



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

NGO Review of Accreditation

ICH-08 Report – Form

REPORT BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION ACCREDITED TO ACT IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE COMMITTEE ON ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

**DEADLINE 15 FEBRUARY 2019
FOR EXAMINATION IN 2019**

FILE MAY BE DOWNLOADED AT:

[HTTPS://ICH.UNESCO.ORG/EN/FORMS](https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms)

PLEASE PROVIDE ONLY THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BELOW. ANNEXES OR OTHER ADDITIONAL MATERIALS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.

A. Identification of the organization

A.1. Name of the organization submitting this report

A.1.a. Provide the full official name of the organization in its original language, as it appears on the official documents.

A.1.b. Name of the organization in English and/or French.

Centre for Agrarian History

A.1.c. Accreditation number of the organization (as indicated in all previous correspondence: NGO-90XXX)

NGO-90300

A.2. Address of the organization

Provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone number, email address, website, etc. This should be the postal address where the organization carries out its business, regardless of where it may be legally domiciled. In the case of internationally active organizations, please provide the address of the headquarters.

Organization: Centre for Agrarian History

Address: Atrechtcollege
Naamsestraat 63
3000 Leuven

Telephone number: +32 16 32 35 25

Email address: contact@cagnet.be

Website: <http://www.hetvirtueleland.be>

Other relevant
information:

A.3. Contact person for correspondence

Provide the complete name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning this report.

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Dr.
Family name: Bisschop
Given name: Chantal
Institution/position: Staff member Intangible Cultural Heritage - CAG
Address: Centrum Agrarische Geschiedenis, Atrechtcollege,
Naamsestraat 63, 3000 Leuven
Telephone number: 32 16 323543
Email address: chantal.bisschop@cagnet.be
Other relevant information: Abbreviation in this file for 'Centrum voor Agrarische Geschiedenis': CAG

B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national level (Chapter III of the Convention)¹

Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities. If you have not contributed, this should be indicated. Also describe any obstacles or difficulties that your organization may have encountered in such participation.

B.1. *Describe your organization's participation in State efforts to develop and implement measures to strengthen institutional capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (ICH) (Article 13 and Operational Directive (OD) 154), e.g. in the drafting of ICH-related policies or legislation, in the establishment of national ICH committees or in other government-led processes.*

Not to exceed 250 words

CAG is officially recognized and subsidized by the Flemish Government as an expertise centre for the heritage of agriculture and food in Flanders and Brussels.
The Flemish ICH policy aims at facilitating a strong network of professional heritage organizations and supporting local communities. CAG plays a key role in the network of professional organizations focusing on the different domains ICH manifests itself in.
CAG is actively consulted and involved in policy development on ICH in Flanders.
Since 2008, CAG has been a member of the Flemish Expert Committee for ICH (Yves Segers and since 2012 Chantal Bisschop). The Expert Committee, under the presidency of the Department of Culture, advises the Minister of Culture on the formal request for the Flemish Inventory Intangible Cultural Heritage and, when asked for, advises as well on other questions concerning ICH.
Since 2016 Chantal Bisschop (staff member ICH), has also been a member of the Expert Committee for ICH in the German speaking Community of Belgium. This 'Kommittee' evaluates the nominations and advises the Minister to include an element on their inventory or not.

¹. In case your organization operates in several States, please indicate clearly which State or States are concerned by your answers when filling in parts B, C and E.

In 2012, the Flemish Government presented its interactive website with database, focusing on safeguarding ICH (www.immaterieelerfgoed.be). CAG took part in defining its concept and content. In 2018 the Flemish Inventory ICH and the platform www.immaterieelerfgoed.be was totally renewed. CAG gave advice during the preparatory meetings. Moreover, CAG was member of the redaction committee of the new website texts and supported the launch and implementation of this new Inventory and platform.

