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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 2023  
for examination in 2023**

File may be downloaded at:  
<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.*

Centrum Agrarische Geschiedenis

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, Belgium

Telephone number: +32 16 32 35 25  
Email address: contact@cagnet.be  
Website: www.cagnet.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: CAG, Atrechtcollege, Naamsestraat 63  
3000 Leuven, Belgium  
Telephone number: +32 16 32 35 73  
Email address: chantal.bisschop@cagnet.be  
Other relevant information: abbreviation in this file for 'Centre for Agrarian History': CAG

## B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national and international levels (Chapter III and Article 19 of the Convention, paragraph 156 of the Operational Directives)<sup>1</sup>

*Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities contributing to the eight thematic areas of the Convention's Overall Results Framework<sup>2</sup>, as well as to the preparation of periodic reports, nominations, proposals and requests under the Convention's international cooperation mechanisms. 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 contribution to strengthening **institutional and human capacities** for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

*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. 2 employees are working specifically on ICH:

1. In case your organization operates in several States, please indicate clearly which State or States are concerned by your answers where appropriate.
2. For further information on the Overall Results Framework, please refer to the Chapter 8 of the Basic Texts of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/basic-texts-00503>

Chantal Bisschop and Laura Danckaert.

CAG plays a key role in a strongly elaborated and well-functioning [ICH network](#) in which ICH experts, NGOs and institutions work in close cooperation with governmental actors towards safeguarding ICH with all stakeholders.

In this network, CAG is the broker of domain 4 (Nature & Universe). Since 2016 it has been organizing Domain 4 meetings as an open consultation platform for all professional heritage actors who are active in the field of ICH of nature and the universe.

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. This Committee, under the presidency of the Department of Culture, advises the Minister of Culture on the formal requests for the Flemish Inventory Intangible Cultural Heritage and, when asked for, advises as well on other questions concerning ICH.

Since 2016 CAG 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.

CAG was involved in the participatory process towards cultural heritage policy renewal, resulting in the adoption of the new Cultural Heritage Act in the Flemish Community in Belgium 2017 - starting implementation 2019.

**B.2.** *Describe your organization's participation in activities related to the **transmission of and education for intangible cultural heritage**. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

CAG participates in the transmission of and education for ICH in the field of knowledge and practices concerning 'Nature and Universe' in various ways.

- CAG supports diverse heritage communities in safeguarding trajectories. Together with the CGI involved, we design tailor-made safeguarding actions. This ranges from educational packages for students to organizing workshops.

- In [the project 'Brabant draft horse, giving heritage a future together'](#), CAG aimed to translate agricultural techniques from the past into new destinations and (ecological sustainable) functionalities for this horse breed. Part of the project consisted of documenting relevant draft horse techniques. For each technique a short dynamic atmospheric film for a wide audience and a step-by-step tutorial for a niche audience of specialists was made for transmission purposes.

- CAG supports the trajectories in the experimental Flemish policy since 2018 in providing grants for the transmission of craftsmanship in ICH through [master-apprentice trajectories](#). CAG helps interested masters and students in preparing an application file for craftsmanship in the [domain of knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe](#). When their grant application is approved, we further support them in [their trajectory](#).

- In the project [Focus Craftsmanship](#) (2021-2024) CAG is working together with the [ICH network](#) to develop a methodology and toolbox for documenting, sharing and activating the ICH of craftsmanship in Flanders. In 2023-2024, CAG is, together with the biology teacher training program at KU Leuven, developing an educational package about the importance of ICH and the craftsmanship of seed selection for secondary schools.

