

**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.*

Tamilnadu Rural Arts Development centre

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

Tamilnadu Rural Arts Development Center

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

NGO-90068

#### **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: TAMILNADU RURAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Address: 101, JAWANS BUILDING, WEST VELI STREET, MADURAI-625001.

Telephone number: +91 9842148423 & +91 8667005907

Email address: somasundaram\_dir@gmail.com & somasundaram.dir@gmail.com

Website:

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.): Mr.

Family name: Thiyagarajan

Given name: Somasundaram

Institution/position: Director, Tamilnadu Rural Arts Development Center

Address: 101, Jawans Building, West Veli street, Madurai-625001.

Telephone number: +91 9842148423 & +91 8667005907

Email address: somasundaram\_dir@gmail.com & somasundaram.dir@gmail.com

Other relevant information:

## 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*

Our NGO is the accredited and Registered by the Government of Tamilnadu on all aspects related to Folk arts and culture in the state. The Tamilnadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram is the state level government body that serve as an organisation for the development of Arts and Culture in the state which is again managed and coordinated by us in Tamilnadu state.. Thus, we represent on behalf of the folk artists and cultural affairs of the state by work as a bridge between the artists, various forums, participate in events both internal and external, work with

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>

Department of Culture and Tourism, promote arts at various levels by way of conduct trainings of rare art forms which is under threat of fading away from the culture and influence of modern society, identify, advocate, and recommend the artist who deserve for accreditations and awards for their contribution to the field, encourage learners and assist with finance and other forms of aids. In appreciation of our commendable work, the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu conferred us with Best institution promoting In tangible cultural Heritages of Tamilnadu with an award in the year 2010. With this background, we act as a consulting organisation in all aspects of the ICH state initiatives and promote many welfare schemes to the poor artists too.

**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

The Government of India and Government of Tamilnadu does not have exclusive body to promote ICH but work with our NGO and the National / State level Sangeet Natak Academy which is named as Tamilnadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram that operates as a representing organisation on behalf of Government of Tamilnadu in close association with the Department of Tourism and Culture. We as the state level reputed NGO given a permanent place to work with this Manram as a key player and appointed as a coordination body in all spares of activities. Through this platform, we extend our expertise to the academy in all means and coordinated the centre's initiatives to protect the oldest rich cultural art forms of the state and document the programs. We are one of the advisory Board members of the Cultural Committees of the state. We support the district level cultural folk artists and their groups by giving trainings and develop them in the field. We also arrange programs to the various talented artists for their livelihoods and provide, link the artists to perform their folk programs in various occasions of the government and other bodies.

Our Centre participated in International and Inter State Cultural Exchange programs and we lobbying with the government to spare financial assistance to participate such programs nationally and internationally. As a matter of success, our initiatives ends with a positive result as the Government of TN allocated Rs.50 lacks towards the state's program expenditure head and this will be allocated every year in the budget provisions to take part in the cultural exchange program. Thus, this will serve as the platform to promote the Intangible cultural Heritage of Tamilnadu Folk arts and Culture.

**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

The Government have released the state's periodic report on "POLICY NOTE OF GOVERNMENT" for the Department of Tourism and Culture with the note on the Tamilnadu State Eyal Isai Nataka Manram contribution to the field which is an evidence of our commendable service to the field. The books came with Tamil and English form that has pointed out the contributions of the body (which is coordinated by our NGO) and its allocations to promote the activities. This book is being released by the State Government in the Floor of the Assembly and circulated among the other Government bodies. Copy of the same an be made available for your ready reference if requested.

**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

The Government does not involve NGOs as appointed committees or consultative organisations for the nominations of the Urgent safeguarding list or representatives list.

**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*

As an expert organisation in the field, we identify the ICH as folk arts in the state such as Karagattam and folk dances taken serious steps to involve the government to act and represent to safeguard the same. But, there is a big gap between our initiatives and Government's attitude as they give least botheration rather they give much importance to the other political burning issues. Still, we represent on behalf of our NGO to bring the attention of the government to take necessary steps to safeguard these arts. One such initiative is the cultural Exchange tour programs of our cultural groups to Malaysia ( 2013-14) , Omen ( 2012-13), and now we are going to have programs at Australia ( 2014-15 and 2018) Seychelles (2014 and 2016) Indonesia (2015) Washington DC, New York, Minnesota and Milwaukee in USA (2019) with our identified team members. The talent shows / programs have been planned and organised by the Inter governmental institutions. This is one way of cooperation of pooling the artists and brings them out of their regular world of profession. We at our NGO identify talented individuals (250) orient and train them on to the requirements and provide necessary supports like arranging VISA, passports, tickets, etc and coordinate the programs. We also do handholding support to the agency in the name of TAMILNADU STATE FEDERATION OF RURAL FOLK ARTISTS ASSOCIATIONS registered under the Trade Union Act OF India. The members of the federation used to come and share their proposals, demands to act and represent to the government for the inventories and define the immediate need for the intervention and required gestures to safeguard the art.

**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*

We try to bring and give life to the ICH of the soil as long as possible and promote the folk art & culture internally and externally. The promotion of training and development activities leads again to protect the fading art forms from the society and an exclusive institution is going to come up soon with the help of government of Tamilnadu lead by our NGO to impart trainings and courses for the youths who wish to learn the arts. Thus, we try to facilitate the access to the aspirants for learning. This initiative will certainly of helpful to many new young artists to shape themselves in the field.