B.2. *Describe your organization's cooperation with competent governmental bodies for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (Article 13), including existing institutions for training on and the documentation of ICH (OD 154).*

Not to exceed 250 words

CAG cooperates on a regular basis with the competent bodies of the Flemish Government (Department of Culture). CAG has also occasionally contact with the competent department of the German Community. CAG is taking an active part in the Flemish Expert committee for ICH and is effectively implementing the Minister of Culture's strategic plan for the implementation of the 2003 Convention in Flanders. In 2013 a network of ICH was created, composed of 5 thematic centres of expertise (CAG, LECA, Firmament, Resonant and ETWIE), FARO and tapis plein (now WIE). The network structure loosely corresponds with the domains ICH manifests itself in, with CAG covering the domain of 'Nature & Universe'. The network partners invest in strengthening the participation, cooperation and networks in the ICH field and report on their progress to the Department of Culture. After the new Cultural Heritage Decree in 2017 was launched, the ICH-network broadened its scope and functioning. The new members are other institutions active in training and documentation of ICH; several are also accredited NGO's, e.g. Sportimonium and Bokrijk. In practice the ICH-network focuses on the exchange of knowledge and safeguarding practices, coordination, collaboration and strengthening the ICH-working in Flanders. Next to that, CAG also closely collaborates with local heritage units funded by the Flemish Government in order to support local ICH communities. All these collaborations take place both on a theoretical level (conferences, meetings, expertise exchange etc.) as well as on an applied and practical level (cooperation on capacity building, education, transmission, etc.).

B.3. *Describe your organization's involvement in or contribution to the drafting of the State's Periodic Report (OD 152).*

Not to exceed 250 words

CAG is not directly involved in drafting and editing the State's Periodic Report. However, in 2012 Belgium submitted its Period Report (N°. 00812). This report was indirectly based on a thorough evaluation of the Flemish ICH-policy by the Ad hoc Consulting Committee Intangible Cultural Heritage and by the Flemish Expert Committee, in which CAG participates. As a member of the Expert Committee, CAG will probably be involved in future Period Reports of Belgium.

B.4 *Describe your organization's participation in the preparation of nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List or Representative List, requests for International Assistance or proposals of Good Safeguarding Practices.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Shrimp Fishing on horseback in Oostduinkerke was included on the Representative List in 2013. CAG participated in the preparation of the nomination file by giving feedback and by supporting various safeguarding measures.

Since the inclusion of the Belgian beer culture on the Flemish inventory of ICH (2011), CAG has been supporting this heritage community in its safeguarding initiatives. The French Community (2012) and the German-speaking Community of Belgium (2013) each have included 'beer culture' in their lists of ICH. In 2015 the three communities jointly submitted the application 'Beer Culture in Belgium' to the UNESCO Secretariat, with support from brewers' organizations, beer tasting associations, specialized NGOs, etc. On November 30, 2016 UNESCO inscribed beer culture in Belgium on the Representative List.

CAG supported the preparation of this application and is an active member of the 'Observatory of the diversity of the art of brewing and its appreciation in Belgium', coordinated by the German-speaking Community. It is an advisory body and acts as a liaison between the various governments, UNESCO, and the beer community. After inscription on the Representative List, CAG stays involved with the heritage community concerned and remains available for information and support.

CAG also works closely together with the community of Houtem Fair, since 2010 inscribed on the Representative List. In 2018 for example, we have stimulated and facilitated a new network of historic cattle and horse markets in Flanders, in order to work more closely together and to safeguard this ICH.

B.5. Describe your organization's participation in the identification, definition (Article 11.b) and inventorying of ICH (Article 12, OD 80 and OD 153). Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

CAG participates in the identification, definition and inventorying of ICH in the field of knowledge and practices concerning 'Nature and Universe' in various ways.