**B.3.** Describe your organization's participation in the **inventorying and research** of intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

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

- CAG is strongly involved in [www.immaterieelerfgoed.be](http://www.immaterieelerfgoed.be). In order to show how dynamic and diverse ICH in Flanders is, CAG encourages CGI's to register their ICH element online.
- In 2020 CAG developed together with WIE (Workshop intangible heritage) a thematic campaign for inventorying culinary ICH, with the purpose of dynamizing the involvement of ICH in themes and domains that are so far underrepresented. About 20 new culinary ICH elements were registered on [www.immaterieelerfgoed.be](http://www.immaterieelerfgoed.be).
- 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 researching their ICH element and in planning safeguarding measures.
- CAG also nominates inspiring safeguarding examples for the [Register of Inspiring Safeguarding Examples](#) in Flanders.
- Research is very important for CAG. In each safeguarding trajectory, in cooperation with the heritage community involved, CAG studies the intangible heritage element in question in-depth. Methodological research focuses on issues such as participatory documentation of ICH.
- CAG prides itself on conducting its own research and following up international research into the themes of ICH and animal (welfare) and ethics and into ICH, sustainable development and climate transition.
- CAG gives guest lectures at universities and other institutions about ICH and research about ICH and sustainability.

**B.4.** Describe your organization's participation in developing **policies, as well as legal and administrative measures**, for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

-CAG was closely involved in and shared its insights and expertise in the participatory process towards an updated policy vision 'The Flemish policy for safeguarding intangible heritage' (2022)

-Since 2016, CAG has an annual meeting with the Flemish Policy Department of Culture, Youth and Media and the Department of Environment (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, different departments of the Flemish Government and animal welfare groups. On the [official website](#) of the Department Environment the mediating role by CAG is explicated to proactively address and mitigate possible conflicts between heritage approaches and animal welfare approaches.

-In the three-year project "[Water & Land](#)" (2022-2024), CAG and the Dutch Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage ([KIEN](#)) join forces to inventory, research and promote intangible heritage of water and land as a lever for ecological sustainability – a function of ICH still too little known to the larger public and policy makers.

**B.5.** Describe your organization's participation in promoting the **role of intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding in society**. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

In recent years, CAG has been making explicit efforts to promote the role of ICH and its safeguarding in a sustainable and multi-voiced society in several ways. Two examples are worth mentioning separately here.

- In the previously mentioned project '[Water & Land](#)', we work together with various heritage communities, linked to inspiring, linked to inspiring exemplary practices in Flanders and the Netherlands. We address 3 current challenges: water management (focusing on watermills and traditional irrigation), biodiversity conservation (e.g., hedge laying) and soil fertility. We approach these challenges from different angles, exchange experiences and expertise. As a result, we demonstrate the added value of living heritage for ecological sustainability by developing output such as a podcast and publications. These tools are also a means to support the communities in safeguarding.

- Nowadays, various ethical issues arise in the context of safeguarding ICH in contemporary society. Are traditions that are harmful to the environment still relevant today? And what about animal welfare? CAG was involved in the preparatory process towards a Declaration of Ethical Principles related to the Inventory for ICH in Flanders (2019), for which an endorsement by the heritage community is mandatory to be eligible for inclusion in the Inventory. In safeguarding trajectories towards the Inventory, CAG organizes a specific workshop on animal welfare, the social vision and position of animals and ethical issues. These exercises are always tailored to the specific traditions and communities involved.

**B.6.** Describe your organization's participation in **raising awareness** about intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

CAG is committed to raising awareness about ICH in several ways. Via our different communication channels (newsletters, social media) and our website ([www.cagnet.be](http://www.cagnet.be)) we communicate on the diverse field of ICH of 'Nature and Universe'. This way we give CGI's the possibility to promote and to exchange information. When our website received a major update in 2020, ICH became much more visible, see e.g. [here](#).

Members of CAG regularly give lectures on ICH in general or about specific topics (e.g., 'Controverses in safeguarding Belgian draft horse culture, Groot Onderhoud, FARO 2019 or 'Audiovisual documentation of agrarian heritage', Workshop audiovisual documentation of ICH, WIE, Bruges, 2020).

CAG publishes articles on safeguarding ICH. In 2020, for example, we published an article on 'How to document living heritage?' 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 always focus on ICH related to the topic. For example, in [March 2023](#) CAG will provide a lecture on ICH and animals in Flanders. 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.

CAG always takes part in (the preparation of) 'Long live ICH', the annual network day that brings together, celebrates and inspires all those involved in living heritage in Flanders.

