ICOMOS
international council on monuments and sites

International Council on Monuments and Sites
NGO accredited to provide advisory services to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

Geographic Coverage of NGO’s expertise: Worldwide.

Vision
Improving the sustainable conservation, protection, use and enhancement of the world’s cultural heritage through building a solid philosophical, doctrinal and managerial framework for all types of cultural heritage places, including the ICH relating to these.

Mission
Foster the development of common doctrines, the evolution and circulation of knowledge, the creation of improved conservation techniques, and the promotion of cultural heritage significance and, through its International Committee of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICICH), the promotion of international cooperation in the identification, study and resolution of issues related to the intangible cultural associations attributed to cultural heritage places.

Main areas of work related to the Convention
ICOMOS advocates and undertakes activities related to multiple elements and aspects of ICH in conservation practice, including beliefs, traditional craft skills, knowledge about crafts possessed by craftsmen, selection and processes of making materials, ritual and song in conservation projects, as defined in the 2003 Convention for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage. It also develops policies for ICH relating to the work of ICOMOS.

Relevant projects or initiatives
- Development of an ICH charter for ICOMOS as well as fostering national and international standards of ICH practice in relationship to cultural heritage places.
- Develop formats and standards for inventorying ICH, taking into account good safeguarding practices developed by the Secretariat and NGOs of the 2003 ICH Convention.
- ICOMOS and its Committees organise webinars, symposia and sessions related to ICH.
- ICOMOS-ICICH members have actively participated in the Culture-Nature Journey, a joint ICOMOS/International Union for Conservation of Nature initiative exploring and documenting the interconnections of natural and cultural values.
- Provide advice on the role of intangible attributes in the significance and values of cultural heritage sites to entities in charge of their safeguarding and management.

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