- CAG contributes to the development of the Flemish ICH Inventory. CAG supports communities and individuals preparing their nomination to this list by assisting them in defining their ICH element, in planning safeguarding measures.
- CAG is strongly involved in www.immaterieelerfgoed.be, the website directly linked to the national inventory. Registering an ICH element and corresponding safeguarding measures on this website is mandatory for heritage communities that want to apply for nomination. In order to show how dynamic and diverse ICH in Flanders is, CAG encourages communities, groups and individuals to register their ICH element online. Moreover, CAG was strongly involved in the actualisation of the ICH inventory and www.immaterieelerfgoed.be. Thanks to the contacts with heritage communities, CAG could provide useful feedback to make the website more accessible in order to realize a more diverse inventory of ICH in Flanders.
- CAG is member of the Flemish Expert Committee for ICH and of the Expert Committee for ICH in the German-speaking Community of Belgium.
- CAG launches different actions to alert the heritage community that ICE of 'Nature & Universe' is more than one usually thinks. For example, during the CAG Conference (2014) 'On the field, in the kitchen. Reflecting about ICH of agriculture and food', various communities, groups and individuals could present their ICH and participants were stimulated to reflect about what ICH could be.

B.6. Describe your organization's participation in other safeguarding measures, including those referred to in Article 13 and OD 153, aimed at:

- a. promoting the function of ICH in society;
- b. fostering scientific, technical and artistic studies with a view to effective safeguarding;
- c. facilitating, to the extent possible, access to information relating to ICH while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it.

Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.

Not to exceed 250 words

CAG is actively promoting the function of ICH in society and is fostering research on effective safeguarding. Via our different communication channels (newsletters, social media) and our website (www.hetvirtueleland.be) we communicate on the diverse field of ICH of 'Nature and Universe'. This way we give communities, groups and individuals the possibility to promote and to exchange information. Members of CAG regularly give lectures on ICH in general or about specific topics.

CAG studies different ICH elements in-depth. For example, in our project on the culture of the Belgian Draft Horse, all sorts of traditions and collections (private and public) of draft horse lovers were mapped and studied. An extensive report was published on our website. Our specialized library is open for everyone interested in studies on the history of agriculture and food in general and ICH in particular.

CAG publishes articles on safeguarding ICH. In March 2015, for example, we published an article on 'ICH and animals. Food for thought' in FARO-magazine.

In our lectures, reports and articles, we raise awareness, act towards capacity building and promote ICH in general, by making it visible. The same goes for our annual conferences, in which we focus on ICH almost every two years, e.g. in 2016: 'Collections x Traditions. Where intangible and tangible heritage meet'.

CAG participates at broader heritage events, such as the annual 'Heritage Day'. By doing so we are promoting the function of ICH in society, by facilitating activities focused on safeguarding ICH or giving lectures.

B.7. Describe your organization's involvement in measures to ensure greater recognition of, respect for and enhancement of ICH, in particular those referred to in Article 14, ODs 105 to 109 and OD 155:

- a. educational, awareness-raising and information programmes aimed at the general public, in particular young people;
- b. educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned;
- c. capacity-building activities for the safeguarding of ICH;
- d. non-formal means of transmitting knowledge;
- e. education for the protection of natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for expressing ICH.

Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.

Not to exceed 250 words

CAG is active in facilitating, organizing and promoting all these measures. Regarding the limited place, we only focus on some examples.

Together with and at the request of communities and groups concerned, we work on educational packages or workshops on transmitting knowledge and practices of 'Nature and Universe'. In 2013 for example, we organized together with VLIZ a very popular workshop "shrimp stories". At the Belgian coast, 4 classes with children from 8-9 years came to 4 senior care centers. The elderly people taught the children how to peel brown shrimp. Meanwhile they talked about shrimp fishing and gastronomy in times past. The transmission of the skill of peeling shrimp went together with tasting fresh shrimps. CAG presented this project on international conferences.

CAG often partners in rural development projects in which we focus on capacity-building activities for the safeguarding of ICH and non-formal means of transmitting knowledge. For example, in 2016-2017 we were partner in a LEADER-project on the Geraardsbergse Mattentaart (regional cake). At the concluding workshop CAG gave a lecture on how an ICH-approach can contribute to a durable safeguarding of regional food specialities.