**B.7.** Describe your organization's participation in facilitating the engagement of communities, groups and individuals, as well as other stakeholders, for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Since 2012, CAG has always been placing a strong emphasis in facilitating the engagement of communities, groups and individuals - or in the Flemish interpretation: 'Heritage Communities' - and other stakeholders for safeguarding ICH of 'nature and universe'. A great form of involvement arises in the intensive processes that CAG goes through together with heritage communities around intangible heritage.

CAG often supports the set-up of Safeguarding Councils / Safeguarding Committees / Safeguarding Forums, and in some cases even (new) collaborative Safeguarding Associations, each of them with the aim of involving and bringing together at this level different people, expertise and competences from within and relating to the ICH element (e.g. practitioners, board members, local servants, heritage workers, ...) in the planning of safeguarding strategies and programmes, while aiming also to realize the widest possible participation from all people in the heritage community at large. See for example the Council on the [culture of the Belgian draft horse](#), the [Fries shops Culture Council](#), as well as several long-term (international) working groups on safeguarding the ICH elements of the Floraliën or traditional irrigation.

In the international Water & Land project, we make a specific effort to bring diverse international heritage communities into contact with each other and with experts from different perspectives (such as anthropologists, biologists, heritage workers, policy officers, socio-ecological researchers, etc.) in learning networks.

**B.8.** Describe your organization's **engagement in cooperation 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.

*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. 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 (see also B1). 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. (see also B4)

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

At the bilateral level, CAG participates in the meetings between KIEN (The Netherlands) and the Flemish ICH network to exchange ideas and discuss cooperation opportunities. Around the topics ICH & Animals (e.g., the exhibition 'Animal, Human & Tradition – 2021) and ICH & ecological sustainability (e.g., the project Water & Land), CAG works intensively together with KIEN.

At the international level, CAG participated and contributed to international ICH-conferences: e.g., Museums and intangible heritage: towards a third space in the heritage sector (2020, Brussels), on Living Heritage, Climate Change and the Environment' ICH- NGO Symposium (2022, Rabat).

Since 2016, CAG has been a member of AIMA (International Association of Agricultural Museums); CAG staff members gave lectures about ICH experiences at the Conference in Tartu (2017) and Reading (2021).

**B.9.** Describe your organization's involvement in or contribution to the drafting of the national Periodic Report on the implementation of the Convention.

*Not to exceed 250 words*

In 2021 Belgium submitted its Periodic Report. For Flanders, this extensive report was prepared by the Department of Culture, Youth and Media of the Flemish government and Workshop intangible heritage (WIE). CAG provided extensive input for this report during the many discussions, roundtables and surveys that were organized for this purpose in 2021: May 27 (ICH Network Flanders), June 1 (Flemish Expert Committee for ICH), June 3 (ICH & Diversity), June 16 (roundtable heritage communities), June 22 (ICH & law), July 5 (ICH & education) and August 19 (ICH & communication and media).

**B.10.** 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*

CAG was closely involved in the preparation of the multinational nomination of 'Traditional irrigation in Europe: knowledge, technique and organization' (submitted in 2022 for RL). In recent years, CAG supported the many safeguarding efforts of the [traditional irrigation](#) community in Flanders (registered in the Inventory Flanders in 2019). CAG also supported the international working group of traditional irrigation in Europe in their efforts for a multinational nomination. Together with the practitioners and experts of the different countries (AT, BE, DE, IT, LU, NL, CH), CAG participated in monthly digital workshops (Dec. 2020 – Feb. 2022). In each workshop, an aspect of the application form was examined in depth and discussed. The entire multinational file thus took shape with the greatest possible participation of the diverse group of practitioners. In the meantime, work continued in national working groups and a physical conference in Austria in October 2021. The nomination file was submitted in March 2022 at UNESCO. After (possible) inscription on the Representative List, CAG will stay involved with the heritage community concerned and available for information and support, just like with the elements previously included such as beer culture, Houtem Fair or Shrimp Fishing on horseback in Oostduinkerke.