**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*

We have taken steps to promote educational and training initiatives in the field in order to safeguard the art forms and impart skills and awareness among the younger generations by setting up of the institutions. Soon, we will have an institution and the government has principally accepted and allotted funds for the same. This institution will act as a regional institute to promote folk arts and culture of Tamilnadu. Initially, a six months and one year full time course is being planned to start with enrolment strength of 35 students initially and finally 1480 students. The institution will act as training cum academic institution in future and a resource agency for the folk arts. Now we have made an MOU with Tamil University, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu and Alagappa University, Karaikkudi, Tamil Nadu for conducting folk arts Certificate and Diploma Courses and International, National, State level seminars and cultural workshops.

**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

We have participated in National Integration Festivals every year which is organised by Government of India. We do participate National Republic Day (2019) celebration, New Delhi on behalf of Tamilnadu government and performed folk dances and received 1st prize for the same.

Following are the cultural events participated at regional, international levels;

The International Trade Fair held at New Delhi from 2015 to 2018

Global Investors Meet 2016 and 2019 at Chennai conducted by Government of Tamil Nadu.

International folk dance Festival at Kullu, Himachal Pradesh for the year 2015,2016,2017& 2018

Republic Day Parade at New Delhi for the years 2016,2017, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2023 conducted by Ministry of Defence, Government of India. Our cultural team got first prize in 2019 and second prize in the year 2016 & 2017

Republic Day parade conducted by Government of Tamil Nadu in Chennai - every year invited and participated.

Bharat Parv and Paryathan Parv programme (National Level cultural programme) conducted by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India for the year 2017 and 2018

International Cooperation: Participated in CARNAVAL INTERNATIONAL de VICTORIA with our team at SEYCHELLES Islands during then year 2016 and got selected for best cultural award.

Tamil New Year Festival on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at Sydney, Australia conducted by Tamil Arts and Cultural Association Inc

A Tamil Folk Art programme on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at Sydney, Australia organized by Indian Cultural Centre (Consulate General of India, Sydney)

Pongal Festival on 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2019 at Washington D.C, 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2019 at New York, 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019 at Minnesota, and on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019 at Milwaukie, USA organized by various Tamil Associations in USA.

National Festival of Communal Harmony and National Integration On 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at New Delhi. Our folk cultural team got First Prize in the festival.

**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

Nil

**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

Yes. Our NGO's Director acted as Evaluator and Examiner with UNESCO

1. We have attended sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the safeguarding of the ICH between 22-29 Nov' 2011 at Bali-Indonesia.

2. We have attended the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Committee 27 September – 2

October 2009 at Abu Dhabi.

### 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

Nil

### 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

1. We have attended sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the safeguarding of the ICH between 22-29 Nov' 2011 at Bali-Indonesia.
2. We have attended the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Committee 27 September – 2 October 2009 at Abu Dhabi.

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

Yes. Our NGO's Director cum Secretary is acted as Evaluator and Examiner with UNESCO

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

Our expertise could be used to evaluate the folk dance of various states and nations as Evaluator. We have already served as evaluator and examiner with ICH department of UNESCO in the year 2009.

## **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*

We have experts to evaluate the nominations and review proposals for grant in aid. Our NGO Chairman Mr.K.Allaudin, I.A.S, who had contributed on our earlier evaluation work, can demonstrate a very good command of English and he is still available with us to contribute any such assignments and Director cum Secretary Dr.T.Somasundaram, who is Master Degree in History, Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy in field of Folk Arts History.

- E.2.** *Does your organization have experience in working across several intangible cultural heritage domains? Please describe your experiences.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

We are expert on "FOLK DANCES AND FOLK ARTS". We have done a evaluation work on Mongolian Traditional Folk Dance - "MONGOL BIYELGEE" for the nomination for ICH. It was successfully adopted and kept as a dance to be protected and promoted by the UNESCO.

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

*Not to exceed 250 words*

We do not have any such experiences of evaluating and analysing documents / proposals except the one awarded by UNESCO on ICH, Mangolia Biyelgee Dance. It was the first in its kind that we have assigned for such evaluation and we have done our level best. Our recommendations were given due consideration by the committee and adopted for the UNESCO's further initiatives to protect and promote the dance form. We are very happy at the moment that it has got the recognition and we would like to participate in many more such assignments by the UNESCO.

- 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*

Yes. Our Chairman is an IAS officer (Retired Principal Secretary to the Government of Tamilnadu) who can draft synthetic texts in English. He has written many books and publishing works.

- 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, we have experience in working at the international level as we have had participated and organised international level programs in the past. We can also serve as in the capacity to transform our experiences from local to international context.

## 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

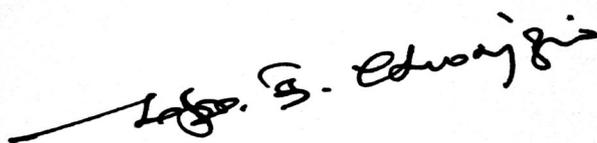
The report must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of your organization.

Name: DR.T.SOMASUNDARAM

Title: DIRECTOR

Date: 15.02.2023

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. T. Somasundaram", is written over a light grey rectangular background.