In the spring of 2018, CAG organized as part of the heritage project 'Food in Brussels', together with other partners, a 'Spring Festival' in museum BELvue. An exposition on the international diversity of spring rituals sheds light to the concept of ICH. A dozen communities of ethnic-cultural minorities presented their rituals and feast to the public with film, workshops, clothes and ritual dishes.

C. Bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international cooperation

Report on any activities carried out by your organization at the bilateral, subregional, regional or international levels for the implementation of the Convention, including initiatives such as the exchange of information and experience, and other joint initiatives, as referred to in Article 19 and OD 156. You may, for example, consider the following issues:

- a. sharing information and documentation concerning shared ICH (OD 87);
- b. participating in regional cooperation activities including, for example, those of category 2 centres for ICH established under the auspices of UNESCO (OD 88);
- c. developing networks of NGOs, communities, experts, centres of expertise and research institutes at subregional and regional levels to develop joint and interdisciplinary approaches concerning shared ICH (OD 86).

Not to exceed 250 words

At the regional level, CAG is fully engaged in the Flemish ICH network. This network focuses on the exchange of knowledge and safeguarding practices, coordination, collaboration and strengthening the ICH-working in Flanders (see also B2). As the leading organization in the field of 'Nature and Universe', CAG also forwards this information to other heritage organizations that occasionally deal with this kind of ICH. To that purpose, CAG coordinates a consultation group of heritage organizations that meets at least once a year. During these 'Domain 4-Meetings', participants share expertise on ICH initiatives and explore specific safeguarding topics.

CAG has also an annual meeting with the Flemish Service for Animal Welfare, to discuss ICH and animal welfare in general and to search for solutions on animal welfare problems in specific ICH-elements. CAG serves here as a broker

between communities, the Flemish Government and animal welfare groups.

At the sub-regional level, CAG cooperates with the local heritage cells on specific safeguarding projects.

At the bilateral level, CAG participates in the annual meeting between KIEN (The Netherlands) and the Flemish ICH network. At this meetings we exchange ideas and discuss cooperation opportunities.

At the international level, CAG participated and contributed to international ICH-conferences: on ICH Brokerage (2013, Mechelen), on safeguarding Epiphany traditions (2014, Tilburg), on ICH and Superdiversity (2018, Utrecht), on Food Culture (2018, Paris and Tours).

Since 2016, CAG is member of AIMA (International Association of Agricultural Museums); two staff members gave lectures about ICH experiences at the Conference in Tartu (2017).

D. Participation in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

D.1 *Has your organization participated in the Committee meetings or those of the General Assembly? If so, please indicate which meetings you attended and describe the nature of your contribution to the Committee's work.*

Not to exceed 250 words

CAG has not yet participated in the committee meetings or the meetings of the General Assembly. Until now CAG has kept track of international developments related to ICH by logging on to the websites of UNESCO and the ICH NGO-Forum. Additionally CAG regularly meets with representatives from heritage organizations that are able to attend all Committee meetings. This too allows CAG to keep up with new insights and information on ICH.

D.2 *Has your organization served as a member of the Evaluation Body (OD 26 to 31), or as a member of the Consultative Body (between 2012 and 2014)? If so, please indicate the period.*

Not to exceed 100 words

CAG has not yet served as a member of the Evaluation Body or the Consultative Body. Since a great deal of CAG's daily operations take place in the spirit of the 2003 Convention, CAG is more than willing to take on an advisory or evaluative assignment, and make a positive contribution to UNESCO's major achievements in the field of ICH.

D.3 *In what way(s) has your organization provided advisory services to the Committee (OD 96) or in what way(s) do you foresee that it might provide such services in the future?*

Not to exceed 500 words

CAG has not yet been invited to provide advisory services to the Committee along the lines of OD 96. When asked, CAG can and will provide advisory services in the field of knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, but also of craftsmanship. But given our experience and our general view on ICH, the advisory services may as well transcend these topics.