For the 2022 nomination of Belgium, the department of Culture in Flanders launched a call for suitable candidates in early 2021. CAG supported several heritage communities in the preparation of their application files for the Belgian Nomination of 2022.



## C. Cooperation with UNESCO

Has your organization carried out activities in cooperation with UNESCO? If yes, please tick the relevant boxes and provide information in the box below.

- Direct cooperation with UNESCO (Headquarters and Field Offices)
- Activities for which you have received the authorization to use the emblem of UNESCO/of the 2003 Convention
- Cooperation through the 2003 Convention's Global Network of Facilitators
- Cooperation with Category 2 Centres
- Cooperation with National Commissions for UNESCO
- Cooperation with UNESCO Chairs
- Financial support from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund
- Financial support from the Participation Programme
- Other types of cooperation

Not to exceed 250 words

In the previously mentioned preparation of the multinational nomination file on Traditional Irrigation (B.10), CAG worked closely together with different National Commissions for UNESCO, e.g., the Austrian Commission for UNESCO.

The [annual UNESCO meeting Day](#) of the Flemish Commission for UNESCO on 3 May 2022 was themed 'How do we protect our cultural heritage from flood disasters?'. CAG gave a lecture on the use of traditional knowledge: irrigation techniques such as 'witteren' in the session 'How can heritage contribute to flood prevention?'.

## 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 sessions of the Committee? If so, please indicate which sessions you attended and whether you had any specific role during these meetings.

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 can attend all Committee meetings. This too allows CAG to keep up with new insights and information on ICH.

During the ICH NGO-Forum Symposium of 2022, themed around 'Living Heritage, Climate Change and the Environment', the Flemish-Dutch project 'Water & Land' was presented by our Dutch colleague Susanne Bergwerff-Verburg.



**D.2** *Has your organization served as a member of the Evaluation Body (paragraphs 26 to 31 of the Operational Directives), 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 (paragraph 96 of the Operational Directives) 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 provide a series of relevant advisory services to the Committee in various ways.

Given our experience with ICH and ecological sustainability, we can share our lessons learned about viewing ICH as a lever for climate transition. There is a momentum rising on the link between ICH and climate, international networks, webinars... are paying a growing attention to this theme. CAG can advise on the importance of such international, cross-sectoral networks for attributing an active role to ICH.

Given 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 kinds 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 heritage communities 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 CGI's gain insight in what the Convention can mean for the transmission of their knowledge and practices concerning nature and universe.

CAG is experienced in supporting heritage communities that want to transmit their ICH. Over the past 10 years, CAG has been involved in the development of many safeguarding practices. In doing so, it always encourages heritage communities 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.

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## **E. Capacities of your organization to evaluate nominations, proposals and requests (paragraphs 27 and 96 of the Operational Directives):**

**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 2023 the CAG staff consists of a director, 8 staff members and 4 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 intangible cultural heritage 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), the majority of ICH elements CAG deal with and correspond with more than one ICH domain. Especially links with crafts and social practices, rituals and festive events are common. 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 exploration between tangible and intangible heritage, and we have been experimenting with video and documenting of several ICH elements across several ICH domains.

**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 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 Conventions, 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. Several CAG staff members participated actively in the triennial AIMA-conferences in Tartu (2017) and Reading (2021). Since 2022, CAG is also part of the executive committee of AIMA.

CAG has a lot of international contacts via several networks and organisations: EURHO (European Rural History Organisation), 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 project with the Lommelse Watering and the international network on Traditional Irrigation and the newly founded IZTB (Internationales Zentrum der Traditionellen Bewässerung als Kulturerbe Europas) in Switzerland.

## F. Membership in the ICH NGO Forum

Indicate below whether your organization wishes to (continue to) be part of the ICH NGO Forum. Please note that membership is contingent upon the decision of the Committee to maintain the accreditation of your organization.

For more information on the ICH NGO Forum and its activities, please see: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/ngo-forums-00422>.

Yes

No

## G. Signature

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

Name: Yves Segers

Title:

Date: 15/02/2023

Signature: