions will be completed by June of 2020.

- When the UNESCO project was first introduced and the Nationwide Campaign initiated in May of 2019, we could not have foreseen the immense interest and enthusiasm this project would inspire. As early as we have anticipated, the Project and the Campaign have taken on a life of its own among various communities. During June-September months of 2019, many communities have organized worshipping rituals of their own sacred places: mountain, hill, lakes, rivers and headwaters and etc.

- Organization of the activities related to all these worshipping rituals and celebrations are being secured by additional fundraising by various partners, mostly local government
agencies and private entities that are located within and around sacred sites concerned. For example, all Governor’s offices of soums supported the participation of their representatives of communities in a two-day local Seminars providing additional financial resources to cover their transportation expenses.

Lessons learnt

Describe what are the key lessons learnt regarding the following:

- Attainment of expected results
- Ownership of key stakeholders and community involvement
- Delivery of project outputs
- Project management and implementation
- Sustainability of the project after the assistance

- All activities implemented during last year resulted in raising public awareness and understanding of the significance of traditions and meaningful rituals in our lives and protection of the Homeland and our Heritage. Since the Project and Call for developing a Nationwide Campaign for appreciating Homeland and our Heritage were introduced, there is a growing interest and recognition of the value and significance of sacred sites both among general public and local communities, and our project in many cases has simply acted as a focus and catalyst for encouraging and developing ideas and wishes that were already there. In order to effectively collaborate with local communities who collectively worship their sacred homeland (mountain, spring, forest, headwater, sacred lake, rivers, trees, stone, ovoo, etc), the Foundation has signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the “Association for Safeguarding a Kinship Inheritance and Tradition” (ASKIT) NGO that has the active network of the representatives of all indigenous ethnic communities and inherited descendants. This MOU aims to revive forgotten practices of worshipping sacred sites among these specific local people, and disseminate the project objectives among them, and identify, document and register these sacred sites in the inventory-information database, and to actively involve these indigenous people in the National Contest for selecting the best practices among the indigenous tribal communities and so on.

This cooperation of the Foundation with one of the key stakeholders, “ASKIT” NGO, has become a good lesson of how to be close to local communities in reviving and promoting worshipping practices through working with community or group of people who are inherited descendants from one family tree, or residents from one land and water area. This NGO is an Association of such kind of community people, and we have a good and active partnership to work successfully with indigenous communities and attain the desired results of the project.

- During the implementation of the project, starting from the planning phase to execution and implementation of planned activities and measures, we have learnt so much through close collaboration with different partners and stakeholders including Ministries, Governmental Agencies, National Center of Cultural Heritage, Governor's offices of provinces and soums, authorities of religious and civil organizations.

- However, there can be some factors to be considered that may cause obstacles to further implementation of activities. For example, the unfortunate situation of over-increasing internal migration of youths to urban areas existed at the time of a request for assistance is still continues further in the countryside where traditional worshipping practices could be revived and continued among young generations. In such condition, we have to reinforce the traditional way of education and upbringing children and young people within home-based cultural space and native homeland areas. To this end, we have announced and launched the Nationwide Contest for selecting Best practices of conducting worshipping practices and rituals “Let's appreciate sacred Homeland” among communities bound by strong kinship relations who worship one Homeland sacred Mountain, water source, lake, or
river. Research materials and observations of field expeditions uncover that when such a community conducts worshipping ritual at their homeland and sacred site, all members of the community including elders, offspring and children gather, and wholeheartedly worship and pray for safeguarding their sacred land.

- The results, outcomes and lessons learnt are expected to continue during future project activities and beyond the end of the project due to raised awareness of the general public, local communities and Government officials, improved sense and understanding of value and significance of traditional worshipping practices of sacred sites in Mongolia.

### Annexes

List the annexes and documentation included in the report:

- publications, evaluation reports and other outputs, when applicable
- progress reports prepared during the contract period
- list of major equipment provided under the project and status after termination of contract period
- other (please specify)

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<th>Annex I</th>
<th>Project Work Plan</th>
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<td>Foundation President's Order No.038 to Establish the Organization Committee</td>
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<td>Annex VI</td>
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<td>Annex VIII</td>
<td>&quot;Urag Udam&quot; Newspaper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annex XII</td>
<td>Detailed Financial Statement – signed, dated and presented on letterhead paper</td>
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### Name and signature of the person having completed the report

Name: Norov URTNASAN  
Title: Mr  
Date: January 27, 2020  
Signature: [Signature]

ICH-04-Report – Form – 18/06/2019