We fully agree with FARO that ICH-accredited "NGOs can play a role in selecting, testing, monitoring, and providing feedback in order to identify and share interesting safeguarding practices and to translate them to other settings and contexts". As such, CAG could be providing a series of relevant advisory services to the Committee in various ways. Giving our experience with contested and controversial heritage, and with ICH and animal welfare to be more specific, we could play an interesting role in further exploring and developing on the Ethical Principles.

As one of the main partners in the Flemish ICH network, CAG has first-hand experience in building a network of professional heritage organizations that focuses on putting the concepts of the 2003 Convention into practice. CAG may advise on the role these kind of networks can play in implementing the Convention and report on how different partners can work complementary to one another, in order to facilitate safeguarding and transmission.

As an intermediary organization, CAG is constantly involved in getting tradition bearers in touch with the 2003 Convention and the ideas that are expressed in it. CAG helps them to understand the concept of safeguarding and links it to their daily operations, so that tradition bearers gain insight in what the Convention can mean for the transmission of their social practice, ritual or festive event.

CAG is experienced in supporting heritage communities that want to transmit the social practice, ritual or festive event they are concerned with. Over the past couple of years, CAG was involved in the development of a large number of safeguarding practices. In doing so, it always encourages tradition bearers to seek the widest possible participation and to choose strategies that help them to overcome specific needs and requirements.

CAG may provide very useful advice on how to develop safeguarding practices that unite different groups of tradition bearers in a joint trajectory.

CAG may provide advice on ways to expand awareness on the diversity of ICH and its expressions. CAG invests a lot of effort in informing the general public on the significance of ICH in modern society, and continuously indicates how social practices, rituals and festive events relate directly to people's lives.

E. Capacities of your organization to evaluate nominations, proposals and requests (as described in OD 27 and OD 96):

E.1. *Nominations, proposals and requests are available for evaluation only in English or French. Do members of your organization or your staff have a very good command of English or French? If so, please indicate which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Early 2019 the CAG staff consists of a director, 8 staff members and 5 project employees. The staff in general has a fluent understanding and command of English and French. Staff members and project employees all hold a Master's degree and 3 of them even have a doctoral degree in Modern History. Director Yves Segers is a professor of Rural and Food History at Leuven University (KU Leuven).

E.2. *Does your organization have experience in working across several ICH domains? Please describe your experiences.*

Not to exceed 250 words

In translating UNESCO's vision on ICH into a Flemish ICH policy, the Flemish Government specifically choose to assign different heritage organizations to look after a specific domain ICH manifest itself in. The Flemish Government entrusted CAG to take the lead in stimulating the safeguarding of knowledge and practices concerning nature & universe. CAG is currently the only Flemish heritage organisation specialised in this field.

Although CAG is the key player and broker of Domain 4 (Nature & Universe), in reality the majority of ICH elements CAG is dealing with correspond with more than one ICH domain. Especially links with crafts and social practices, rituals and festive events are common. The correlations with these other domains are always incorporated in developing a specific safeguarding plan for a heritage community. As a result CAG does address other ICH domains than the domain it is specialized in. CAG then usually proceeds by developing close collaborations with other organizations with specific expertise in that field, within the cultural heritage field as well as with socio-cultural as socio-economic partners.

In our safeguarding work with communities, groups and individuals, we are also focusing on the exp

E.3. Describe the experience of your organization in evaluating and analysing documents such as proposals or applications.

Not to exceed 250 words

All staff members of CAG can read English, French, German and of course Dutch. Several staff members have a lot of experience in advisory commissions and evaluating files in relation to safeguarding ICH as well as to other cultural and educational topics. Staff members are experienced in drafting applications and reports on a national and international level, in Dutch and English, as well as in evaluating and analysing documents. A few concrete examples:

- CAG is member of the Flemish Expert Committee for ICH, that is treating requests to be registered in the Inventory Flanders for ICH. Likewise, CAG is also a member of the the Expert Committee for ICH in the German speaking Community of Belgium.
- CAG has a lot of experience in coaching ICH communities, groups and individuals in compiling proposals or applications.
- CAG staff members have been participating in several national, (sub)regional and local grant and advisory commissions (e.g. the Advisory Commission on Cultural Heritage, the Commission for Cultural Heritage Projects and Cultural Heritage Convenants, the Commission for Heritage Initiatives of the provinces West Flanders and East Flanders, etc.).
- The CAG director is regularly asked to evaluate international project applications and publications for scientific councils and academic journals.

E.4. Does your organization have experience in drafting synthetic texts in English or French? Please describe your experience and indicate in which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.

Not to exceed 250 words

The CAG staff has a lot of experience in drafting synthetic texts, mostly done in our native language. But we also have experience on the international level. We have at least 4 staff members with experience in drafting synthetic texts in English and French. We have up to date knowledge of the 2003 UNESCO convention texts, implementation and evolution. For international conferences we have written proposals and (academic) articles and we have given several presentations about ICH.

E.5. Does your organization have experience in working at the international level or the capacity to apply local experience to an international context? Please describe such experience.

Not to exceed 250 words

Yes, CAG has experience in working at the international level and the capacity to extrapolate local experiences into an international context.

Since 2016, CAG is an active partner within the International Association of Agricultural Museums (AIMA). The purpose of AIMA is to educate the public about the significance of agriculture to human society, to explain the many ways that agriculture has evolved through time, and to facilitate dialogue between museums across the globe. Two CAG staff members participated actively in the triennial AIMA-conference in Tartu (2017). In the future, CAG wants to engage more in this international network.

CAG has a lot of international contacts via several networks and organisations: EURHO (European Rural History Organisation), CORN (Comparative Rural History Network), ICREFH (International Committee for the Research into European Food History) and IEHCA (Institut Européen d'Histoire et des Cultures d'Alimentation). These are mostly academic networks, but they have a growing interest in rural and culinary heritage. In presentations at international conferences CAG always tries to extrapolate local experiences in working with ICH communities, groups and individuals on safeguarding projects to apply it on a general level within an international context.

Many heritage communities we are working with on safeguarding programs are engaged in international networks around their ICH-element. In supporting their safeguarding initiatives, CAG also participates in these networks, e.g. via the safeguarding projects with the 'Lommelse Watering' and INTwater 'The International Network on Traditional Water Use' (global network promoting historical documentation and safeguarding perspectives of traditional water use objects).

F. Cooperation with UNESCO

Report on activities carried out by your organization in cooperation with UNESCO (both direct cooperation with UNESCO as well as activities carried out under the auspices of UNESCO or for which you have received the authorization to use the emblem of UNESCO/of the 2003 Convention, or financial support, such as funding from the Participation Program).

Not to exceed 250 words

At the invitation of the Flemish Government – Department of Culture, CAG has participated at the conference on “Food Culture: Social Inclusion, Sustainable Development and Cultural Identity” on 24 may 2018 in Paris at the UNESCO head quarter. This conference-debate on the various aspects of food relevant to UNESCO’s mandate, was organized by the Permanent Delegation of Italy with the support of the Secretariat and in collaboration with the Permanent Delegation of France to UNESCO and the UNESCO Chair “Food: Access and Law” at the University of Milan. Chantal Bisschop gave a short presentation on ‘Beer culture in Belgium’ in the session ‘Food Culture and Intangible Heritage: Case Studies and Best Practices’, in the ‘Best Practices Roundtable: Food Culture, Creative Cities and Intangible Heritage’, moderated by Tim CURTIS, Chief of Section, Intangible Cultural Heritage, UNESCO.

In November 2018 CAG gave a presentation about "Brasser de la bière et fêter Norouz en Belgique: La liste représentative de l’UNESCO et ses effets" in Tours, France at the 12th colloquium of IEHCA: "Food as cultural heritage: stakes, processes and prospects".

G. Signature

The report must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of the organization.

Name: Yves Segers

Title: Prof. dr.

Date: 07-02-2019

Signature: